EAST CHICAGO life

YOUR LOCAL SOURCE FOR EAST CHICAGO NEWS AND EVENTS

NEW YEAR. NEW FACES. 2024

NEW YEAR HIGHLIGHTS NEW BUSINESSES, NEW EAST CHICAGO DEPARTMENT HEADS

East Chicago is on the cusp of exciting new development in 2024, infrastructure improvements to pave the way for future growth and a region-leading step in converting our work vehicles from diesel to electric to reduce our carbon footprint.

That's just for starters.

We are also looking at new programs at parks and recreation so residents can take advantage of the best – and most affordable – fitness centers in the region. East Chicago offers residents the opportunity to work out, socialize and tap into their creative side.

I am proud to announce we have new leaders who come with a wealth of experience to work with me to help lead the city's path forward.

Please welcome Parks and Recreation Director Marino Solorio, Public Works Director Jaylan Robinson and City Engineer Julio Arichavala.

Each one of these individuals comes with a wealth of experience in his field, a dedication to making things better and a love for our city.

It was Jaylan who pursued opportunities to transition our fleet in Public Works. As the workhorses of the department move to non-carbon-based fuel, so will East Chicago.



In Engineering, it was Julio who found funding and lined up more projects than we had undertaken in a single construction season, knowing we could get it done.

After managing economic development projects through the city, Marino is creating a new vision for our parks.

Please welcome them!

ANTHONY COPELAND
Mayor City of East Chicago

FREE FIRE ALARMS HELP SAVE LIVES!

East Chicago and the American Red Cross are partnering to provide free smoke detectors for residents living in the city.

Fire Department Secretary Carmen Cordova said the process is simple.

Call the station at (219) 391-8472 and ask for Carmen.

Provide a name, number and address where the detectors will be installed.

You'll be placed on a list and contacted when fire personnel can come to your home, set up the equipment and ensure it is working properly.

New Parks and Recreation Director launches new programs, activities throughout East Chicago

Spring is the perfect time to become a regular at one of the city's many recreation centers.

If it's been a while, East Chicago's new Parks and Recreation Director Marino Solorio said you'll be surprised at all that's new.

"We're building and adding programs to inspire and delight our residents," he said.

"Thanks to Mayor Copeland, I've been given the opportunity to come back and infuse our centers with new energy and ideas – such as our free Community Days programs at Heritage Hall and Unity Center."

Facilities throughout the city offer people of all ages a place to grow, express, socialize and play.

Stay tuned for Musical Strokes, an interpretive music-style painting class, Laser Tag, Neon Dodgeball, Lights Out Volleyball and more!

Outside the centers, Solorio is eager to apply that same outside-the-box thinking with themed runs/walks, lessons on how to use the outdoor fitness equipment, tree planting, farming and more.

"We are prepped and ready to be outlets for creative thinking and expression. The only thing we are waiting on is – you!"



MARINO SOLORIO
PARKS & REC DIRECTOR

COMMUNITY DAYS



ZUMBA

LINE DANCING

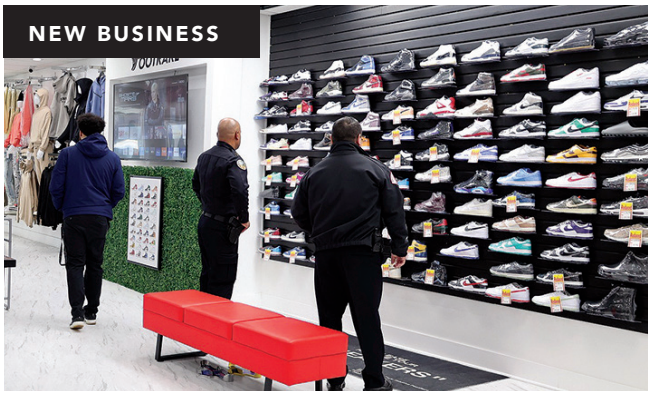
East Chicago Parks and Recreation kicked off Community Days in December with Christmas crafts and followed that with free fitness offerings in January and a Valentines Dance in February. Community Days offer residents free membership to the recreation centers from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesdays at Heritage Hall, 4506 Tod Avenue and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursdays at Unity Center, 3623 Guthrie Street. Enjoy our programming and all the recreation centers have to offer.

COMING IN MARCH

The wearing of the green will be the inspiration for this month when we celebrate the vernal equinox, the days getting longer and the Earth waking up. Join us for scavenger hunts, shamrock making, seeding and planting as well as Bingo and Lotería.

NEW YEAR. NEW BUSINESSES. 2024

NEW BUSINESS



XCLUSIVE FOOTRARE

3721 Main St. | East Chicago | xclusivefootrare.com

G Herbo packed them in as one of the earliest headliners at Xclusive Footrare, East Chicago's newest shoe and clothing boutique. Owner Tara Fields got her start as a stocker at Foot Locker, working long and hard to establish a store with her very own flare, a start-up that carries all the top brands in footwear, including Air Jordans and Nike AirMax.

