EAST CHICAGO life
YOUR LOCAL SOURCE FOR EAST CHICAGO NEWS AND EVENTS

STATE OF THE CITY

Boosting East Chicago's workability, walkability, livability and lovability

When we began the campaign to revive our city, we started underground and worked our way up. As we made progress, we created plans to renovate neighborhoods where residents were leaving because they thought the city's best days were behind us.

Residents in these communities told me they wanted to live in safe neighborhoods that were full of mom-and-pop shops, walking distance from home, parks, fun activities and workouts. It would be even better if the doctor and dentist were within walking distance. They wanted good-paying jobs close by. They didn't hold out much hope for wholesale change, but I did. I was determined that the changes my administration could effect would draw people, clean industry and good jobs back to East Chicago.

We started thinking differently by creating a vision to make East Chicago workable and walkable. We looked for transformation that would make our city both livable and lovable. Today, we look at redevelopment of neighborhoods and commercial spaces holistically and focus on the components necessary to make projects advance with as few delays as possible.

We are through the first quarter of 2022 and I am excited to tell you we are well on our way. I am just as excited to announce raises and premium pay bonuses for all full-time and part-time



city employees for 2022. Full-time employees received 3 percent raises in January with $3,500 bonuses slated for later this year. If we hold the line on spending for the remainder of the year, we should be able to afford raises and bonuses again in 2023. At the same time, we are working to increase our minimum wage beyond the $15 per hour we offer now.

It's a good day, East Chicago!

ANTHONY COPELAND
Mayor City of East Chicago









From Guthrie to Homerlee, infrastructure upgrades are sparking interest from investors looking to fund big-ticket projects that will transform East Chicago. As the city unveils its expanding workability factor, residents are finding jobs without traveling far from home. [Ryan Lomax, Jonathan Madera and Steve Segura photos]

PIVOTAL YEAR FOR EAST CHICAGO INDUSTRY, JOBS

Commerce is finding its way back to East Chicago.

From the trending logistics industry, which is tapping into more efficient ways to deliver goods in metro Chicago from a location under construction on Homerlee, to mom-and-pop shops that are springing up throughout our city with great food and much-needed services — East Chicago is on the move.

"It's a pivotal piece in the rebirth of our city," Mayor Anthony Copeland said. "Industries that once powered our economy but polluted our air and soils are being replaced with clean businesses that see the potential in East Chicago. It's another step toward fulfilling the dream."

[UPCOMING PROJECTS]

- **4400 Homerlee Avenue:** This $20 million private investment begins a new chapter in logistics.
- **Neighborhood commerce:** More than 50 businesses set up shop in 2021, with more projected this year.
- **Galleria:** Modernization of this vintage North Harbor building sets the stage for new tenants in the city's first business incubator.
- **Chrome LLC:** The patchwork of railroads prompted construction of 120,000 sq. ft. of clean industry on Dickey Road that caters to companies that require cranes to move heavy freight by rail.











Generations of suburbanites who reveled in driving to every destination are giving way to energy-conscious families who believe their time is better spent when they can walk, bike or take public transit to where they want to go. [Jonathan Madera and Steve Segura photos]

NEW DEVELOPMENT INCREASES CITY'S WALKABILITY

It's been more than five years since Mayor Anthony Copeland and city leaders began neighborhood-by-neighborhood development to meet the needs of today's families. That was before gas prices skyrocketed and the South Shore double-tracking project was complete.

Today, a citywide network of pedestrian trails is under construction. New concrete is replacing crumbling sidewalks. In inclement weather, an East Chicago bus is never more than a few minutes away.

By this time next year, pedaling to a good-paying job nearby will be a reality. There has never been a better time to live in East Chicago.

[UPCOMING PROJECTS]

- **IHB Trail at Kosciusko Park:** Striping, parking stops and sod will finish out this project.
- **Marquette Greenway Phase II:** Design is underway to extend the trail south and east to Hammond.
- **Michigan Avenue Bridge:** Planning is underway for this pedestrian bridge to the lakefront.
- **Citywide striping and ADA upgrades:** Crosswalk and stop-bar upgrades throughout the city are being installed for enhanced pedestrian safety.
- **New transit:** A portion of the fleet of traditional and adaptive buses will be replaced this year.









