EAST CHICAGO life

YOUR LOCAL SOURCE FOR EAST CHICAGO NEWS AND EVENTS

State of the City 2023

THE SERIES

This is the second of two newsletters on the State of the City.

ISSUE #2

A special report on all the new and innovative plans on the horizon this year in East Chicago.

BANNER YEAR FOR EAST CHICAGO

As we move forward through 2023 and beyond, we are moving full-speed ahead on plans to increase the walkability, workability, liveability and lovability of East Chicago.

The number of projects – and their scope – continues to accelerate. Each successful completion is creating another. We are building for today – and tomorrow – in partnership with each of you.

The good news about East Chicago is spreading by word-of-mouth outside our borders. Housing projects planned for this year – helping residents complete exterior renovations in Marktown, townhomes in North Harbor and new single-family dwellings in Prairie Crossing – are bringing new families to our community.

They quickly learn what our residents already know: they can have it all in East Chicago.

The South Shore double-tracking project and the Cline Avenue bridge provide reliable routes to and from good-paying jobs in nearby Chicago. East Chicago parks and recreation is second to none. The city's non-stop schedule of concerts, programs and activities means fun is just steps away. Census data from 2020 shows the new migration into our city began long before the pandemic. The average age of our community is 38.5 years of age. Children ages 5-9 represent our largest population demographic.

We are gearing our forward-looking



projects at how they help residents balance family and professional responsibilities.

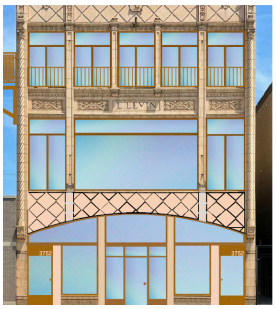
East Chicago is celebrating 130 years! Ribbon-cuttings are a regular event. Entrepreneurs are finding a welcoming climate for their food and services. Our departments continue promoting new businesses and industry as they invest in our city. All indicators are pointing to 2023 being another banner year for East Chicago.

ANTHONY COPELAND
Mayor City of East Chicago



HOUSING









NEIGHBORHOODS ABUZZ WITH NEW DEVELOPMENT

North Harbor is the site of two dozen new single-family townhomes planned for construction this year.

The development has been a work-in-progress with a vision to provide new housing for singles and families. The cozy ranch- and two-story homes include single-vehicle garages. The dwellings will be nestled between existing homes and fit seamlessly into established neighborhoods with start-up eateries, shopping and the lakefront within walking distance.

"We have been working to create a city that has the amenities – walkable neighborhoods, beautiful parks, easy access to mass transit and our beautiful lakefront – young families are seeking," Mayor Anthony Copeland said. "We want to make it easy for people to decide on East Chicago."

[UPCOMING PROJECTS]

- **Marktown:** The city has already received its first application for exterior improvements in the historic neighborhood.
- **Levin Building:** Renovations will be completed this year on the long-time furniture store that will house an event venue and condominiums.
- **Lakeshore Manor:** Residents will move into the senior housing complex this fall.
- **New housing:** Residential development is planned to begin this year in West Calumet, along with a prototype duplex on Kennedy.



RECREATION









INTERACTIVE SPLASH PAD DAZZLES DAY AND NIGHT

When Mayor Anthony Copeland saw the price tag to repair the city's two public pools, he called on Parks and Recreation to come up with a plan for water play accessible to all.

Vanessa Hernandez-Orange, director of Parks & Recreation, said the renderings (shown above) are ready for the splash pads that will replace the Washington and Kosciusko park pools. The new interactive water features will be open from dawn to dusk and operated with technology that uses cell phones and body weight.

"We are eager to get this project moving," Copeland said. "The pools didn't have the accessibility features we felt were absolutely necessary. At $3 million, the splash pads are worth every penny we will spend to provide joy – especially to our children."

