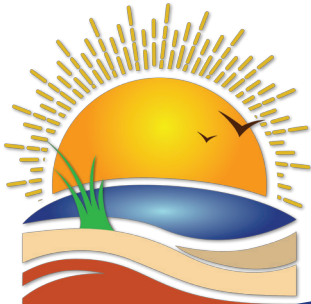


EAST CHICAGO

Life

YOUR LOCAL SOURCE FOR EAST CHICAGO NEWS AND EVENTS



City of East
Chicago
Hope & Progress
— INDIANA —

RENTAL REGISTRATION DEADLINE

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. You can register your properties at the Building Department, 4525 Indianapolis.

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

2020 EAST CHICAGO INAUGURATION

“We’re on our way to making East Chicago the most liveable, workable, lovable city”

It was a packed house that came out January 4 to hear about the state of the city — what we’ve accomplished and what we plan to do over the next four years. My heart swelled with pride to see 400 enthusiastic residents spend time with us. They are excited with what we have planned. I hope you are too!

In 2016, I made a promise that our city would look very different in four short years. Here is a glimpse at our first-term report card:

- ✓ **Crime:** trending down for the seventh year in a row.
- ✓ **Parks:** a \$6 million investment has made East Chicago parks the finest in Northwest Indiana.
- ✓ **Washington Park Greenhouse:** Seeing is believing! Go see for yourself how fantastic it is.
- ✓ **Roads & Streets:** \$50 million invested.
- ✓ **Police & Fire:** \$10 million spent on equipment and training.
- ✓ **Public Works:** \$15 million spent on equipment and training.
- ✓ **Employee compensation:** Bonuses up to \$7,000 per employee and an 8 percent raise over the period of four years.

Where will we be four years from now? The sky is the limit!



The Honorable Judge Calvin D. Hawkins administers the oath of office to East Chicago Mayor Anthony Copeland during the inauguration ceremony Jan. 4.

We are beginning 2020 with a \$36 million balanced budget and a \$32 million surplus, which keeps us on solid financial footing.

The city’s bond rating is a solid A.

East Chicago department heads are working with me to develop an ambitious agenda to continue the North Harbor Development area as well as development citywide that will touch every resident.

Our goal is to make East Chicago the most livable, workable, lovable city in all of Northwest Indiana. With your support, we’re well on our way.

ANTHONY COPELAND
Mayor City of East Chicago



New East Chicago Transit buses have improved emissions that produce less carbon monoxide. Riders will experience new talking features for the visually impaired, LED readouts for those with hearing disabilities and room for two wheelchairs. [Steve Segura photo]

NEW BUSES TO REPLACE AGING FLEET

Come spring, East Chicago Transit will be sporting new ADA-accessible buses.

The four new buses will replace most of the city's aging fleet on the three weekday and two Saturday routes. Two of the buses have already been delivered.

Transit Director Francisco Rosado Jr. said he expects to have the buses in service and on the road by the end of February.

"We will put the vehicles into service as soon as all four are inspected and cleared for use," Rosado said. "Inspection is a vital step in ensuring safety for all of those who trust East Chicago Transit to get them where they need to go."

Highlights of the new vehicles include improved emissions that produce less carbon monoxide.

Improvements residents will notice are talking features for visually impaired and digital LED readouts for those with hearing disabilities.

In addition, each of the new buses is wheelchair accessible and has room for two wheelchairs.

The city's share of the \$1.8 million price tag is nearly \$500,000; federal funds paid the balance.

"The new vehicles are an exciting addition to East Chicago transit," Mayor Anthony Copeland said. "It's been four years to get to this point." ●

ABOUT THE SERVICE

East Chicago Transit (ECT) provides free fixed-route bus service and Complimentary Paratransit for individuals with disabilities who qualify for the service.

Hours of Operation:

Monday through Friday

5:55 a.m. - 8:44 p.m.

Saturday

9 a.m. - 4:31 p.m.

INFO: Complete bus routes, maps, Paratransit applications, and more, visit us online at eastchicago.com, click on departments and navigate to bus transit or call (219) 391-8465.

