EAST CHICAGO life

YOUR LOCAL SOURCE FOR EAST CHICAGO NEWS AND EVENTS

EAST CHICAGO CITY OF HOPE & PROGRESS



Mayor Anthony Copeland and droves of fans turn out for the ribbing cutting at Block Stadium – one of the few vintage baseball parks in the country. [Steve Segura photo]

EAST CHICAGO READY TO PLAY BALL

In this season of Thanksgiving, I am counting our many blessings, the result of vision, dedication and thousands of work hours to transform our dreams into reality. Here are just a few examples:

- ✓ Because we cleaned up abandoned factory sites, we are attracting new, clean industry to the city that will bring 800 jobs and the promise of more as others follow suit.
- ✓ Because we acquired vacant homes and properties for more than a decade, we are creating new neighborhoods that meet the needs of today's families.
- ✓ Because we heeded calls for new housing, the city has platted its first new neighborhood – Prairie Crossing – in more than a decade.
- ✓ Because we said "no" to calls to tear down Block Stadium and developed a vision for the park, East Chicago has a world-class baseball field – one of only 15 vintage parks remaining in this country – that celebrates its history while looking to its future. We will welcome Anthony Serna back to the city, where he will head up operations at Block Stadium early next year. Turn to page 3 to see the transformation and learn more about Block Stadium and its amenities.

Blessings to you and your family.

ANTHONY COPELAND
Mayor City of East Chicago

STADIUM JOB OPPORTUNITIES

If you've been waiting for the perfect job opportunity, you may find what you are looking for at Block Stadium.

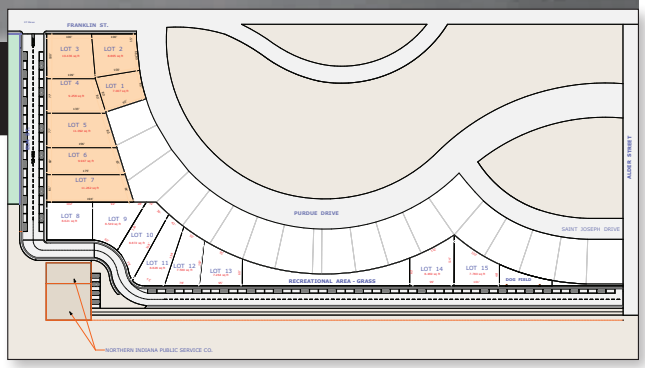
The city will hire groundskeepers, office staff, maintenance workers as well as employees for concessions.

Stay tuned for the job postings early next year.

Apply online at **eastchicago.com** or in person at **City of East Chicago Human Resources**, 4525 Indianapolis Blvd.



DISTRICT 4 | PRAIRIE CROSSING



NEW CUSTOM HOMES CLOSE TO PARKS, SCHOOLS

East Chicago will break ground in 2022 on a new, platted subdivision to be known as Prairie Crossing.

It's a dream come true for Mayor Anthony Copeland, who built his citywide transformation plan around housing for residents who want to upsize and out-of-towners who want to move to East Chicago.

"We found just the right location – Prairie Crossing is located on undeveloped land on the east side of the city – for people who want to build a home of their own," Copeland said. "It's a beautiful piece of land that's on its way to becoming a fantastic new neighborhood close to parks, schools, the evolving North Harbor shopping district, renovated Block Stadium, amenities at the lakefront and full-service healthcare at St. Catherine Hospital."

City Engineer Julio Arichavala said East Chicago will finance construction of the road along with curbs, decorative lighting and utilities in addition to storm and sanitary sewers. That will leave the individual lots shovel-ready for developers.

"It is exciting to watch this project unfold," Arichavala said. "The city opted to do key site work to get it all moving as soon as the weather breaks next year."

[ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT]

The first seven lots at Prairie Crossing will be available for purchase in 2022. Construction is expected to begin late spring after infrastructure is complete. Project Management Director Keith Selvie said it was calls to the city that prompted the development. "We have many people who want to build homes here," he said. "Prairie Crossing will help make that happen."

What's next?
Reconstruction and infrastructure

Phase I:

Elm street from 144th street to 145th street will be Phase 1 of the new subdivision development. Elm Street currently houses a combined sewer. This project will introduce a new water main, a separated sewer system, new laterals and concrete sidewalk to service future homes. The road used as a parking lot will be reconstructed as a new residential roadway.