NEW BUSINESS



EL POLLO SABROZON

4916 Indianapolis Blvd. | East Chicago | (219) 354-0115

Encouraged by family to bring his wildly popular charcoal-grilled chicken from Mexico to East Chicago, Pablo Agosta and his cousin Ana Nieto are taking the community by storm. "Our first month has been good," Nieto said. "We have been blessed." The secret: The spices the fresh chicken is marinated in before packed in grill baskets and put over the white-hot briquets.

NEW BUSINESS



MAIN ATTRACTION

4712 Indianapolis Blvd. | East Chicago | (219) 902-6372

Felecia Williams is booking private parties, wedding and baby showers, graduation celebrations and more at her new Indianapolis Boulevard location with a plan to help those in need at the same time. As the owner of Main Attraction, Williams has long dreamed of doing what she does best – being the ultimate destination and planner for any special occasion.

NEW BUSINESS



DEPORTES MARTINEZ

4704 Indianapolis Blvd. | East Chicago | (219) 378-0480

Players of the world's most popular sport now have a store dedicated just for them right here in East Chicago. Of course, we're talking soccer. Whether you're simply a fan or need dozens of custom jerseys to outfit a team of children, teens or adults, Deportes Martinez has what you need, including soccer balls, cleats, gloves, goalie pants, socks, hats and more.





MILLIONS IN PROJECTS: From sewers, railroads and road reconstruction to city sidewalks, subdivisions and marina parking lot resurfacing, the East Chicago Engineering Department has $26.7 million in projects to complete this year.

City Engineering tackles $26.7 million in projects

East Chicago is following a record-breaking construction season with the next phase of Indianapolis Boulevard, reconstruction of Kosciusko Boulevard and Magoun Avenue along with more than a dozen projects citywide under the direction of returning City Engineer Julio Arichavala Delgado.

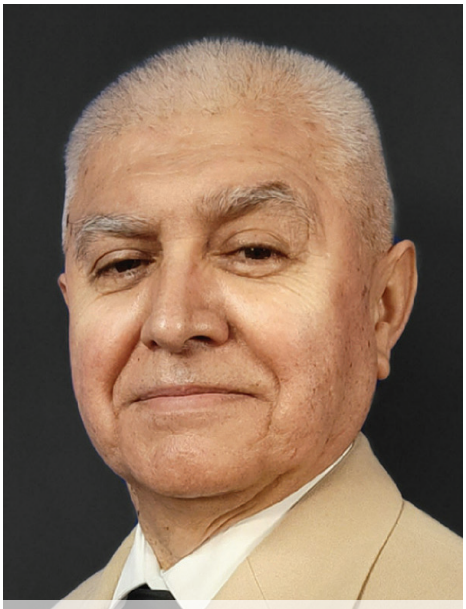
Altogether, the city is investing $26.7 million in road work, including retrofitting CSX railroad crossing to make them into quiet zones as a way to improve quality of life for those living within earshot of the train tracks that criss-cross the city.

It also includes $2 million in mill-and-pave projects – $1 million of which will be paid by the Indiana Department of Transportation as part of its Community Crossings Matching Grant Program.

"There is no such thing as an inexpensive road project. Every road we rebuild requires a significant investment of city resources," Arichavala Delgado said.

"We take every opportunity to pursue partners that include state and federal agencies along with our local industry," he said. "Their contributions allow us to get more done each year."

Info: Contact the Engineering Department at (219) 391-8355.



JULIO ARICHAVALA DELGADO
CITY ENGINEER



JAYLAN ROBINSON
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR



FILLING POTHOLES: It's that time of year when East Chicago Public Works crews are out in force filling potholes throughout the city. **Info:** Contact the Public Works Department at (219) 391-8463.

New director eager to make Public Works more efficient while reducing city's carbon footprint

Within a week of being named East Chicago Public Works Director, Jaylan Robinson managed two snow storms and a blast of bitter cold.

For Robinson, who is celebrating eight years on the Public Works team, preparing for the unexpected is all part of the job.

"We are working on changes to make the department more efficient. That includes adding technologies to reduce paper use and electric vehicles to reduce the city's carbon footprint," he said. "At the same time, we are working to recruit a great group of employees to fill an estimated 40 vacancies in the department."

East Chicago is working with the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission and Greater Indiana Clean Cities to secure a grant to reduce the cost of large-scale electric vehicles, which will eliminate the use of diesel vehicles over time.



CHARGE UP INITIATIVE: Public Works' first electric vehicle is a Ford E 350 Transit Van is better for the environment and saves on the cost of consumables, such as gas, oil and brake fluids.

2024 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.

2024 PET LICENSE

Keep your furry friends up-to-date with their very own 2024 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-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, email Michelle Chandler mchandler@eastchicago.com and Constance Dickerson cdickerson@eastchicago.com and Claudia Cardenas ccardenas@eastchicago.com

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

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 PARKS & RECREATION PRESENTS ...

EASTER Eggstravaganza



1 PM | SATURDAY | MARCH 23

WASHINGTON PARK
1615 EAST 142ND STREET | EAST CHICAGO

MUST BE AN EAST CHICAGO RESIDENT TO PARTICIPATE