EAST CHICAGO life
YOUR LOCAL SOURCE FOR EAST CHICAGO NEWS AND EVENTS

BUSINESS LICENSE

Are you a start-up, an established business or an entrepreneur who has the next great idea? If so, you need a license to do business in East Chicago before you throw out the welcome mat and invite the community in. The 2023 Business Registration License Application is available at **eastchicago.com**.

Please note: The city requires a zoning administration review for new businesses.

Need help getting the perfect location or navigating the system? Call Planning and Economic Development at (219) 391-8205.

SPECIAL BUSINESS REPORT

MORE AND MORE BUSINESSES OPENING – AND THRIVING – IN EAST CHICAGO

Business is booming in East Chicago. More than once a week in 2023, a new business has thrown open its doors to welcome customers and clients.

Most of them are start-ups – mom-and-pop stores that serve neighborhoods like North Harbor and Calumet. Others are national chains, like the new Wendy's on Columbus Drive.

Business owners tell us they are thrilled to be in East Chicago, that the city is a great place to open a business.

Every time I hear that refrain, it is music to my ears. Our department heads work tirelessly to create programs and retool existing ones to make it easier for our entrepreneurs to bring their dreams to life.

New storefronts are helping us become a more walkable city – our goal for more than a decade.

Here are just a few examples: Looking for a new daycare? Try A Step Ahead Day Care on Ivy or Tolliver Helping Hands Daycare on Baring. How about some new ink? Sacred Art Tattoo on Chicago and Mulberry Street Tattoo Lounge have what you're looking for. When your car needs repairs, we have a host of new shops to choose from.

I'm betting at least one is located in or near your neighborhood.



La Rancherita Bakery, El Paso Mexican & American Grill, El Rancherito Mexicana Restaurant and Taqueria Dos Hermanos are just a few of the new eateries to try. A full list can be found inside this issue of East Chicago Life.

Let's support our local businesses, East Chicago!

ANTHONY COPELAND
Mayor City of East Chicago



WHAT A COMBO! The new Wendy's on the corner of Columbus and Main features a smaller dining room and expanded drive through for quicker service while meeting the needs of customers on-the-go. [Steve Segura photos]

NEW WENDY'S FIRST OF ITS KIND IN COUNTRY

The only Wendy's restaurant of its kind opened at 2120 E. Columbus Drive at the end of September.

The hybrid restaurant features a double-drive through, walk-up/pick-up window for digital orders and 10-seat dining room. Julie Bieszczat, president and CEO of the company that owns and operates 13 local Wendy's franchises, said the East Chicago location could be the restaurant of the future – offering options for grab-and-go food.

"Wendy's is a Redevelopment Department success," Mayor Anthony Copeland said. "An old warehouse mechanics shop along with adjacent properties were combined to bring the necessary square-footage to the project. We're so excited to have Wendy's here!"

Already, 50 employees have been hired to work the restaurant located in bustling North Harbor. The company is still hiring and looking for individuals who can envision a career in food service.

"We have been welcomed warmly by the residents of East Chicago," said Bieszczat, who heads Crown-Point based Barney Enterprises. "We have made a 20-year commitment to the Wendy's brand and the East Chicago Wendy's. With that comes a promise to invest in this community."

CITY WELCOMES NEW BUSINESSES

East Chicago is sprouting businesses at a pace not seen in years. Mayor Anthony Copeland said it reinforces that citywide revitalization efforts are working in a big way. "I always set our bar high," Copeland said. "The number of new businesses transforming our commercial areas is a sign of great things in-the-making. Now, it's up to our neighbors and friends to stop in at these establishments, welcome them to the city and find out how they can make your life better. They've taken the big step. It's up to us to help them get started."

219 Wireless LLC
3930 Main St.

A Step Ahead #2 Day Care
4212 Ivy St.

Belly Dawgs LLC
Mobile Food Cart

Bird Eye Customs
724 E. Chicago Ave. 2B

Bzzy Bees Nursery
4444 Railroad Ave.

California Auto Service 1
608 Exchange

Dub City Tires
1102 Carrol St.

Catering & Events Center
2010 E. Columbus Dr.

Gotham Welding & Fabrication
3550 Canal St.

DMC Auto Sales
1212 W. Chicago Ave.

El Paso Mexican & American Grill
502 Columbus Dr.

El Rancherito Mexicana Restaurant
3809 Main St.

Fat Guys Fries
Mobile Food Vehicle

Ghost Kitch Virtual Restaurants
711 W. Chicago Ave.

Hidden Gem Hookah Bar
3929 Main St.

La Rancherita Bakery
3811 Main St.

Master Shop Inc
444 E. Chicago Ave.

Mulberry Street Tattoo Lounge
3826 Main St.

Paleteria La Monarka
817 W. Chicago Ave.

Panaderia La Nueva Bakery
909 W. Chicago Ave.

PrintSure
475 E. 151st. St.

