EAST CHICAGO life

YOUR LOCAL SOURCE FOR EAST CHICAGO NEWS AND EVENTS

City of East Chicago
Hope & Progress
INDIANA

PROTECTING OUR WATERWAYS

Now through June 2025, engineers will inspect pipes and other conveyances discharging into the city's waterways.

Field staff will walk along, work within, and kayak through various waterways – including the Grand Calumet River, Indiana Harbor Canal, Lake George Canal and the Lake Michigan shoreline.

Access to public easements near waterways may be necessary. Nearby properties will be notified if access is required.

Thank you for your understanding as we work to complete this requirement.

Happy Holidays East Chicago!

FROM THE SPIRIT OF GIVING TO THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE, EAST CHICAGO RESIDENTS ALWAYS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

SOLES FOR SOULS

I love this time of year – when I see the spirit of giving showing itself through the actions of our residents. We began with a shoe drive that benefits victims of human trafficking – both here and abroad.

It was city employees who took the Soles for Souls Shoe Drive to heart, partnering with Rahab's Daughters, a charity dedicated to stopping human trafficking and helping the victims of these horrific crimes.

We began collecting shoes at City Hall and Healthy East Chicago, Inc. in September. In two short months, residents donated more than 125 pairs of shoes that still had plenty of life in them. Since then, we've had even more donations.

It's a cause worthy of our attention and I'm happy to say we helped. We'll let you know as other opportunities present themselves.

VETERANS MEMORIAL

As you go by City Hall in the months to come, please take notice of the work as it continues on a lasting memorial to East Chicago residents who gave their lives in the service of our country. We have already identified more than 200 soldiers who died in combat between World War I and the War in Afghanistan.



Work to create the Emilio De La Garza Memorial has been ongoing since 2018. It will be our honor to forever remember the brave sacrifices of our fellow East Chicagoans. Please be sure to check out the full story and renderings inside.

ANTHONY COPELAND
Mayor City of East Chicago



East Chicago is seeking qualified candidates to fill the following job openings:

Full-time positions

- Bus Driver
- Collection System Repair Equipment Operator | CDL
- Planning and Economic Development Director
- Public Transit Diesel- Gas Mechanic
- Public Works Assistant Director
- Public Works Helper | CDL Driver
- Water Treatment Plant Operator

Part-time positions

- Animal Warden
- GIS Administrator
- Health Department Administrative Intern
- Health Inspector
- Marina Administrative Intern
- Planning Department Administrative Intern
- Public Transit Laborer
- Public Works Laborer
- Recreation Leader
- Sanitary Wastewater Laborer
- Water Laborer

Scan the QR code to visit the jobs portal and apply.

NEW HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR EAGER TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY

Charlotte Brown has made identifying and nurturing talent in the workforce her life's work.

After a childhood in Gary and a fulfilling career in Human Resources in Memphis, Tennessee, Brown has been named Human Resources Director for the City of East Chicago, where she oversees more than 400 city workers.

It was exactly this opportunity that lured the professional back to the region where she can do the job she loves closer to family.

"Human Resources is multi-faceted. It begins with talent acquisition, but certainly doesn't end there. HR encompasses every aspect of an employee's work life, including the management of compensation, benefits, workforce engagement, performance, talent development, policy development and implementation," she said.

"My goal is to establish operational excellence and develop a multi-functional staff that will best serve the needs of the city, its residents, businesses and industry."



With an undergraduate degree from the University of Memphis, Masters in HR Management from Webster University and SHRM-CP certification from the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), Brown says her education and work experience has brought her to East Chicago.

"I am a servant leader at heart who desires to serve the community of East Chicago," she said. "By that I mean, I am here mentoring the people who serve the residents of this vibrant community."