Attracting young couples and families is all about providing the very best in what young families want — cozy homes that meet their needs, good schools, great recreation spots along with places nearby to grab a quick meal, groceries and dry cleaning. [Jonathan Madera and Steve Segura photos]

NEW HOMES, NEW INFRASTRUCTURE SET THE STAGE

When envisioning a new chapter for East Chicago, the livability factor ranked high on the must-haves. A decade of acquiring residential properties has resulted in tracts of land that will become the dream of modern housing in new, roomier neighborhoods beginning this year.

"I am excited about Prairie Crossing, a new development on the east side of town. I am ecstatic about West Calumet," Mayor Anthony Copeland said.

"Folks that left because of lead issues have been waiting for remediation, inspections and planning for new housing. All that is done. West Calumet: It's your turn. We can't wait to welcome you home."

[UPCOMING PROJECTS]

- **Alder Street:** This gateway to North Harbor is getting its pipes cleaned as work continues on mixed-use development.
- **Magoun Avenue:** Replacing underground sewers and crumbling sidewalks is key to new construction.
- **Roxana:** Residents are resting easier during heavy rains as work continues on sewer upgrades.
- **West Calumet:** A neighborhood of single-family homes is replacing multi-family dwellings.
- **Prairie Crossing:** Private developers will be constructing spacious, single-family homes.

LOVABILITY









Lovability is the X-factor. Whether it's depression-era greenhouses getting a boost to increase produce yields or art sculptures in our parks, people love their city based on how living there makes them feel. It's East Chicago fans who are spreading the love and encouraging friends to see why. [Steve Segura photos]

THERE'S SO MUCH TO LOVE ABOUT EAST CHICAGO!

As a lifelong resident of East Chicago, Mayor Anthony Copeland knows what it means to love his city.

"It's why I found work here and made a decision long ago that I would raise my family in East Chicago. I love every nook and cranny of this city, even the rough ones," he said. "When we were developing a long-term strategy to invigorate the community, we looked for bricks-and-mortar improvements as well as public art programs and community events. All of these things add to the lovability of our city.

"Ultimately, we are looking to develop a sustainable community for the benefit of today — and tomorrow."

[UPCOMING PROJECTS]

- **Beautification:** Sculptures, enhanced streetscapes including trees and flowers that extend the look — and feel — of city parks are on tap as well as a total streetscape replacement on Kennedy.
- **Alley resurfacing:** City alleys will be resurfaced this year, making them easier to keep clean.
- **Citywide signage:** New way-finding signs that reflect the new East Chicago are in the works.
- **Quiet Zone Train Study:** Reducing the noise is the goal of the study, which could eliminate most train horn noise — day and night.

HOMEBUYER WORKSHOPS

Dream of owning a home? Learn more about buying or building in East Chicago through the Homebuyer Assistance Program at an upcoming workshop hosted by the East Chicago Department of Redevelopment.

When: May 14, June 18, July 9, August 13, September 17, October 8, November 12, December 10

Registration: Please call (219) 391-8513 to register.

SAVE THE DATES

The fun is back! Events are returning to the City of East Chicago! See you there!

RHYTHM & SOUL FEST
Saturday, June 25

INDEPENDENCE DAY FIREWORKS
Sunday, July 3

FUSIC FEST
Saturday and Sunday, August 6-7

KIELBASA FEST
Saturday, August 20

Info: For more info and event details, visit eastchicago.com.

CALLING ALL VENDORS!

The City of East Chicago is looking for vendors and food trucks for upcoming events including Movie Nights in the Park, Rhythm & Soul Fest, Salsa in the Park, Fusic Fest, Kielbasa Fest, National Dog Day, Monarch Festival, 5K Mayor-A-Thon and so much more.

Info: For questions, more information or to register, please visit eastchicago.com or call (219) 391-8474.

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

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
EDDM
PAID
Gary, IN
PERMIT # 121

RESIDENT
EAST CHICAGO, INDIANA 46312

Mayor Anthony Copeland and the City of East Chicago present ...

GRAND OPENING

ALL ARE WELCOME!

BLOCK STADIUM

1601 EAST 144TH STREET | EAST CHICAGO | INDIANA

SATURDAY | MAY 21

TIME TO PLAY BALL!

3:30 PM | DOORS OPEN
4:30 PM | OPENING CEREMONY
4:45 PM | NATIONAL ANTHEM
4:50 PM | FIRST PITCH
5 PM | BISHOP NOLL VS HAMMOND CENTRAL
7 PM | H.A.S.T. VS EAST CHICAGO CENTRAL