



EAST PALESTINE PROGRESS

Your source for village news and information brought to you by the EP Community Improvement Corporation. | epohio.org



The village logo has received a facelift in recognition of the 150 anniversary since it was incorporated under the name East Palestine in 1875.

Celebrating 150 Years of East Palestine

Village Organizations Join Forces to Plan Sesquicentennial Events

For a century and a half, East Palestine has been a place where ideas take shape and craftsmanship flourishes. From manufacturing and production to goods that have reached every corner of the globe, our village has consistently exceeded expectations. This rich tradition of making and exporting is a testament to the resilience and ingenuity of our people.

Our strong work ethic, coupled with a commitment to innovation, positions us to build momentum for the years ahead. By embracing new opportunities in areas like sustainable energy, infrastructure improvement and small business growth, we are laying the foundation for a future as vibrant and industrious as our past.

Representatives from the Village of East Palestine, Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, East Palestine Community Foundation, School District/Alumni Association, Historical Society, Fireman's Association, Police Association, Community Improvement Corporation, Park Board, Eagles #1506, Town & Country Garden Club, East Palestine Memorial Public Library and the Masonic Lodge #417 have recently begun meeting to plan village 150th celebrations set to take place this summer. Contact [Brenda Povenski](#) or [Antonio Diaz-Guy](#) if you would like to become involved. Stay tuned for more details as they become available.

Community Events CALENDAR

We have some exciting events coming up this spring.

■ EP Drama Club Presents Disney Aladdin Jr.

Friday, March 14

Saturday, March 15

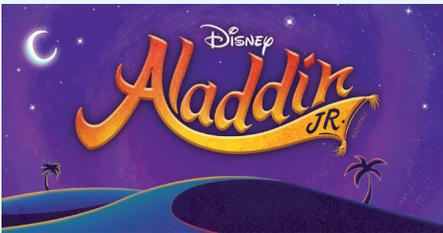
Sunday, March 16

7:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday

2:00 p.m. Matinee on Sunday

EPHS Auditorium

Sponsored by East Palestine High School



■ St. Patrick's Day Shop Local Event

Saturday, March 15

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Downtown Merchants

It could be your lucky day! Bring proof of purchase to Village Hall for a chance to win one of six local shopping gift certificates.

Sponsored by East Palestine Chamber of Commerce



■ Human Slot Machine Night

Saturday, March 29

7:00 p.m. (Doors open at 6:00 p.m.)

320 E. Taggart St. - Tickets \$10.00

Sponsored by East Palestine Eagles #1506.



Meet Antonio Diaz-Guy

New Village Manager

Dear Residents of East Palestine,

Hello! My name is **Antonio Diaz-Guy**, and I'm honored to introduce myself as your new Village Manager. I come to this role with a deep respect for our community, its history and its potential. East Palestine isn't just a place on a map—it's a home, a network of neighbors and a shared story we're all part of.

My goal is to work alongside you to shape a future we can all be proud of, one where our village thrives socially, economically and as a true community.

I envision East Palestine as a place where every citizen feels the benefits of a vibrant local economy—think well-paying jobs close to home—and a genuine sense of care for one another's well-being. I see a village where neighbors lift each other up and where your local government isn't just a bureaucracy, but a trusted partner delivering services that make life better for everyone.



Antonio Diaz-Guy
Village Manager

So, how do we get there? My mission is straightforward: to make East Palestine the most business-friendly community in Eastern Ohio while also working to serve the social, health and wellness needs of our citizens. That means fostering growth—both economic and social—through smart, practical laws and ordinances. It means investing in our local institutions to ensure they're strong and ready to serve you. It means working together to spread the good news and cooperating to resolve problems. Together, we can turn East Palestine into a model of what good governance looks like—a place where opportunity is real, innovation is welcome and progress lifts us all up.

What guides me in this work? A set of values I'm committed to bringing to the table every day:

- **Transparency and Consistency:** You'll get straight talk and dependable answers from me and my team.
- **Opportunity for All:** Whether you're starting a business or chasing a dream, we'll work to knock down barriers in your way.
- **Practical Governance:** Common-sense solutions, not red tape or over complication.
- **Efficient Action:** When something needs to get done, we'll move quickly and get it right.
- **Accessible Support:** Resources and help will be easy to find when you need them.
- **Professional Excellence:** Our staff will be skilled, dedicated and ready to serve.
- **Attention to Detail:** From the big wins to the small tasks, we'll sweat the details so you don't have to.

