



EAST PALESTINE PROGRESS

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



The new Village of East Palestine sign will soon welcome visitors as construction is beginning mid-April with a completion date expected by early summer.

Welcome to East Palestine

New Monument Sign to Begin Construction

The Village of East Palestine is set to receive a brand new welcome sign at the intersection of N. Market Street and SR 14, replacing the current structure. Construction is scheduled to begin in mid- to late April, with an estimated completion time of 90 days. The new sign, funded by Norfolk Southern last year, was delayed due to permitting issues with the Ohio Department of Transportation. The project is being led by contractor Chris Kline of Dynamic Structures.

The design features three 18-foot width sections, each framed by two square piers that reflect the architectural elements of

the local high school. A one-foot-high curb will elevate the sign, creating a clean edge for landscaping and easier maintenance.

Additional elements include gravel spaces at the base, two of which will feature flagpoles, while the center area may be landscaped with a shade tree. Ample planting space in front of each sign will enhance its visual appeal, ensuring that the village name and logo remain clearly visible.

This update will serve as a fresh and welcoming entrance to the village that reflects our branding.

Community Events CALENDAR

■ Spring Fling

Saturday, April 19

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sponsored by East Palestine Chamber of Commerce

□ Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

East Palestine Park Community Center

Sponsored by East Palestine Rotary

□ Easter Egg Hunt

Starts at 12:00 p.m.

East Palestine Park

Sponsored by East Palestine Park Board



□ Municipal Building Raffles

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

Sponsored by the Village of East Palestine

□ Food Trucks

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

Eats from Jim's Rolling Roadhouse and The Snack Shack

□ Kid's Flower Planting

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

East Palestine Moose Lodge Hall

□ Find the Hidden Golden Eggs

Noon - 4:00 p.m.

Hidden throughout downtown

□ Pop-up Shops

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

Wild and Wonderfilled Farms and B-Linked Permanent Jewelry

□ Shop Local Area Merchants

Bring your proof of purchase to the Municipal Building to earn your prize entry.

See individual shops for deals/hours

■ Dog Days

Saturday, May 10

8:00 a.m. Registration

East Palestine Park Community Center

Sponsored by the East Palestine Board of Education in partnership with the Village of East Palestine

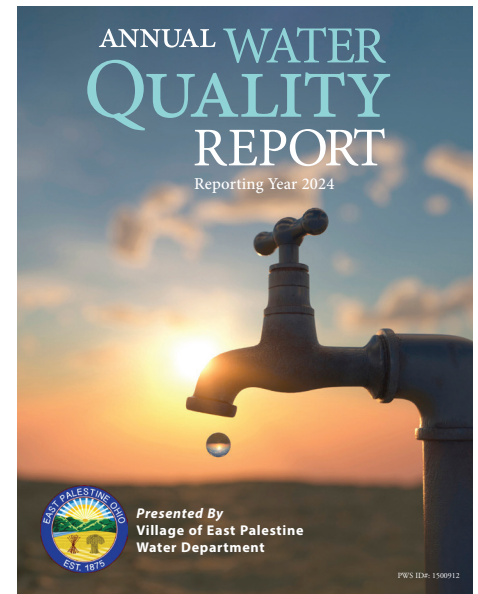
2024 Consumer Confidence Report

The East Palestine Water Department's Annual Consumer Confidence Report Now Available

The East Palestine Water Department's [Consumer Confidence Report \(CCR\) for 2024](#) is now available online on the Water/Sewer Department page of the government website. Copies can also be picked up at the municipal building and the East Palestine Memorial Public Library.

This yearly report required by the Ohio EPA is a snapshot of last year's water quality covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2024. Included are details about the Village of East Palestine's source of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources.

For more information about this report, or for any questions related to your drinking water, please contact **Scott Wolfe**, Water Department Superintendent or **Denny Griffith**, Water Department Foreman at **(330) 426-4367**, ext. 11.