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

The City of East Chicago offers many employee benefits, including health insurance, life insurance, supplemental insurance, retirement plans, paid vacation and so much more. **INFO:** Visit eastchicago.com and click on Human Resources to view our employee handbook.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

The City of East Chicago is committed to providing equal employment opportunities for all applicants and employees. Applicants and employees shall be treated fairly and equally. Employment decisions will comply with all applicable state and federal employment discrimination laws and made without regard to race, color, gender, genetic information, sex, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, age, disability, veteran's status, political affiliation or citizenship.



PROSPERITY AND GROWTH: The Kennedy Manor development reflects the city's commitment to creating safe, high-quality and affordable housing that fosters growth and prosperity in the local community. [Steve Segura photos]







CITY BREAKS GROUND ON $1.3 MILLION KENNEDY MANOR

Breaking ground on the first homes in Kennedy Manor marked the beginning of a new story for the Calumet neighborhood that has been years in the making.

A duplex, designed to be modern yet fit perfectly into the Third District area of tidy homes and start-up businesses, launched Kennedy Manor in November. Expected completion in Spring 2025, the third dwelling will be a single family home across the street.

The $1.3 million project is the result of a collaboration between the East Chicago Department of Redevelopment, East Chicago Housing Authority (ECHA), and the East Chicago Urban Enterprise Authority (ECUEA). First Metropolitan Builders is heading up the project. Additional homes are planned throughout the subdivision on land the city owns.

"This project is a testament to what we can accomplish when community groups unite for the common good," Mayor Anthony Copeland said.

"We're proud to work with the city agencies and First Metropolitan to bring affordable housing options to the area and provide a foundation for our community to grow. We have been working neighborhood by neighborhood. It will be exciting to see the growth in Calumet."

BUYING OPTIONS

Work is moving quickly on the first duplex in Kennedy Manor 1. Located at 4823-4851 Kennedy, the grade-level foundation has been poured with construction crews working as long as the weather cooperates.

Next up will be a single-family, two-story home at 4742 Kennedy. The first two dwellings are expected to be completed in the spring.

INFO: Interested in owning one of these eye-catching homes? Call Milton Reed at the East Chicago Urban Enterprise Association at (219) 392-3660.



NADIYA'S KITCHEN

4901 Alexander Ave. | East Chicago | (219) 354-1031

Nadiya's Kitchen is getting rave reviews. Open for dine in and carry-out, Chef Nadiya Woodhouse offers a taste of luxury. "This new establishment not only adds variety to our local dining options, but also brings a commitment to quality that will elevate the culinary scene," Mayor Anthony Copeland said. **Hours:** 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday and 11 a.m. -9 p.m. Friday-Sunday.



TAQUIERA MORAS

4906 Indianapolis Blvd. | East Chicago | (219) 354-0461

Family-owned Taquiera Moras opened during the final stages of road construction that made it challenging to get to the eatery. Owner Francisco Mora is inviting everyone to celebrate the road reopening with him. Taquiera Moras features American breakfast favorites and authentic Mexican family favorites. **Hours:** 7 a.m.-9 p.m. daily with breakfast served from 7 a.m.-2 p.m.



TRINITY THRIFT

3821 Main St. | East Chicago | growourworld.com

If you're looking for deals on gently used clothing and more, head over to North Harbor. Owned and operated by Grow International Ministries, Trinity Thrift offers affordable clothing and household goods while generating funds to support services run by the ministry. "Trinity Thrift is a valuable asset to the community," Mayor Anthony Copeland said. **Hours:** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday.



EL MALECON MARISCOS

4722 Indianapolis Blvd. | East Chicago | (219) 298-4554

A new seafood place has sailed into town that features some of the region's best Mexican favorites from the sea. El Malecon Mariscos specializes in Mexican seafood – Nayarit style. Wash that down with offerings from the eatery's fully stocked bar – beer, cocktails and shots. Stay for the karaoke fun Friday, Saturday and Sunday. **Hours:** 11 a.m.-3 a.m. daily.

WANT TO OPEN A BUSINESS IN EAST CHICAGO? When it comes to helping businesses get established, East Chicago makes the process seamless. Whether you are seeking a new location, planning to expand or starting a new business, we are always eager to help. INFO: Call (219) 391-8205.