Raheem Chicken & Waffles
Mobile Food Vehicle

Sacred Art Tattoo Gallery
534 W. Chicago Ave.

Sandle Food Mart | Gas Station
4901 Kennedy Ave.

Steel Fabrication & Welding
3715 Michigan Ave.

Taqueria Dos Hermanos
701 E. Chicago Ave.

Tolliver Helping Hands Daycare
4229 Baring

Vic's Auto Care LLC
1403 Carrol St.

Wendy's
2120 E. Columbus Dr.

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 an expansion or starting a new business, we are always eager to help. **INFO:** Call Planning and Economic Development at (219) 391-8205.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR BUSINESS S

SMALL BUSINESS

BZZY BEE FLOWER GARDEN CENTER
4444 RAILROAD AVENUE | EAST CHICAGO

Bzzy Bee's Flower Garden Center is a new shop filling an important niche for flower-lovers in East Chicago. In addition to offering annuals to beautify gardens, porches and decks, owner Hilda Aleman's cozy shop is filled with home grown perennials and accent plants. She doesn't stop there. Among its many services, Bzzy Bee's provided seasonal lawn care, landscape design and implementation, hedge and tree trimming and so much more during its first year of operation. "I have been wanting to do this forever," Aleman said. "It feels good having a growing season under our belts. I love working with customers to bring their favorite colors, plants and flowers to brighten up their spaces." Bzzy Bees, located at 4444 Railroad Ave., offers unique planting programs – such as its two-season planting deals – as well as its 'bring a pot' where you pick the plants Bzzy Bee's uses to fill your favorite planters.



INCUBATOR

GALLERIA BUSINESS INCUBATOR
3724 MAIN STREET | EAST CHICAGO

Got the best idea for a new start-up business? The East Chicago Urban Enterprise Association has a plan to help launch your business too good to pass up. The UEA is taking applications for one of 10 offices in Galleria, the city's first small business incubator, a space that allows entrepreneurs to benefit from proximity to other new business owners. Tenants at Galleria will enjoy reduced costs for offices and utilities for two years as well as expertise in developing a business plan. The UEA also offers business training, legal services, consulting, advice from established businesses and marketing assistance.

Interested? Call the UEA at (219) 392-3660 or visit their website at eastchicagouea.org and click on the Galleria Business Incubator link where applications are available to download as are program guidelines and a participant agreement.



SECTORS ...



COMMERCIAL

MISNER GROUP LOGISTICS HUB
4400 HOMERLEE AVENUE | EAST CHICAGO

Individual space at the logistics hub at 4400 Homerlee is being marketed for lease nationally by the Missner Group, the project developer and owner. The $22 million project is built on 14.5 acres. It features 249,600 square feet, on-site trailer parking, up to 40 dock positions and drive-in doors. Formally know as Homerlee Business Park, the space was built to accommodate a dramatic increase in the need for last-mile distribution hubs for finished goods that need to be transported to another location. Just three miles from the Illinois border and 21 miles from downtown Chicago, East Chicago is considered an ideal location for logistics providers in the underserved Chicago metro region. Homerlee Business Park is expected to become a job generator for East Chicago and Northwest Indiana. As spaces are leased, jobs will be posted.



REAL ESTATE

COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES
ZONED FOR BUSINESS | LEASE OR PURCHASE

At the same time families are finding their perfect homes in East Chicago, so are businesses. Commercial properties that line longtime retail districts in North Harbor, Columbus Drive, Chicago Avenue and Indianapolis Boulevard are in high demand by start-ups and national chains. Redevelopment Director Frank Rivera said both housing and commercial real estate transactions in East Chicago are counted among the most active in Indiana. "Businesses have the advantage because many of the properties that are up-and-coming are owned by the city," he said. "We have programs in place to help streamline the process, reducing the days between purchase and the time when new owners can open their doors for business."

Information: Visit eastchicago.com to view properties or call Redevelopment Director Frank Rivera at (219) 391-8513.

HALLOWEEN TRICK-OR-TREAT HOURS

East Chicago's trick-or-treating hours are from **5-7 p.m. Tuesday, October 31** for all ghouls and goblins. Participating homes are urged to turn on porch lights. Police Chief Jose Rivera urges motorists to slow down and be especially alert in residential neighborhoods. Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs.



VETERANS DAY REMEMBRANCE

Join Mayor Anthony Copeland, American Legion Post 369 and American Legion Post 508 to honor our veterans who gave their lives to protect this country.

WHEN: **11 a.m. Thursday, November 9**

WHERE: Veterans Park Gazebo, 4525 Indianapolis Boulevard

CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS & TOY GIVEAWAY

Save the date for this year's Celebration of Lights and Toy Giveaway. Santa will be checking his list to see who's been naughty or nice!

WHEN: **5-7 p.m. Friday, December 1**

WHERE: Block Stadium, 1601 E. 144th Street

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EAST CHICAGO, IN 46312

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
EDDM
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