East Palestine Area

Chamber of Commerce

Spring Fling

Saturday April 19th
9 am - 4 pm
Throughout Town

See all events listed in the Community Events Calendar shown at left.



The Business Toolkit: A Guide for Entrepreneurs

Starting and Growing Your Business in East Palestine, Ohio

The Village of East Palestine, Ohio, is committed to fostering a thriving business community. Whether you're an entrepreneur looking to start a new venture or an established business seeking expansion opportunities, East Palestine offers a wealth of financial programs, economic incentives and resources to support your journey. A new webpage of tools and information is now available on both epohio.org and the village government website to help.

Why Start Your Business in East Palestine?

East Palestine is actively investing in economic development to support local businesses. With a range of financial incentives, forgivable loans and job creation programs, the village provides a business-friendly environment that encourages growth and success.

Financial Assistance for Entrepreneurs

Forgivable Loans for Business Recovery

The Ohio Department of Development has created the East Palestine Emergency Support Program to assist businesses impacted by the February 2023 train derailment. Eligible businesses can receive 0% interest loans ranging from \$10,000 to \$1 million, which are forgivable if used for payroll, rent, utilities, worker protection or inventory replacement.

Gap Financing Programs

For entrepreneurs facing funding shortfalls, East Palestine provides multiple gap financing options:

- SBA 504 Loan: Finance up to 40% of land, building and equipment costs, requiring job creation.
- Regional 166 Loan: Up to 45% of project costs for manufacturing, distribution and technology sectors.
- Revolving Loan Funds: Offered through Valley Partners and OMEGA, these programs provide below-market-rate financing for fixed assets and working capital.

Economic Incentives to Boost Growth

Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) Property Tax Exemptions

The CRA program offers property tax exemptions for new construction, expansions or major renovations. Businesses must apply before construction begins, and exemptions can last up to 15 years.

Job Creation Incentives

Companies in JobsOhio target sectors such as manufacturing, distribution and high-tech industries can access grants, loans, tax credits and training assistance. These incentives require new capital investment and job creation in Ohio.

Bond Financing for Industrial Development

The Columbiana County Port Authority provides industrial development bond financing for eligible projects, offering long-term, fixed-rate financing with possible tax advantages.

Business Support Resources

There are numerous resources available to assist entrepreneurs, including:

- Small Business Development Center (SBDC): Offers counseling, business planning and training.
- Youngstown Business Incubator (YBI): Supports tech startups and entrepreneurs.
- MAGNET & Mahoning Valley Manufacturing Coalition: Provides manufacturing support and workforce development services.

Finding the Right Location

Through partnerships with the Columbiana County Port Authority and ZoomProspector, East Palestine provides an Available Properties Listing for entrepreneurs looking to buy or lease commercial spaces. Property owners can also list their buildings for free.

Permitting and Zoning Requirements

The Village of East Palestine Building and Zoning Department requires permits for construction, demolition or remodeling. Entrepreneurs should ensure compliance with zoning laws before beginning any project. Permit fees vary based on project scope and type.

Community Engagement and Marketing Support

To encourage local business patronage, the village has launched the EP VIP Shopper Club. This free program connects businesses with local shoppers through exclusive deals and discounts, driving foot traffic and customer loyalty.

Get Started Today!

With a range of financial programs, tax incentives and business development resources, East Palestine is a prime location for entrepreneurs. Whether you're launching a startup or expanding an existing business, take advantage of these opportunities to thrive in our community.

For more information, visit the Village of East Palestine websites or contact local economic development officials. Let's build a stronger business community together!



Sparkle Market in East Palestine Named as One of the Best Grocery Stores in Ohio

East Palestine's own Sparkle Market is more than just a grocery store – it's a pillar of the community. This year, that commitment was recognized in a big way as owner **Joe Rosak** was named the 2025 Pinnacle Award recipient presented by the Ohio Grocers Association (OGA) along with the Ohio House of Representatives.