A beautiful screen featuring the silhouettes of military figures will be featured above the memorial wall with the names of fallen soldiers.

EMILIO DE LA GARZA JR. MEMORIAL

NEW VETERANS MEMORIAL TO HONOR EAST CHICAGO'S HOMETOWN HERO

A year from now, residents and visitors will gather on Veterans Day at the new Emilio De La Garza Veteran's Memorial Plaza.

The memorial – dedicated to every East Chicago soldier killed in battle since World War I – has already been named for native son Emilio De La Garza, who was killed in Vietnam in 1970.

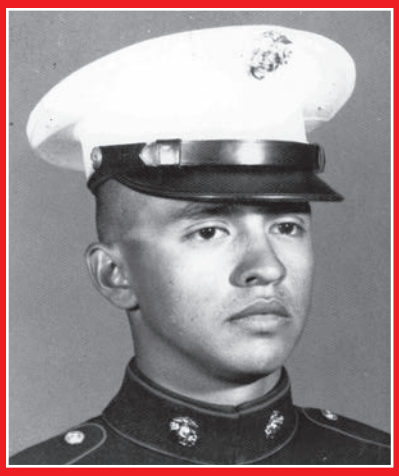
As part of the team charged with developing the memorial, Parks and Recreation Director Marino Solorio has been researching and identifying East Chicago residents who sacrificed their lives as they fought for freedom.

"We know as many as 240 residents were killed in combat. Our work continues to identify each of these brave soldiers," he said. "They will be memorialized with their name and service."

The $1.2 million venue is being funded by the City Council and Redevelopment.

When it is dedicated on Memorial Day 2025, East Chicago's veterans park will include a monument wall including the names of every fallen soldier, a plaza, fountain, benches and landscaping.

"This memorial has been five years in the planning and development," Mayor Anthony Copeland said. "We believe it will be a source of comfort and remembrance for the community for decades to come."



EMILIO DE LA GARZA JR. EAST CHICAGO'S HERO

On April 11, 1970, East Chicago was shaken to learn the tragic news out of Vietnam that Marine Lance Cpl. Emilio De La Garza Jr. had been killed after throwing himself on an enemy grenade lobbed by a Viet Cong combatant, saving the lives of his fellow platoon members.

De La Garza received the Medal of Honor for his bravery and valor – one of several Northwest Indiana residents to be awarded the distinction in the past 153 years. He is one of 246 recipients from the Vietnam War, 154 were bestowed posthumously.

De La Garza was a 1968 graduate of East Chicago Washington High School. He married his high school sweetheart and got a job at Inland Steel before enlisting in the Marines, where he was trained as a machine gunner with Company E, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division. He was just 20 years old and a young father when he was killed in action.

FLU VACCINES

Flu vaccines are now available at the East Chicago Health Department, 100 W. Chicago Ave., Suite 100A, from **8-11 a.m.** and **1-3 p.m. Tuesdays** and **Thursdays**.

Flu vaccines are free for East Chicago city employees and East Chicago residents 55 years of age or older. High-dose vaccines are available for those 65 years and older.

Valid and current ID required. There is a $25 fee for those 18 years of age and uninsured.

INFO: Please call the East Chicago Health Department at (219) 391-8467.

SWEETHEART DANCE

Save the Date for our February Sweetheart's Dance at Riley Park Hall, 1005 E. Chicago Ave. Register at the Parks and Recreation office. Cost is $6 per child and $8 for those 18 years or older.

WHEN: 5-9 p.m. February 8

INFO: Please call the Parks and Recreation Office at (219) 391-8474 or visit eastchicago.com.

FITNESS CENTERS

Too cold to exercise outdoors? Join one of our fitness centers at Heritage Hall or Unity Center. Membership includes access to indoor basketball courts, walking track, rock climbing, fitness rooms, yoga, cardio classes and more!

INFO: Please call the Parks and Recreation Office at (219) 391-8474 or visit eastchicago.com.

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