I'm excited to roll up my sleeves and get to work for East Palestine. This is your village, and I'm here to listen, learn and lead with you in mind. Whether it's improving our streets, supporting local businesses or making sure your voice is heard, I'm committed to delivering results you can see and feel.

Feel free to reach out—I'd love to hear your thoughts, ideas or even just say hello via email or stop by my office in the Municipal Building downtown. Together, we're going to build something special here. Let's make East Palestine a place we're all proud to call home.

With gratitude and optimism,
Antonio Diaz-Guy
Village Manager

East Palestine Primary Care Clinic Receives \$750,000 for Relocation and Rural Health Clinic Certification

East Palestine's primary care clinic is set to receive a \$750,000 boost to support its relocation and application for Rural Health Clinic (RHC) certification. The funding was announced by Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) as part of ongoing efforts to support the community following the 2023 train derailment.

The clinic, which is operated by East Liverpool City Hospital, was initially established as a temporary healthcare resource shortly after the Norfolk Southern train derailment. A permanent clinic opened in April 2023, providing essential medical services such as treatment, prescriptions and lab testing to local residents.

The new funding will allow the clinic to move to a new location and apply for RHC certification. As an RHC, the clinic would gain access to additional revenue streams, ensuring its long-term sustainability and continued service to the community.

While a new location for the clinic has not yet been determined, hospital officials are actively exploring options.

Stephanie Conn, President and CEO of East Liverpool City Hospital, expressed gratitude for the support, stating, "East Liverpool City Hospital's commitment to the East Palestine community remains unwavering. We strive to provide exceptional healthcare, improve health outcomes and support the well-being of those we serve."

This investment is the latest in a series of initiatives aimed at bolstering healthcare services in East Palestine. In July 2024, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services helped establish the East Palestine Resiliency Center, which has since provided mental health and substance use disorder treatment to over 3,500 individuals affected by the derailment.

With continued state support, East Palestine's healthcare infrastructure is being strengthened to ensure residents have access to necessary medical and mental health services for years to come.

Spring Projects Coming Up?

How to Pull a Permit

As the weather gets warmer, it's the start of construction season and building projects. Do you know what permits you need? The Village of East Palestine Building and Zoning Department requires a permit for any construction, demolition or remodeling of a commercial building or residence. Contractors who work inside the Village of East Palestine must register and show proof of liability insurance.

Send an email to request a permit or pick one up at the Building and Zoning Office located in the Municipal Building at 85 N. Market St.

- Monday - Wednesday, and Friday
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Contact **Rube Ginder**, Building/Zoning Officer, by calling **(330) 426-4367, Ext. 16**. Please leave a message outside those hours and he will return your call as soon as possible. Or you may send an email to r.ginder@eastpalestine-oh.gov.



Note: Please pay with cash, check or money orders. The village does not accept credit/debit cards.

PERMIT TYPE	FEE
Contractor Registration Per Year	\$50
Residential Permit:	
Construction Cost < \$20,000	\$35.00
Construction Cost \$20,001 to \$1,000,000	0.30% of cost
Construction Cost > \$1,000,001	\$3,000
Commercial/Industrial Permit	
Construction Cost < \$20,000	\$50.00
Construction Cost \$20,001 to \$1,000,000	0.30% of cost
Construction Cost > \$1,000,001	\$3,000
Sign Permit	\$25.00
Subdivision Permit	\$25.00 per lot
Zoning Change Request	\$175.00
Zoning Conditional Use Permit for Variance	\$100.00
Street or Alley Vacation	\$100.00

East Palestine Community Foundation

Building on a Legacy of Ingenuity

As East Palestine, Ohio celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2025, our community has much to celebrate—not just a storied past, but also a promising future. Today, we stand at the crossroads of honoring our history and forging a path forward. East Palestine is a community brimming with untapped potential.

A key player in this exciting journey is the East Palestine Community Foundation. Dedicated to empowering local non-profits, the Foundation is working to drive meaningful change by supporting projects that align with its vision for progress. Whether it's enhancing educational opportunities, investing in public spaces or fostering economic development, the Foundation is committed to creating a brighter tomorrow for East Palestine.

To all non-profits eager to make an impact in our community, we encourage you to explore the resources and opportunities available through the East Palestine Community Foundation. Look for our new website, coming soon. Until then, pick up a grant application form at the East Palestine Memorial Library.

