EAST CHICAGO life

YOUR LOCAL SOURCE FOR EAST CHICAGO NEWS AND EVENTS

DEPARTMENTS FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE...

Fire Department
Anthony Serna
Fire Chief
(219) 391-8472

Police Department
Frank Smith
Police Chief
(219) 391-8400

Utilities
Abderrahman Zehraoui Ph.D.
Director of Utilities
(219) 391-8466

Sanitary District
Joe Wright
Utilities Technician
(219) 391-8466

Water Department
Winna Guzman
Director
(219) 391-8469

"East Chicago abuzz with summer activities, improvement projects and lakefront fun"

I hope you are enjoying your summer as much as I am. We've had great weather for gardening, beaching, biking, walking or just enjoying it all from your front stoop.

HOPE AND PROGRESS ...

It occurs to me that East Chicago and all of us – the residents – have been blessed in so many ways.

Some of our blessings – our tight-knit neighborhoods and abundance of parks – are manmade. Others, like our location along the shore, means we are a little cooler when it is hot and a little warmer when it is cold. The city is doubling down on its efforts to make life for our citizens and our businesses even better. Join me as we take a quick look at what is happening around the city.

NEW DAY FOR GUTHRIE ...

While you've likely seen the above-ground plans for reconstructing Guthrie Street, our sanitary and water districts are just as excited with what's going on below.

The city is in the midst of a multiyear plan, adding storm sewers to all new street projects, which will make the system more efficient and save money in the years to come. Learn about this vital project inside this issue of East Chicago Life.



SUMMER FUN ON THE LAKE ...

The beach ball and umbrella sculptures at Jeorse Park are a huge hit. If you haven't seen them yet, please make plans to go.

While you're there, check out the new entertainment venue or spend just a few dollars and get out into our protected harbor on a paddle board or kayak.

ANTHONY COPELAND
Mayor City of East Chicago

$24 MILLION IN SANITARY PROJECTS



Installing a new manhole along a 7,000-foot-long section of solid steel sewer – built in 1969 to service 460 acres of the East Chicago Harbor – is a complex process involving a customized cut and installation of a manhole for video inspection and repairs. [Joe Wright photos]



OUT WITH THE OLD ...

When the East Chicago Sanitary District went looking to expand capacity of the sewer system, they found century-old relics under city streets.

"East Chicago was a city built to last," Utilities Technician Joe Wright said. "We are removing clay pipes encased in bricks that are original to the city and are still working.

"As these very old sewers are replaced, we are creating a separated sewer system that can handle 75 million gallons of stormwater and 23 million gallons of sanitary flow each day," Wright said.

Director of Utilities Abderrahman Zehraoui Ph.D. said what East Chicago spends now will be returned to the city in the decades to come.

"Stormwater can be sent directly to the Indiana Harbor and Ship Canal without going through the treatment process saving the city millions of dollars," Zehraoui said. •

WHAT'S NEXT?

Learn about the city's flood prevention and check-valve programs in the October issue of East Chicago Life!

$19.5 MILLION TO IMPROVE WATER, REPLACE CITY'S LEAD SERVICE LINES

Major water projects planned to begin this year are continuing a tradition of excellence in the East Chicago Water Department. On tap are initiatives that include:

- ✓ Installation of new water meters
- ✓ Completion of an advanced metering infrastructure system
- ✓ Addition of a bulk water filling station
- ✓ Construction of new water storage tanks
- ✓ Continuation of a lead service line replacement program

The project will cost the city $19.5 million, $18 million of which was loaned from the Indiana Finance Authority Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund. East Chicago is the first community in the state to tap the low-interest borrowing program. The city will save more than $6 million in interest over the life of the loans.

Director of Utilities Abderrahman Zehraoui Ph.D. said the projects ensure East Chicago will continue to provide a ready supply of quality water and further protect the public.



WATER DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE

The East Chicago Water Department will host an open house for residents to learn more about the water meter installation process, location and timeline. The event also features demonstrations on "getting to know your water meter" as well as an exhibit of the new water meters and informational brochures.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, **August 25**

WHERE: East Chicago Police Department, 2301 East Columbus Drive

METER REPLACEMENT & INSTALLATION

Calumet City Plumbing has been selected to install new water meters.

There is no cost to customers for the replacement and installation of the new meters. The project begins this month and is scheduled to be completed in March.

You will receive a notice that includes instructions on scheduling an appointment for your service. Replacing a meter typically takes 30 minutes and the customer's water will be turned off for approximately 15 minutes.

Water Department Director Winna Guzman said each contractor has had a background check and will be wearing a uniform and carrying identification.

QUESTIONS?

Call the installation contractor directly at (708) 868-0074.





Survivor Carl Peterson, left, thanks Patrolman TIm Leimbech and Acting Traffic Sgt. Juda Parks, pictured right with Police Chief Frank Smith and Mayor Anthony Copeland, for saving his life. "I was lucky that day they were there for me." [East Chicago Police Department photos]

"I WAS AT DEATH'S DOOR AND THEY SAVED ME"

A pair of East Chicago officers got the surprise of a lifetime when they were able to hug Carl Peterson for the very first time.

The momentous embrace occurred during a ceremony in June, where Citizens Police Academy members celebrated their graduation and officers who had performed exemplary service were honored.

The last time Patrolman Tim Leimbech and Acting Traffic Sgt. Juda Parks laid eyes on Peterson, it was literally a case of life and death.

Peterson was driving his sister to lunch when he felt unwell, losing consciousness just as his car drove into a tree on Columbus Drive.

The date was Dec. 21, 2017, just four days before Christmas.

"When we arrived on scene, we found the tree undamaged and the car was the same," Parks said.

"It was called in as a traffic accident, but this was clearly a medical emergency," Leimbech said.

