EAST CHICAGO life

YOUR LOCAL SOURCE FOR EAST CHICAGO NEWS AND EVENTS

City of East Chicago
Hope & Progress
INDIANA

INDIANAPOLIS IS NOW OPEN!

More than a decade in the planning and more than two years of construction have given motorists a path for smooth sailing up and down Indianapolis Boulevard from 152nd Street to Columbus Drive.

The dream to make the 2.7 miles of heavily traveled road safer and more efficient is complete along with improvements – such as sewer upgrades, new sidewalks, curbs, lights and utilities.

Be sure to patronize our businesses along the Boulevard!

Happy New Year!










HERE'S TO A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR, EAST CHICAGO!

Happy Holidays East Chicago!

Never has there been festivities like the celebrations we are having during this most holy – and festive – of seasons.

From the moment we lit the tree, welcomed Santa and began gifting our little ones with toys that delighted them, we have been celebrating as a community.

A few days after the Toy Giveaway to the youngsters, we celebrated with 600 of the youngest-at-heart people I know at none other than Hard Rock Casino Northern Indiana. We danced. We sang. We rejoiced in seeing so many of those we cherish.

Our youngsters, our seniors and everyone in between, are blessings that will carry us into 2025 with smiles on our faces and warmth in our hearts.

We are looking forward to abundance in the new year. We have much to celebrate – new businesses, new roads, new housing, new jobs – as we eagerly look forward to driving the power of East Chicago beyond our Northwest Indiana borders.

ANTHONY COPELAND
Mayor City of East Chicago







HARVEST FOOD GROUP BRINGS JOBS, ECONOMIC GROWTH

With ready access to Chicago's major railroad hub, the former Union Tank Car property at 151st Street and Railroad Avenue is being transformed into a major food processor and distributor for Harvest Food Group.

Construction began in October on the 100,000-square-foot building, which will employ 200 workers when completed in 2025.

Founded in 1999 by father and son duo Philip and Jason Eckert, Harvest Food Group has created a global food chain where fruits and vegetables cultivated on family-owned farms around the globe are transported to metro Chicago. The harvests from locales in California, Oregon, New Jersey, Michigan, Mexico and France are processed using a method known as individual quick freezing to maintain freshness, taste, texture and nutritional value.

"The vision of growth in East Chicago continues to evolve. This is a great company with passionate leadership and we look forward to a beautiful partnership," Mayor Anthony Copeland said.

East Chicago will be the newest expansion of the company, which is headquartered in Naperville, Illinois.

Interim Planning and Economic Development Director Marino Solorio is eager to see the facility up and running.

"For me, this is another example of how working families can live, work and play in this great city we call home," Solorio said. "Imagine being able to commute 10 minutes from home to work, earn a good paycheck and be able to spend more quality time with your family. That's what we are building in East Chicago."

INFO: Visit **harvestfoodgroup.com** for job opportunities and more information about the company.



RAILROAD QUIET ZONES

EAST CHICAGO INVESTS $585,000 IN RAILROAD QUIET ZONES TO IMPROVE RESIDENTIAL AREAS

East Chicago will be upgrading seven, at-grade CSX railroad crossings in 2025 that will make them part of a growing network of silent crossings. The system works without the use of horns blasting in anticipation of oncoming trains as is required by federal law. City Engineer Julio Arichavala said silent crossings offer motorists the protection the Federal Railroad Administration requires without interrupting the daily lives of nearby residents.

"Silent crossings are particularly effective in urban areas where people and railroads have co-existed for more than a century," Mayor Anthony Copeland said. "Like our neighbor in Michigan City, East Chicago has been highly impacted by the train-horn requirement. Both of our cities have high numbers of at-grade crossings. East Chicago residents are disproportionately impacted by industrial rail shipments as well as by trains that travel through our city to get to Chicago, the rail hub of the nation. We are all looking forward to experiencing our city in a much quieter way by the end of 2025."

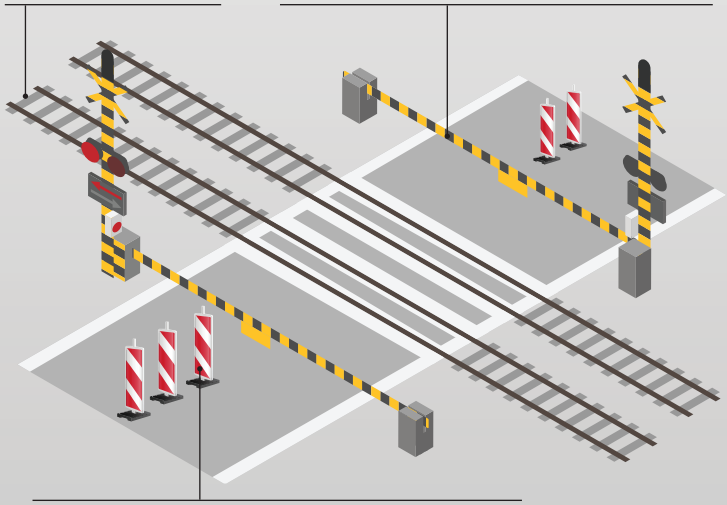


HOW QUIET ZONES WORK

East Chicago and the CSX railroads will synchronize road and rail signals to form Quiet Zones.