Together, we can honor our past and seize the opportunities of the future, ensuring that East Palestine remains a beacon of ingenuity and progress for generations to come.

Follow them on [Facebook](#) to stay up-to-date with their efforts and learn how you can help.



EAST
PALESTINE
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Are you awesome?
We're Hiring!

- Competitive wages
- Paid training
- 401(k)
- Employer provided health coverage
- Paid vacation
- Flexible scheduling
- Sign on and referral bonus

Staff needed to assist with personal care and homemaker services for the developmentally delayed in Columbiana county. Starting rate is negotiable.

Please contact (330) 610-2481 for more information.



WEALTH ADVISORS

Wealth & Retirement Specialists



Parker Sherry

Securities offered through Registered Representatives of Cambridge Investment Research, Inc., a broker-dealer, member FINRA/SIPC. Advisory services offered through Cambridge Investment Research Advisors, a Registered Investment Advisor. WRS Wealth Advisors and Cambridge are not affiliated. CDs are not investment products whose secondary market is generally illiquid. The actual value of CDs may differ from their purchase price and significant loss of principal could result if a CD is sold prior to maturity.

Professional Guidance for Your Settlement and Beyond

Attention East Palestine Residents

The upcoming settlement payments offer an opportunity to achieve meaningful financial goals. With the right plan, these funds can support immediate needs and long-term aspirations.

At WRS Wealth Advisors, we understand every financial situation is unique. That's why we start by listening—focusing on your priorities to create a strategy tailored to you.

How We Can Help:

- **Maximize Your Settlement:** Protect and grow your funds with customized strategies.
- **Reduce Financial Stress:** Address debts with practical, personalized solutions.
- **Secure Your Family's Future:** Plan for education or a financial head start with 529 plans or UTMA accounts.
- **Prepare for Life's Milestones:** Budget effectively for major expenses and create a retirement projection to determine when you may be able to retire and how much you'll need to make that possible.

Let's create a plan designed just for you.

Contact Financial Advisor Parker Sherry today at the number below or visit www.wrswealth.com to schedule an appointment.

8286 South Avenue
Building A
Boardman, OH 44512

☎ 330-965-0370; ext. 107
🌐 www.wrswealth.com
✉ PSherry@wrswealth.com



BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT

Runnion's Originals

Amish Furniture and Home Decor

Rob and Becky Runnion own Runnion's Originals, a cozy shop on OH-14 that sells Amish furniture, home decor, seasonal items, braided rugs, candles and other gifts.

The idea for the store started with Rob's dad, who did woodworking and made cabinets and other furniture. Becky wanted to carry on the tradition and opened a store selling handcrafted items in Industry, Pennsylvania in 2016. Becky is an East Palestine native, and Rob is from West Virginia and recently retired after 34 years in the military, and they decided to move the store to East Palestine in 2019.

Rob jokes, "My role is CEO. But I'm just here to help my wife. She's the brains of the operation. I'm the guy that carries everything out."

The store is family-owned and operated with their daughter-in-law and grandson helping out. The hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

"The store started just as a business, but now it's become more than that. It's a way of life," explains Rob. "Friends and neighbors are more like family members. They come in and share stories and we laugh and cry together, cheer each other on and have good times. We give back to the community and support local benevolences, charities and ball teams. If anybody has anything going on in town, we like to help where we can because it's a small town and we stick together."



Rob Runnion

“ We like to help where we can because it's a small town and we stick together. ”

Rob Runnion

EP VIP Shopper Club Continues

Chamber of Commerce Plans to Take Over Program Management



The village introduced the EP VIP Shopper Club in September of 2024 with the goal of supporting local businesses and boosting the economy. At the end of three months, we reached out to survey both participating vendors and club members to see what they had to say about the program and if it should continue. Those that responded had a lot of feedback and shared some insightful information.

The 20+ vendors who provided deals were almost unanimous in saying they would like to continue the program and

saw some additional sales they could attribute to the marketing and program advertisements.

While more than 1,000 registered, the biggest takeaway shared was confusion around obtaining a membership card after signing up and disappointment with the number of vendors participating and the discounts offered, which led to many people never actually using the program.

To clarify, membership cards were never mailed to members. The registration confirmation email was supposed to be saved on your cell phone and shown to

a participating vendor and a card picked up in person at the store register the first time you used a discount. Many said they never received that email although they received the survey, which was sent to the same email address given, so we suspect many initial messages went to a spam folder.