The Pinnacle Award is one of the highest honors given to independent grocers in Ohio, recognizing outstanding leadership, innovation and dedication to community service. OGA President **Kristin Mullins** highlighted Rosak's unwavering support during the 2023 Norfolk Southern train derailment as a key reason for his recognition.

"Joe is such a great operator, and he did so much for the community during the derailment. We just thought it was time to recognize his commitment to the community by staying," Mullins said.

Despite the unexpected honor, Rosak remains humble, crediting his employees and the support of the East Palestine community for Sparkle Market's continued success.



"I really feel that this award belongs to my staff here and at all of my locations. Without their dedication, none of this would be possible. And we have an amazing community that continues to stand by us," Rosak shared.

The award will be officially presented to Rosak on April 5 at the Ohio Grocers Association's annual event and is a testament to the power of community and the role that local businesses play in keeping small towns strong. All Sparkle Markets are locally owned and operated by independent operators. Congratulations to Joe Rosak and the entire Sparkle Market team on this well-deserved honor!



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Parker Sherry

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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.

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BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT

Insight Clinical Counseling and Wellness

Jessica A. Oates, LPCC-S, PMH-C, is the owner of Insight Clinical Counseling and Wellness, now with ten offices – five offices in Columbiana County, four in Mahoning County and one in Jefferson County – that employ 130 contractors and employees. They provide individual counseling, couples counseling, group counseling, case management and wellness services. They also offer telehealth services, providing mental health services all across the state.

“The East Palestine location was our fourth office to open in 2020 and the reason that I wanted to open here is that this is my hometown, and these are my roots,” Jessica says. “Mental health has always been my passion – to give back to my community. I want this to be a safe place for everyone who walks through the door to work on their struggles and on things that are bothering them. I also want to focus on mental wellness, which includes helping people get where they want to go in life.”

“*Taking your mental health seriously is so important because if you don't take care of your wellness, you are going to be forced to take care of your illness. Anxiety and stress will manifest itself in some way, be it physical ailments, behavioral problems, sleep disturbances, weight gain or loss, etc.*”

Jessica holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in community clinical mental health counseling, both from Youngstown State University. She prides herself on ensuring her clinicians are highly trained and specialized in the most up-to-date evidence-based modalities available in the mental health field.

Insight Clinical Counseling has clinicians that focus on trauma as well as perinatal mental health, which includes postpartum anxiety, depression, infertility, loss and grief. They also provide mental health services to school districts, including East Palestine, and they offer on site group services for some of the local

area nursing homes and developmental disabilities facilities. This summer, they are launching a sports mental health program, working with teams, coaches and students of all ages on the mental aspect involved around athletics.

Jessica explains, “Our focus here really is on reducing the stigma around mental health. So, if our library asks us to come and do a talk about wellness, we're showing up. If there is an event going on at the school, we'll be there. Insight has grown exponentially in the last five years, and I think that really comes down to our reputation. I think that the best evidence that we have that we are doing really great work is when people are telling other people about how they've responded to therapy and making a referral.”

Jessica is very proud of their Insightful Empowerment Scholarship program, which is a scholarship program offered to ten individuals over the course of

ten years that will pay in full a master's degree in clinical mental health counseling or in or social work from Youngstown State University. The hope is that not only will there be new trained clinicians in the future, but that they might be an East Palestine resident or someone in the community that better their own life and the lives of others in the area.

Those interested in their services offered should visit the website to get started. Their ‘request an appointment’ button allows you to answer a few questions and a member



Jessica A. Oates, LPCC-S, PMH-C

of their intake team will contact you to match you with the clinician that best fits your needs. You can also call our intake team directly at **330-397-6007**.

Jessica says, “We very much know that when people are picking up the phone to call in for mental health services, sometimes that's not your finest day and that's okay. We hold space for everyone, no matter where they're at in their journey. And we're going to be present for you no matter what that looks like.”

insightclinicalcounseling.com

 [Insight Clinical Counseling & Wellness](#)



Happy 150th East Palestine!