DID YOU KNOW? The bus transit service provides 120,000-130,000 trips a year, primarily within East Chicago.



STAND UP ... AND BE COUNTED EAST CHICAGO!

The countdown has begun to April 1, also known as Census Day 2020. In mid-March, United States Census 2020 will begin mailing invitations to count every member of your household. A complete count of all residents – including infants and children – benefits the city in a host of ways. The final count for each community determines:

- ✓ How much of the \$675 billion in federal dollars earmarked for road improvements, schools and social programs will be sent to East Chicago.
- ✓ Political representation in Congress as well as state, county and local legislative bodies. Following the 2000 Census, Indiana lost a member of Congress reducing our U.S. representatives to 9.
- ✓ Demographics that are used to attract companies looking to locate or relocate their businesses – along with the jobs that come with them – to East Chicago.

So stand up and be counted East Chicago!
Once you receive your invitation in the mail, forms may be completed online, by phone or by mail.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Learn more at census.gov.

United States® Census 2020

January 21: The U.S. Census Bureau began counting the population in the remote Alaskan village of Toksook Bay.

March 12 - 20: Households will begin receiving official Census Bureau mail with detailed information on how to respond to the 2020 Census online, by phone or by mail.

March 30 - April 1: The Census Bureau will count people who are experiencing homelessness – in shelters, at soup kitchens and mobile food vans, on the streets and at non-sheltered, outdoor locations.

April 1: Census Day is observed nationwide. By this date, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. Once the invitation arrives, you should respond in one of three ways: online, by phone or by mail. When you respond to the census, you'll tell the Census Bureau where you live as of April 1, 2020.

April: Census takers will visit college students who live on campus, people living in senior centers, and others who live among large groups. Census takers also begin quality check interviews to help ensure an accurate count.

May - July: Census takers will begin visiting homes that have yet to respond to help make sure everyone is counted.

December: The Census Bureau will deliver apportionment counts to the President and Congress as required by law.

RESIDENTIAL ROOFING PROGRAM

In addition to a host of other assistance programs, the Redevelopment Department provides financial assistance to the owners of single-family, owner-occupied residences that have roofing needs not covered by insurance. Needs covered by the program include roof construction and rehabilitation work that is limited to roof shingles, fascia, soffits, sheathing, roof structural support systems and other items agreed on by the homeowner and East Chicago Department of Redevelopment. Funding for the program provides a 50-50 split of up to \$5,000 for homes located in East Chicago.

ASSISTING EAST CH

“Our programs are geared to the needs of our community,” Copeland said. “It is beyond gratifying to see the pride of

BEFORE



BEFORE



EMERGENCY PROGRAM

Understanding that some repairs just can't wait, the city has developed an Emergency Program that provides homeowners with a quick application process to qualify for funds for access ramps or other emergency upgrades that pose health or safety risks.

Info: Visit eastchicago.com for a list of requirements to qualify for this program.

AFTER



AFTER



FOR MORE INFORMATION

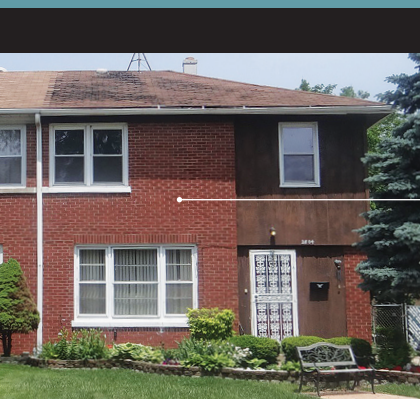
For more information on these and other homeowner assistance programs, please call the Department of Redevelopment at (219) 391-8513 to speak to a program representative.

Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



CHICAGO HOMEOWNERS ...

– from home emergencies and roofing repair to renovations and down payments,” Mayor Anthony homeownership in so many through the hard work of our Redevelopment Department.”



