EAST CHICAGO life

YOUR LOCAL SOURCE FOR EAST CHICAGO NEWS AND EVENTS

EAST CHICAGO STRONGER TOGETHER

EAST CHICAGO POLICE HIRING!

The East Chicago Police Department is seeking qualilfied candidates to join its force. The city will even provide up to $30,000 down payment assistance for a home in the city. Starting salary is $44,133.

Benefits include residency bonuses, paid vacations, sick leave, holiday pay, health insurance, clothing allowance, continuous training and more.

INFO: Applications are availabe at the ECPD from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday. Questions? Call (219) 391-8312.



Mayor Anthony Copeland shows the work that is going on at the Levin Building, which is getting a new facade and adding to the beautification of the downtown harbor. [Steve Segura photo]

EAST CHICAGO: CITY OF HOPE AND PROGRESS

I have always believed if you're standing still, you're actually falling behind.

It's what drives me in my personal life and in my work as your mayor.

East Chicago, I am happy to report your city is not standing still.

What worked 50 years ago doesn't necessarily work today. What worked 100 years ago — like our infrastructure — is in desperate need of repair. What we are creating is a community that works for all of us.

Every department in the city is helping create a vision for what comes next. We are reimagining every corner of the city to attract start-up retail to create niches that serve your day-to-day needs along with light industrial and manufacturing to provide the good-paying jobs that fuel your household and our local economy.

It's working — and we're just getting started.

You can hear more about East Chicago 2021 and Beyond during the State of City address slated for later this summer. Stay tuned!

ANTHONY COPELAND
Mayor City of East Chicago



MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT – PULASKI AND BROADWAY

[Jonathan Madera and Steve Segura photos]



NANAS SWEETS BAKERY



NANASSWEETSBAKERY.COM

REVITALIZING THE HEART OF INDIANA HARBOR

Five short years ago, North Harbor was a concept, a plan to revitalize the heart of Indiana Harbor.

East Chicago Mayor Anthony Copeland saw hope and opportunity in the shuttered buildings and vacant lots. He reasoned that rebuilding the neighborhood to fit the wants and needs of today's residents would breathe new life into the neighborhood adjacent to the industrial corridor and the highly desirable lakefront marina and beach.

City Planner Doug Powers said the vision is unfolding as the mayor envisioned. "We have a large, mixed-use building at Broadway and Alder Street that has a health and fitness center at street level and apartments above that will be ready for occupancy in August," Powers said. " We have another beautiful building at Deodar Street and Broadway that already has occupants."

The new additions to North Harbor have an upscale look priced to lease. Nanas Sweets Bakery, 3636 Main St., has been a welcome addition to the neighborhood.

"Our goal is to make – and keep – North Harbor both walkable and livable," Copeland said. "I want people to be able to walk to the doctor and grocery store. As construction moves toward completion, our work is shifting to attract businesses that complete the vision."

FACADE IMPROVEMENT: A partnership between East Chicago and business owners, the Facade Improvement Program helps owners improve the front of their buildings by contributing matching funds – either 50 percent or 80 percent – up to $25,000. **INFO:** Visit **eastchicago.com** or call Planning and Economic Development at (219) 391-8205.



An eagle-eye view of the Guthrie Street project shows newly paved streets lined by new sidewalks, curbs and parking. [Steve Segura photo]

GUTHRIE STREET PROJECT NEARS COMPLETION

Three years after it began, the massive reconstruction of Guthrie Street is slated for completion by the end of July. Total cost was $12.45 million: The city's share was $1.34 million. That's just the beginning.



East Chicago's road construction needs are significant – both in size and scope. The city's investment in infrastructure includes replacing sewers that are more than 100 years old, sidewalks, curbs and lighting.

City Engineer Julio Arichavala said East Chicago has plans for another $35 million in road construction over the next 2.5 years. "There is no such thing as an inexpensive road project. Every road we rebuild requires a significant investment of city resources," he said. "We take every opportunity to pursue partners that include the state and federal agencies along with our local industry. Their contributions allow us to get more done each year."