Train activates sensor in track before reaching the intersection.

Control arms go down in front of tracks and the circuit synchronizes with road signals to stop traffic until the train passes.



Mountable medians with reflective channel devices prevent drivers from going around lowered crossing gates.

LOCATIONS & IMPROVEMENTS

Work at seven CSX locations throughout the city include the addition of reflective channels as well as gate and pedestrian sidewalk improvements.

- Euclid Avenue
- Kennedy Avenue
- Tod Avenue
- Indianapolis Boulevard
- Magoun Avenue
- Baring Avenue
- Dickey Road

NEW



RAY'S CARIBBEAN JERK

3825 Main St. | East Chicago | (219) 354-0407

It's always a good day to head over to Ray's Caribbean Jerk in North Harbor, which offers a bounty of soul food infused with the vibrant flavors of the islands. Just ask Mayor Anthony Copeland. "We are proud to welcome a restaurant that not only offers incredible flavors, but adds a new dimension to East Chicago's growing restaurant scene," Copeland said. From savory jerk chicken to collard greens, Ray's Caribbean Jerk is destined to become the local go-to spot for foodies seeking rich, spiced flavors with a touch of Southern hospitality.

NEW



GORDITAS LOLI'S #4

5654 Indianapolis Blvd. | East Chicago | (219) 354-0035

The popularity of Gorditas Loli's Chicago location preceded the opening of the family restaurant across from the South Shore station in Roxana. The spacious eatery is set up for easy carryout or dine in. A beloved local favorite since 1979, Gorditas Loli's has built its reputation on serving authentic, homemade Mexican dishes. Known for offering more than 20 varieties of guisados caseros, their specialties include gorditas, tacos, quesadillas, barbacoa and much more. With three successful locations, this marks the fourth addition to their growing presence.

RE-NEW



CASA BLANCA

4616 Indianapolis Blvd. | East Chicago | (219) 397-4151

With the Indianapolis Boulevard reconstruction complete, Casa Blanca wants patrons to know, it's smooth sailing to get to the reopened and re-imagined restaurant that has added to its list of fine-dining entrees. New to the menu are seafood entrees, including fresh-from-the-sea oysters served your way. Haven't had Pico de Gallo Oysters yet? Try them. They are fast becoming a crowd favorite along with shrimp Mexicana, tostada ceviche along with guacamole, empanadas and paella. Reviewers say how much they love the new menu, large portions and great family atmosphere.









HOME RENOVATIONS & TREES BREATHE A NEW LIFE INTO MARKTOWN

The century-old Marktown historic neighborhood is experiencing a rebirth.

From an increasing interest from homeowners looking to tap into a $50,000 city grant program to improve the historically significant exteriors of their residences to others who are going all in with interior renovations maximizing every corner of the vintage duplexes, Marktown is getting a fresh look.

“It’s exciting to see the work being completed and how modern these vintage buildings can feel,” Redevelopment Director Frank Rivera said.

“Marktown was built as an urban cottage neighborhood. Ongoing innovations are giving the community a look and feel that is appealing to today’s homebuyers,” he said. “Marktown has so much life left to live.”

Rivera said Mayor Copeland had the vision to bring Marktown back in ways that are historically authentic, but have the modern amenities we expect today.

Another essential component of Marktown is an abundance of greenspace that’s getting a facelift of its own. The 40-acre Marktown Community Park was gifted 31 new trees through a partnership with the Urban Forestry Student Conservation Association, BP, Cleveland Cliffs and East Chicago Parks and Recreation.

Copeland said it is a testament to the will of the community that is advancing programs in Marktown.

“It was famed architect Howard Van Doren Shaw who created the community park,” Copeland said. “It is all of those who followed a century later who are ensuring it has a bright future.”

INFO: Call East Chicago Redevelopment Director Frank Rivera at (219) 391-8513 for more information about Marktown and the $50,000 grant program.

SNOW OR ICE: WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED!

Public Works Director Jaylan Robinson reminds residents that East Chicago follows a priority system for snow removal, which takes into consideration safety and efficiency. Streets are cleared in the following order:

1. The most heavily traveled roads are the highest priority, including Kennedy, Main, Guthrie, Michigan, Cardinal and Euclid.
2. Roads surrounding St. Catherine Hospital.
3. Streets by schools.
4. Police and fire stations along with Jeorse Circle.
5. Finally, we direct our efforts to the city's six residential districts beginning with the name streets followed by the numbered streets.

[WEATHER NOTICES]

Whether it's severe weather, snow-packed streets, road closures or boil orders, East Chicago's Nixle alert system has all the info you need. Don't delay! Sign up today for this communication tool that keeps you informed – wherever you are. Text ECEVENTS to 888777 or register at nixle.com.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

From Mayor Anthony Copeland and the City of East Chicago!