[UPCOMING PROJECTS]

- **Block Stadium:** The Central High School Cardinal baseball team is playing its inaugural season at the new Block Stadium. **Cost:** $50,000 for additional furnishings.
- **East Chicago Baseball Complex:** Parks and Recreation will be adding four to six batting cages within the complex. Work is expected to be completed by fall.
- **Tod Park:** Located off Indianapolis Boulevard, this park is slated to expand its basketball venue. **Cost:** $1.2 million

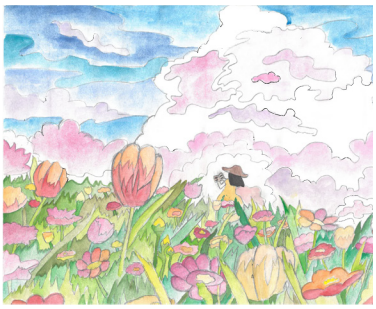


PARTNERSHIPS









LITTLE LIBRARIES COMING SOON TO YOUR DISTRICT

When you see the new brilliantly decorated Little Libraries strategically located in six city parks, you can thank the growing spirit of a community that partners for the greater good.

Contract Coordinator Andres Maldonado, of United Steelworkers Local 1010, said steelworkers had the idea to give back to the city. That was quickly followed by a donation from East Chicago Job Link for the space needed to build the one-of-a-kind structures. Central High School students came up with painting prototypes, some of which are featured on the Little Libraries. All will be featured on banners throughout the city. Little Library park locations include: Edward Valve, Roxanna, Riley Park, Washington, Marktown and Sunny Side.

[UPCOMING PROJECTS]

- **Marquette Greenway:** A partnership between Nipsco, the city and the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission will seal the deal for a critical leg of the Marquette Greenway that will eventually span from the Illinois/Indiana border in Hammond to the Michigan/Indiana state line in Michigan City.
- **Business Partnerships:** As business and residential climates expand, so are opportunities to partner with corporations like Tradebe Environmental Services, Randall Metals and Sims Metal Management, as well as those with long-standing ties to the city such as BP, St. Catherine Hospital, Cleveland Cliffs and Ameristar.



CONSTRUCTION









BIG UPGRADES, ROAD PROJECTS MAKE CITY SHINE

Long-awaited road reconstruction on Indianapolis Boulevard has begun and Magoun Avenue will be completed yet this year. Improvements underground — which includes replacement of the water, sanitary sewer and storm water infrastructure on Indianapolis from 152nd Street to Columbus Drive and replacement of 3,000 linear feet of the massive combined sewer that serves the entire Magoun Avenue neighborhood from Chicago Avenue to 151st Street.

The water main will also be upsized to expand capacity to the neighborhood and increase water volume for fire emergencies. New sidewalks, service walks, curbs and gutters, ADA ramps, adjacent sewer and water lines, landscaping and light fixtures are included in the project. **Cost:** $15 million for Indianapolis. $4.75 million for Magoun.

[UPCOMING PROJECTS]

- **Alleys:** Those most in need will be repaired or replaced. **Cost:** $370,448.
- **Sidewalks:** A list of crumbling public sidewalks will be replaced until designated funds are exhausted. **Available:** $446,809.
- **Roundabout:** A sculpture will be installed in the center of the Marktown Roundabout at 129th and Dickey Road. **Cost:** $249,760.
- **New entrance:** Prairie Crossings is getting a new entrance south of Columbus and east of St. Catherine Hospital. **Cost:** $44,671.

EVENTS

RHYTHM & SOUL FEST

Mayor Anthony Copeland kicks off our summer events with the Rhythm & Soul Fest "A Juneteenth Celebration." Bring a lawn chair and enjoy the sounds of Kindred The Family Soul, Midnight Sun, Nu-Agenda, and DJ Dark Nite. Free admission and parking near Block Stadium.

When: 3-9 p.m. **June 17**

Where: Washington Park, 1615. 142nd St.

SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars for this year's East Chicago events. See you there!

Independence Day Fireworks
Monday, **July 3**

Salsa in the Park
Saturday, **July 8**

Fusic Fest
Friday-Sunday, **August 4-6**

Kielbasa Fest
Saturday, **August 19**

Monarch Festival
Saturday, **September 16**

Nightmare on McShane Street
Friday, **October 20**

Celebration of Lights
Friday, **December 1**

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, Monarch Festival and so much more.

Info: For questions, more information or to register, please visit eastchicago.com or call (219) 391-8482.

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Homebuyers Workshop

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.

June 3, July 8, August 12, September 16, October 14, November 18, December 9

Please call (219) 391-8513 for mandatory registration. Workshops are $27 for East Chicago residents and $127 for nonresidents. Payment is due at the time of registration. Only one person per household.