RESIDENTIAL REPAIR PROGRAM

The city offers residential rehabilitation funding in three tiers:

- **TIER 1:** Offers low-income homeowners a \$7,500 grant with a 3 percent low-interest loan above the grant not to exceed \$33,500.
- **TIER 2:** Offers very low income homeowners a \$10,000 grant with a 3 percent low-interest loan above the grant and not to exceed \$33,500.
- **TIER 3:** Offers extremely low-income homeowners a \$15,000 grant at a 3 percent low-interest loan above the grant and not to exceed \$33,500.



EXTERIOR RENOVATION PROGRAM

Part of the residential repair program, the Exterior Renovation division provides assistance for residents looking to upgrade their home. The program utilizes Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to help pay for necessary upgrades — such as new siding, insulation, windows and exterior doors. ECDR offers seven-year forgivable loans for up to \$40,000 — or more. Owner-occupied homes identified as part of a Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area are eligible to tap the fund for repair or replacement of: roofing, chimneys, flashing, soffits, fascia, gutters, downspouts, tuckpointing, siding, windows, doors, stoops, railings and other associated exterior items.

DOWN PAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Within all of the residential programs offered by the city, none is more popular than the Down Payment Assistance (DPA) program. The city added 40 new homeowners in 2019, thanks to the program that helps clear hurdles to home ownership. The city offers \$10,000 in down payment assistance to anyone eligible to purchase an **existing or reconstructed home**. City employees are eligible to qualify for an additional \$5,000 for a total of \$15,000. The commitment: The home must serve as the owner's primary residence for at least five years. Individuals using DPA funds to buy a **new home** are eligible to receive \$25,000. City employees can receive an additional \$5,000 for a total of \$30,000. The home must serve as the owner's primary residence for 10 years. To receive the bonus, a city worker must have been a full-time employee for at least one year. Interested individuals are required to take a **HUD-instructed Homebuyers Workshop** that is held monthly on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

WINTER ACTIVITIES

Looking for something to do during the winter months?

Check out these indoor Parks & Recreation activities that are free to members:

OUTDOOR ICE RINK

Grab the family and head to MacArthur Golf Course for some outdoor skating on our 60-foot rink. Warm up with a hot drink and sweet treats at our concessions.

WHEN: 3-8 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

WHERE: MacArthur Golf Course, 4000 Indianapolis

FEES: \$2 skating fee and \$3 skate rental

INFO: Rink open through March, weather permitting!

Call (219) 391-8474 for group parties and events.

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

Students ages 5-18 are invited to register for our after-school program. Get homework assistance, enjoy physical activity or learn some new arts and crafts! Snacks are provided.

WHEN: 3-6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday

WHERE: MLK, Marktown, Roxana and Bessie Owens Community Centers

INFO: Call (219) 391-8474.

DID YOU KNOW?

All past issues of East Chicago Life! can be found on the city website – www.eastchicago.com. That's right! Download messages from the mayor as well as information on parks, public safety, pathways to homeownership and more!

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO
4525 INDIANAPOLIS BOULEVARD
EAST CHICAGO, IN 46312

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RESIDENT

EAST CHICAGO, INDIANA 46312



JOIN
TODAY!

EAST CHICAGO

FITNESS CENTERS

MONDAY-FRIDAY
10 A.M. TO 7 P.M.

SATURDAY
9 A.M. TO 3 P.M.

HERITAGE HALL

4506 TOD AVE. | (219) 391-8380

UNITY CENTER

3623 GUTHRIE ST. | (219) 397-2392

MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES ACCESS TO
INDOOR BASKETBALL COURTS, WALKING
TRACK, ROCK CLIMBING, FITNESS ROOM,
YOGA, CARDIO CLASSES AND MORE!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

MEMBERSHIPS ARE \$10 A YEAR FOR RESIDENTS 55+
AND \$15 A YEAR FOR THOSE 18-54. FAMILY DISCOUNTS
ARE AVAILABLE. PROOF OF RESIDENCY REQUIRED.
NONRESIDENTS WELCOME. DISCOUNTS DO NOT APPLY.