Estimated Cost: $800,000

BLOCK STADIUM CONSTRUCTION COMPLETE











[HOME RUN FOR EAST CHICAGO] Five phases, four years and $8 million after Block Stadium rehabilitation began, the ballfield, dugouts, batting cages, announcers box and stands are pristine, just waiting for spring training when baseball will once again be played at the vintage park. Parks and Recreation Department Director Vanessa Hernandez-Orange said excitement is growing to see baseball played again at the 80-year-old park – one of only 15 vintage baseball stadiums remaining in the country. "This is a beautiful facility that will welcome visitors from far and wide who want to see what watching baseball at a hometown field is like," Hernandez-Orange said. "We are getting more phone calls every week from baseball fans who have heard what we are doing and want to see it for themselves." [Steve Segura photos]



DISTRICT 2 | HOMERLEE INDUSTRIAL SITE

INDUSTRIAL SITE TO BRING 1,500 JOBS TO EAST CHICAGO

With shovels already in the ground, The Missner Group has begun leasing space at the Homerlee Building, a clean industrial site created to tap into metro Chicago's need to expand square footage dedicated to logistics, the movement of goods from distribution centers to the consumer. The new 249,600-square-foot building that is being constructed on 14.5 acres will help fill that void beginning next year. "East Chicago is the model for clean-industrial projects in our region," Mayor Anthony Copeland said. "The Missner Group, which has a reputation for excellence, is already planning at least three other projects based on what they are doing in East Chicago. I'm excited for the opportunity for as many as 800 local residents to find good-paying jobs on Homerlee." [Steve Segura photos]





[HOMERLEE AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION]

Sanitary collapses along Homerlee have prompted the City of East Chicago to propose improvements with an estimated cost of $5 million. The scope of work consists of replacing 3,000 feet of combined sewer between 148th and 151st, along with new sidewalks, service walks, curbs, gutters, ADA ramps, sewer/water service laterals, new fire hydrants, asphalt, stripping and landscaping. The Work is scheduled to begin January 2022. Project management Director Keith Selvie said the existing water main will also be replaced to increase pressure for residential and emergency response. "The Sanitary District is committed to upgrading failing infrastructure throughout the city and this will continue to be the city's focus." Selvie said.

WORK ON BIKE TRAIL ADVANCES











[GREENWAY LINKS CITY TO CHICAGO AND MICHIGAN CITY] Mayor Anthony Copeland couldn't be prouder of the near-completion of a new section of bike trail that connects to a Hammond trail at White Oak Avenue. The trail, along with a new paved parking area just south of Kosciuszko Park, sets the stage for portions of the Marquette Greenway to begin construction east of Indianapolis Boulevard. "This trail along with other pedestrian ways is creating the city of the future," Copeland said. "We are working to make East Chicago the most livable city in the region." Engineer Will Allen said the city invested $1 million in that phase of the project. All that remains to be completed is striping and landscaping next spring. **Next up:** Construction of bike trail on the NIPSCO easement east of Indianapolis and extending to Kennedy, which is slated to begin in 2024. [Ryan Lomax and Jonathan Madera photos]

FOOD BANK OF NWI CURBSIDE GIVEAWAY

The City of East Chicago and the Parks and Recreation Department has partnered with the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana to provide free grains, fruits, vegetables and protein to individuals and families.

When: 1 p.m. until the food runs out **December 16**
Where: Roundabout outside the park office, 1615-142nd
Info: Call Parks & Recreation at (219) 391-8474.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES CURBSIDE GIVEAWAY

The City of East Chicago and the Parks and Recreation Department has partnered with Catholic Charities to giveaway food during the curbside giveaways.

When: 1 p.m. until the food runs out **December 20**
Where: Roundabout outside the park office, 1615-142nd
Info: Call Parks & Recreation at (219) 391-8474.

EAST CHICAGO JOB OPPORTUNITIES

From Code Enforcement and police officers to medical assistants and laborers, the City of East Chicago has both full- and part-time employment opportunities.

Info: Visit eastchicago.com/jobs for openings and details.

Send resume, application and cover letter via email to ecapply@eastchicago.com, fax (219) 397-5755 or mail to:

The City of East Chicago Human Resources
4525 Indianapolis Blvd.
East Chicago, IN 46312

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO
4525 INDIANAPOLIS BOULEVARD
EAST CHICAGO, IN 46312

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RESIDENT
EAST CHICAGO, INDIANA 46312













[APPRECIATION DINNER] It was an evening that combined a little pomp with a little circumstance and a bounty of fun for nearly 50 Central High School students known for their excellence in academics and giving back to their community. It was Mayor Anthony Copeland's Appreciation Dinner that honored students, student government leaders and those who volunteer in the city's ensemble of special events. "This group of young people inspires me. Their enthusiasm is infectious in the very best of ways," Copeland said. "This dinner was our thank you for all of their hard work and dedication." [Steve Segura photos]