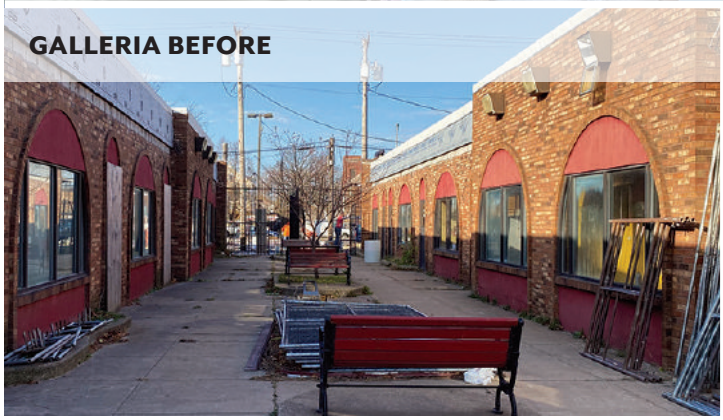
[STREET PROJECTS]

Road construction improves traffic flow while reducing delays because of failed infrastructure. Through 2023, the city plans to reconstruct:

- **Guthrie: Michigan to Cline –** $12.45 million
- **7 blocks on Ivy and 8 blocks on Hemlock –** $1.5 million
- **Homerlee: 148th-150th streets –** $4.2 million
- **Indianapolis: Columbus to Michigan** – $16 million
- **Magoun: Chicago to 155th –** $5.47 million
- **Michigan: Kennedy to Cline –** $10 million
- **Roundabout at 129th and Dickey –** $3.3 million, of which BP is paying $1.1 million

GALLERIA TRANSFORMATION ...

