EAST CHICAGO life

YOUR LOCAL SOURCE FOR EAST CHICAGO NEWS AND EVENTS

NEIGHBORHOOD RENEWAL EFFORTS TURN TO OUR HISTORIC MARKTOWN

Two months into 2023 and our to-do list is filling up fast. Because we haven't been overwhelmed with winter weather – and my fingers are crossed – we have been able to roll up our shirtsleeves and get everything ready to begin construction as soon as the ground thaws.

Since I became mayor we have been working to create new and upgraded homes, neighborhood by neighborhood.

We want families to find homes they are looking for in East Chicago. It's the key to long-term stabilization of the city and local economy.

History tells us: When neighborhoods grow and prosper, start-up businesses will follow right behind.

Using a blueprint like the one we laid down in Sunnyside, we are focusing our efforts to aid in the preservation and rebirth of Marktown.

In many ways, it's a story of opposites: While we work to preserve the unique look and feel of the 106-year-old neighborhood that is Marktown, we are creating new neighborhoods that have the amenities today's families are seeking – such as upgraded pedestrian walks and streetscapes.

The beautification and amenities of the new Marktown roundabout



should be completed this fall. That includes the installation of a metal sculpture in the center of the roundabout, like those featured throughout the city, as well as many other streetscape features.

Check out pages 4 and 5 in this issue to learn more about the project.

Stay tuned for information on the Indianapolis Boulevard and Magoun Avenue infrastructure improvements.

This year is going to be exciting!

ANTHONY COPELAND
Mayor City of East Chicago

City of East Chicago
Hope & Progress
INDIANA

ECWORKS 311, NIXLE ALERTS

East Chicago has two great ways to keep vital information flowing between you and the city – ECWORKS 311 and Nixle.

ECWORKS 311 phone application allows residents to report nonemergency issues – like potholes and sewer problems – directly to city departments.

Download from the App Store, Google Play or visit **eastchicago.com**.

Nixle was designed to keep you informed about severe weather alerts, road closures, boil orders and more.

Text **ECEVENTS** to **888777** or register at **nixle.com**.



LAKESHORE MANOR: The former nine-story Nicosia is being replaced by a series of four-story buildings featuring apartments with a neighborhood vibe. In addition to federal housing dollars, the city is contributing $6-$7 million. Former residents have priority to leases. Watch for information about how you can apply. [Steve Segura photo]

NEW SENIOR HOUSING COMING TO NORTH HARBOR

Since ground was broken and construction cranes moved in late last year, East Chicago City Councilwoman Gilda Orange has been getting calls from seniors looking for details on the new senior housing project and when they can sign up.

"There had been stops and starts on the new housing that is replacing Nicosia," Orange said. "As it turned out, the construction timing is perfect: It coincides with a host of improvements in North Harbor. What we will have is a safe, walkable neighborhood that will have a medical clinic across the street and the promise of a pharmacy within walking distance."

East Chicago Housing Authority Executive Director Tia Cauley said completion of Lakeshore Manor can't come soon enough. The $42 million project features 206 apartments with improved elevators, additional recreation spaces, an in-house gym and an abundance of green space.

"Those seniors who were displaced when Nicosia had to be vacated in 2021 will have first choice of locating to a one- or two-bedroom unit at Lakeshore Manor," Cauley said. "We began this process in 2016. I am pleased to be able to say everything is moving ahead as planned with the first tenants expected in 2024."





Mayor Anthony Copeland with Terry Velligan, General Manager of Operations of Cline Avenue Bridge. [Steve Segura photo]

CLINE AVENUE BRIDGE TOLL ONLY $1 FOR CITY RESIDENTS

United Bridge Partners is offering a steep discount for East Chicago residents who utilize the Cline Avenue Bridge. Instead of paying $2.75 in tolls per use, city residents who enroll in the program will be able to travel the bridge for just $1, a discount of more than 50 percent. The program is also being made available to East Chicago businesses, who can provide the discount to their employees.

"Once enrolled with a valid transponder, each resident will only pay $1," said Terry Velligan, General Manager of Operations of Cline Avenue Bridge. "The program is easy to access and saves time, mileage and money."

East Chicago receives a percentage of every toll that drivers pay to use the 6,236-foot bridge that spans over the Indiana Harbor and Ship Canal. "That money will help fund other major transportation projects in the city where they will be of the greatest benefit," East Chicago Mayor Anthony Copeland said.

Discount applies to passenger vehicles only.

INFO: Register at clineavenuetolls.com/Web/toll_discount or scan QR code at left. **Questions?** Call Cline Avenue Bridge at (219) 276-8901.



CLINE AVENUE BRIDGE NAMED #1 IN COUNTRY

The Cline Avenue bridge that expedites travel between Northwest Indiana and Chicago has been named one of the top 10 bridges in the country by Roads & Bridges Magazine.

Mayor Anthony Copeland couldn't have been happier to hear that the groundbreaking project – which relieved East Chicago of an overwhelming number of industrial vehicles on city streets – was recognized.