Within minutes of beginning CPR, Peterson's heart started beating on its own. An electrical malfunction of his heart meant it wouldn't last.

Paramedics said his heart stopped beating several times before arriving at St. Catherine's Emergency Department, where the critically ill man received a pacemaker.

Police Chief Frank Smith said without the heroic actions of his officers, the physician said he would not have survived.

"I was a dead man walking," Peterson said. "East Chicago has a department full of heroic officers. I was lucky they were there for me that day."•

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME

Mayor Anthony Copeland and the East Chicago Police Department invites the community to attend the annual National Night Out Against Crime. The Lake County Sheriff's Helicopter is back and so are our very own Super Heroes.

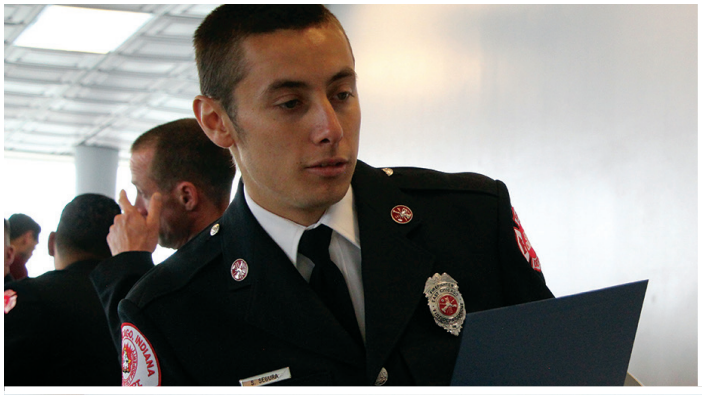
The event will also feature, food, music, a bike raffle, fire trucks and the opportunity to take a dip in the Washington Park pool while chatting it up with East Chicago's Finest.

WHEN: 5 to 7 p.m. **August 7**

WHERE: Washington Park Pool, 140th and Parrish Avenue

INFO: Find us on Facebook, YouTube, Twitter and Cable.

SEE SOMETHING. SAY SOMETHING. Call our anonymous tip hotline at (219) 391-8500.







14 NEW FIREFIGHTERS KEEPING E.C. SAFE

When it comes to public safety, Fire Chief Anthony Serna said there is no substitute for a highly trained staff and advanced tools to help firefighters save lives.

Since 2014, the department has replaced its frontline fleet while recruiting 30 of the best and brightest to serve as the city's newest generation of firefighters, proudly taking the place of a legion of career firefighters on the 76-person department.

Serna said the department is embracing an emerging role where firefighters also serve as first responders.

"It used to be that nearly all of our calls were fires," Serna said. "That simply isn't the case anymore. We run about 10 calls a day and more than half of those are medical. We have adapted to customer need – running basic life support and are dispatched at the same time as the ambulance, which transports patients to the hospital."

Our new firefighters hail from all corners of Northwest Indiana, Illinois – and, of course, East Chicago.

"I always knew I wanted to help people," said Julius Segura, who was born and raised in East Chicago. "I had faith in myself and studied really hard to make the cut. I've known every day since I started here as a firefighter that this is exactly where I am supposed to be."

Serna credits that flexibility for continuing to surpass the community's expectations

"We are a family. We live together," he said. "We take care of each other and each one of us is trained to give our lives helping every resident of East Chicago."

CELEBRATE FIRE SAFETY

Come one. Come all to this year's Fire Department Open House! Learn about train safety from Little Obie. Watch the high-flying Jesse White tumblers. Witness a fire safety demonstration in action. Food. Fun. Entertainment. It's all that!

WHEN: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **October 6**

WHERE: Central Fire Station, 3901 Indianapolis Boulevard

INFO: (219) 391-8472

WOW FEST

Join us for the 11th annual Worship on the Water featuring live gospel entertainment, food and back-to-school activities for the kids, including free book bags, hair cuts, braiding, health screenings, dental checkups and more.

WHEN: 2-8 p.m. **August 12**
WHERE: EC Lakefront

ANNUAL BEACH CLEANUP

Join the City of East Chicago and the Lions Club for our annual beach cleanup.

WHEN: 9 a.m.-noon **August 18**
WHERE: Jeorse Beach Park

AUGUST MOVIE NIGHT

Grab a lawn chair and head to the park to watch "Despicable Me 3" on the big screen.

WHEN: 7 p.m. (dusk) **August 23**
WHERE: Washington Park

KIELBASA FEST

Celebrate Polish heritage at our annual Kielbasa Fest featuring family fun, delicious food, live music, and a beer garden.

WHEN: noon-10 p.m. **August 25**
WHERE: Kosciuszko Park

NEW ADDITION DAY

Enjoy fellowship, food and family fun at this annual neighborhood celebration. Admission is free.

WHEN: noon-6 p.m. **Sept. 1**
WHERE: Smith Park

SEPTEMBER MOVIE NIGHT

Grab a lawn chair and head to the park to watch "Peter Rabbit" on the big screen.

WHEN: 7 p.m. (dusk) **Sept. 27**
WHERE: Tod Park

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EAST CHICAGO, INDIANA 46312



Join the City of East Chicago and Union Benefica Mexicana as we celebrate our rich cultural traditions with a Mexican Independence Day parade and festival!

ABOUT THE PARADE

The parade kicks off at noon from Block Stadium, travels on Parrish to Columbus Drive and then heads east to Main Street, northwest to Fir and ending on Michigan Avenue/Indiana Harbor Drive.

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

The festival is from 2 to 11 p.m. at the East Chicago Marina riverwalk and features live entertainment, a beer garden as well as food and craft vendors.

VISIT EASTCHICAGO.COM FOR COMPLETE DETAILS