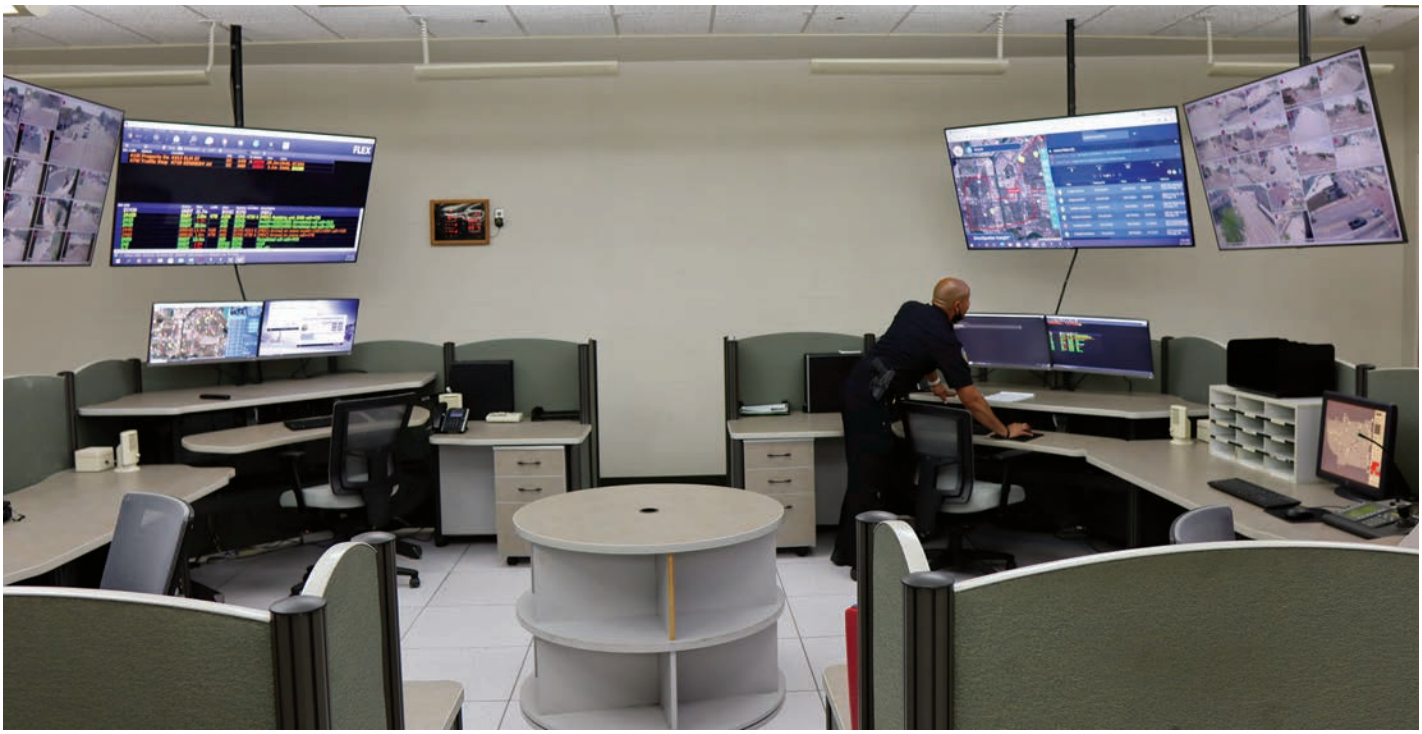






Over the winter, the once-vacant Spanish-style Galleria offices in North Harbor were gutted and rebuilt. Today, the city is preparing to welcome start-up business owners looking to locate in East Chicago's first city-owned business incubator. Unlike a traditional incubator that has multiple shared spaces, Galleria's footprint includes eight 1,200-foot self-contained office spaces with phone lines and internet connections necessary to do business today. City Planner Doug Powers said excitement is building among those looking for affordable office space with state-of-the-art amenities and ample room to house their businesses. "We are fielding inquiries for the space," Powers said. "New businesses need affordability as they work their way to profitability. Galleria fits the need." [Steve Segura photos]

IS THE GALLERIA A GOOD FIT FOR YOUR NEW BUSINESS? Officials are working out the lease details for potential tenants. City Planner Doug Powers said the hope is that businesses in the Galleria will eventually pursue permanent space in East Chicago. **INTERESTED?** Call (219) 391-8205 or email dpowers@eastchicago.com.



During any emergency, the new East Chicago Incident Command Center can monitor a series of events simultaneously, including the site of the emergency, coordinating the transport of the injured and communicating with individuals engaged in remedying the situation. Pictured above, Deputy Police Chief Jose Rivera works through a test of the system. [Steve Segura photo]

CALL CENTER BECOMES ECPD COMMAND CENTER

When the county consolidated 911 dispatch operations into a single center in Crown Point in 2015, the East Chicago 911 center went dormant – until now.

Under the direction of Police Chief Hector Rosario, the dispatch center has been retrofitted as the East Chicago Incident Command Center, a facility capable of coordinating emergency operations large and small.

While most equipment was already in place, the city upgraded computers and monitors necessary to coordinate communication. The center has everything responders will need without having to leave."

"When we had a train derailment, those deployed to help were looking for an incident command center and we didn't have one in place. As a result, they used Riley Park, which wasn't an ideal scenario," Rosario said.

"You never know when emergencies will arise. It's important we now have a hub to coordinate our departments, the state and federal authorities during any emergency."

Day-to-day, the technology in the Incident Command Center is continually in use by Officer Sayra Jiminez, who analyzes crime data gathered by Shot Spotter and the Spillman police software – which track criminal activity in East Chicago in addition to the citywide camera system. The data is used to deploy resources that target areas experiencing spikes in illegal activities.

DID YOU KNOW? Spillman Technologies was developed in the late 1970s by college senior Richard Spillman as part of a computer science project. When Spillman learned that Utah officials were looking to computerize their law enforcement records, he began developing public safety software to benefit agencies nationwide.

CURBSIDE MARKET

The East Chicago Curbside Market, which distributes organic produce grown right here in East Chicago along with food donated by Catholic Charities and the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana.

When: 1-3:30 p.m. Thursdays. Lineup starts at 12:15 p.m. – distribution at 1:30 p.m.
Where: Roundabout outside the park office, 1615-142nd
Info: Call Parks & Recreation at (219) 391-8474

FARMERS MARKET

Juicy tomatoes, sweet peppers, crisp cucumbers, summer squash — and more — are available by local farmers selling their organic produce and eggs right here in East Chicago. Lake County Eats Local accepts SNAP. COVID rules will be enforced.

When: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays August 14, August 28 and September 25

Where: 2301 East Columbus Drive (Public Safety Building)

Info: lakecountyeatslocal.org

BEACH CLOSED

Jeorse Park Beach and its amenities – the splash pad, beach shelters and H2Oh water sports – remain closed because of water levels, beach erosion and the pandemic.

POOLS CLOSED

East Chicago city pools at Washington and Kosciuszko parks will remain closed for the season. Parks and Recreation Director Vanessa Hernandez-Orange said the decision was based on health department guidelines for safe social distancing

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JULY 4TH CONTEST WINNERS

Congratulations to our Fourth of July Home Decorating Contest winners! East Chicago residents really displayed the red, white and blue with patriotic themes, flags, banners and bunting. Thank you for your spirit and making our city beautiful!