"Emergency demolition of the former Cline Avenue bridge in 2009 created a hardship for East Chicago residents and businesses until this project was completed in 2021," Mayor Copeland said.

"It took time to find the right partners and additional months to negotiate a deal that was in the best interest of the city."

THE PRESERVATION AND REBIRTH OF HI

ABOUT THE MARKTOWN PRESERVATION PLAN

Mayor Anthony Copeland has a plan to breathe new life into Marktown and preserve the historic neighborhood for generations to come – maintaining yet updating the Tudor Revival style of the century-old homes. Redevelopment Director Frank Rivera said the city will be creating a model home using a pair of connected duplexes it owns to create a single dwelling that maintains the cozy feel of the neighborhood while providing the interior upgrades today's families are seeking.

"The prototype is the style of home the city is looking to create," Rivera said. "Ultimately, it will be up to homeowners to agree on the esthetics that will make their dwelling a cohesive home."









PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY & REQUIREMENTS

- Houses must be in Marktown and owner-occupied for at least 12 months before applying for city help for exterior upgrades.
- Utilities must be connected and working.
- There can be no outstanding real estate or municipal tax liens filed on the property at the time of application.
- Properties cannot be in foreclosure. Mortgage payments must be current and up-to-date.
- All single-family homes are eligible: detached houses, duplexes, triplexes and quadriplexes.
- Grants are planned to include exterior improvements only. Landscaping is not eligible for reimbursement.

STORIC MARKTOWN



GATEWAY TO MARKTOWN: The city will be completing $3.5 million in improvements of Dickey Road and 129th Street that includes streetscape enhancements and public art. Construction is set to begin in April and conclude in October. The project includes asphalt replacement, new light poles and fixtures, sidewalk replacement, pavement striping and concrete patching. [Renderings provided]

CITY PROPOSES $40,000 HOMEOWNER GRANTS

Patterned after the Sunnyside exterior renovation program, Mayor Anthony Copeland said Marktown, which has been on his radar for several years, is next.

"Marktown is a wonderful example of a vintage neighborhood that has unique and charming qualities despite its location surrounded by heavy industry," he said. "What we are proposing – up to $40,000 grants for exterior improvements for owner-occupied dwellings in the neighborhood – to maintain the historic homes that have been in place since 1917 for this generation and those that follow."

Redevelopment Director Frank Rivera said improvements aren't in the budget for most homeowners.

"Establishing hard-and-fast rules for participation allows interested homeowners to partner with the city to increase the value of their homes," Rivera said.

"We are working diligently with our federal and state partners to create the whole package for East Chicago – business opportunities, a comprehensive transportation system that includes the new Cline Avenue Bridge on the north and the revamped South Shore commuter rail on the south – and that includes investing in our neighborhoods, " Mayor Copeland said. "People want what East Chicago is building."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Marktown exterior renovation program – planned to provide grants of up to $40,000 grants to qualifying homeowners – is expected to go live later this year when Redevelopment will begin accepting applications and working with residents to solidify their plans for exterior renovations. For more information, contact the Redevelopment Department at (219) 391-8513.

2023 BUSINESS LICENSE

It's that time of the year to renew your East Chicago Business License. Please submit your check or money order payable to the City of East Chicago and mail it to 4525 Indianapolis Boulevard.

DEADLINE: **March 31**

QUESTIONS? Please call the Controller's Office at (219) 391-8300 during business hours from 8:30-11 a.m. and from 12-3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

2023 PET LICENSE

Keep your furry friends up-to-date with their very own 2023 pet license.

DEADLINE: **March 31**

QUESTIONS? Please call the Controller's Office at (219) 391-8300 during business hours from 8:30-noon and from 1-3 p.m. Monday through Friday to make your payment.

RENTAL REGISTRATION

East Chicago requires landlords to register every occupied rental property. The cost is $5 per unit through April 15 and $105 per unit after April 15. This annual registration is not optional. It's the law.

DEADLINE: **April 15**

REGISTRATION: Online at eastchicago.com/155/Rental-Registrations. Once complete, notify Michelle Chandler mchandler@eastchicago.com and Constance Dickerson cdickerson@eastchicago.com.

INFO: Visit eastchicago.com for a complete list of essential documents.

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UNITY CENTER

3623 GUTHRIE ST. | (219) 397-2392

MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES ACCESS TO INDOOR BASKETBALL COURTS, WALKING TRACK, ROCK CLIMBING, FITNESS ROOM, YOGA, CARDIO CLASSES AND MORE!



FOR MORE INFORMATION: MEMBERSHIPS ARE $10 A YEAR FOR RESIDENTS 55+ AND $15 A YEAR FOR THOSE 18-54. FAMILY DISCOUNTS ARE AVAILABLE. PROOF OF RESIDENCY REQUIRED. FREE MEMBERSHIP FOR EAST CHICAGO SCHOOL-AGED KIDS. BIRTH CERTIFICATE REQUIRED. NONRESIDENTS WELCOME. DISCOUNTS DO NOT APPLY.