Of those that did obtain a card and use it, and replied to the survey, they said they thought the program was worthwhile if it was communicated more clearly, with regular updates on specials and more vendor participation. With that in mind, the offers have been extended and the Chamber of Commerce will soon be taking over the management of the program to continue to expand it and make it worthwhile for both shoppers and businesses alike.

Please visit the [web page](#) to learn more about the program and the current discounts and we will update you in a future edition of EP Progress when the Chamber of Commerce makes updates to the program.



Ohio Lawmakers Push for Health Studies After Train Derailment

U.S. Reps. **Dave Joyce, Marcy Kaptur, Michael Rulli** and **Emilia Sykes** have reintroduced bipartisan legislation to address ongoing health concerns following the 2023 train derailment in East Palestine. The East Palestine Health Impact Monitoring Act of 2025 would fund long-term studies through 2029 on the health effects of the derailment, with a required report to Congress. Similar legislation was introduced in 2024 but did not pass.





National Honor Society 2025 Member Induction Ceremony

The 2025 ceremony to induct new members into the East Palestine High School National Honor Society occurred on Tuesday, February 25th. The National Honor Society (NHS) is one of the oldest, largest and most recognized co-curricular student organizations in American high schools, boasting 1.4 million members.

The purpose of the NHS is to foster enthusiasm for scholarship, recognize outstanding students, encourage a desire to serve, promote leadership and develop character among secondary school students. Membership in local NHS chapters is a prestigious honor granted to students based on the four pillars of NHS: scholarship, character, leadership and service. Once selected, members must continue to demonstrate these qualities.



Back Row: Maddison Foster, Taylor Foster, Olivia Dyke, Abigail Mollenkopf, Cadence Anderson, Gabriella Kirbaugh, Brady Brubaker, Rylee Hoover, John Kinkead, Alexis Jones, Anthony Lehman, Heather Mohny, Lydia Rafferty and Elle Berger.

Front Row: Cami Kridler, Breanne Phillips, Leighaden Harker, Olivia Snedeker, Kayla Bland, Aubrey Weber, Laney Bistarkey, Addison Paparella and Amelia Persing



State of the Schools

Join **Dr. James Rook**, Superintendent of East Palestine Schools, along with the building principals, for a State of the Schools event on **Tuesday, April 8th, at 6:00 p.m.** The event will take place in the East Palestine High School Auditorium.

You will receive updates on the overall district, as well as information on performance, progress and plans for each district building from the administration. We are excited to share all the great things happening in EP Schools!



Advertising Opportunity

East Palestine Progress Newsletter Now Accepting Digital Ads

The March issue of the *East Palestine Progress* is the first digital-only issue. While the publication remains monthly, we will now print and deliver issues to homes and businesses quarterly – so the April, July and October issues will be mailed to you. We will put the remainder of the issues on the [website](#) and send them via email to those who have signed up to receive them. [Register here](#) to be added to the email list.

Interested in Advertising?

The newsletter is now accepting digital paid advertisements at a reduced rate, making it even more affordable to get the word out about your local business. If you would like to advertise your business or service, please review the [Rate Card](#). Funds collected from advertising ad sales will support newsletter postage costs and other East Palestine Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) development initiatives and administrative expenses.

NEWSLETTER RATE CARD

East Palestine Progress is a monthly newsletter. But starting in March, we will only be printed and delivered to mailboxes quarterly. The remaining print editions for 2023 will be in April, July and October. The rest will be delivered digitally to those who have registered to receive it using the [link](#).

NEWSLETTER AD SIZES

- Half Page Vertical: 3.688" x 10"
- Half Page Horizontal: 7.0" x 4.832"
- Quarter Page Vertical: 3.688" x 4.832"
- Eighth Page Horizontal: 3.688" x 2.375"

RATES

Ad Choice (Full Color)	One Issue		Two Issues		Three Issues	
	Print	Digital	Print	Digital	Print	Digital
Half Page Vertical	\$400	\$350	\$425	\$325	\$400	\$300
Half Page Horizontal	\$400	\$350	\$425	\$325	\$400	\$300
Quarter Page Vertical	\$200	\$200	\$215	\$165	\$200	\$150
Eighth Page Horizontal	\$100	\$75	\$90	\$55	\$90	\$35

[AD REQUEST FORM](#)