Join us July 12th for a Day Full of History, Nostalgia, and Community Spirit



This year marks a special milestone in our community's history – the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Village of East Palestine. To celebrate, we're inviting everyone to join us on Saturday, July 12th, for a day filled with festivities, memories, and a shared love for the place we call home.

As we prepare to pay tribute to the East Palestine of yesteryear – take a look at this [YouTube video](#), titled *East Palestine, Ohio, "Movie Queen"*. It's a vintage film dating back to 1937 that was digitized. This unique footage offers a rare glimpse into our past and showcases the daily life, people, and charm of the village during its heyday.

The story behind the film is just as interesting as the footage itself. About ten years ago, **Kyle Anderson** discovered an old VHS tape tucked away in a box in his basement. The video, which had been transferred to YouTube, was originally passed down from his grandfather, **Fred Boies**, a lifelong East Palestine resident. It's believed the tape came from a friend of Fred's – possibly **Bill Davis**, who also serves as the narrator of the film.

The narration opens with a story that sets the scene:

"Back in 1937, the East Palestine Kiwanis Club was interested in helping the high school band and put on a benefit program. The purpose of the film was an advertising sales scheme to produce money for high school band uniforms."

Shot in the style of early silent films, this video offers a captivating window into village life. We'll be sharing snippets from this historic footage across our social media platforms in the weeks leading up to the celebration – so keep an eye out for familiar streets, buildings, and maybe even a few familiar last names.

It's a joy to look back and see East Palestine buzzing with activity, laughter, and community spirit – something we continue to cherish today. We hope you'll join us on July 12th to honor our past, celebrate the present, and look forward to the future.



www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qh9CWIwVbFk



Planning Committee

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 are planning this event. Contact Planning Committee Chair [Matt Dodge](#), m.dodge@eastpalestine-oh.gov or Village Manager [Antonio Diaz-Guy](#), a.diazguy@eastpalestine-oh.gov if you would like to become involved.



150TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

Saturday, July 12 • 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Details are still being finalized but the proposed events of the day include:

■ Parade

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

9:20 a.m. line up at the Park

Starts at East Palestine Community Park, up Main St. and Market St., ending at the American Legion building. Organizations and businesses are encouraged to make floats and trailer displays. Antique cars are also welcome.

■ EP GO Sweet Walk

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

■ Historical Display

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

East Palestine Memorial Public Library

■ Log Cabin Museum Open House

11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Historical Society

■ Oldies Show

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

High School Auditorium

■ Dunk Tank

Sponsored by the East Palestine Community Foundation

■ Penny Candy Game & Store

Market Street

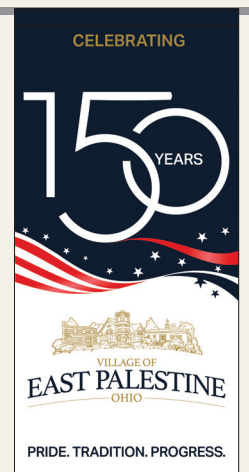
Sponsored by
The Way Station

■ Kids Play Area

■ Carriage Rides

■ Food Trucks & Restaurants

■ Pop-up Vendors





Academic Challenge Team #45 in the State!

The EPHS Academic Challenge Team has experienced significant success this year, thanks to the coaching support of **Miss Ashlee Dawon** and **Mr. Kyle Zimmerman**. Most recently, they participated in the State Competition at Bellefontaine High School, where they achieved an impressive 45th place in the state of Ohio! This accomplishment is a testament to the hard work and talent of the students, which has been evident throughout the entire season. They were co-champions of the MVAC League Division II alongside Poland, secured 2nd place at the Columbiana County Tournament and qualified for Regionals, State, Small Schools Nationals in Chicago and All Schools Nationals in Atlanta. Additionally, senior **John Kinkead** was named to the All-League Third Team.

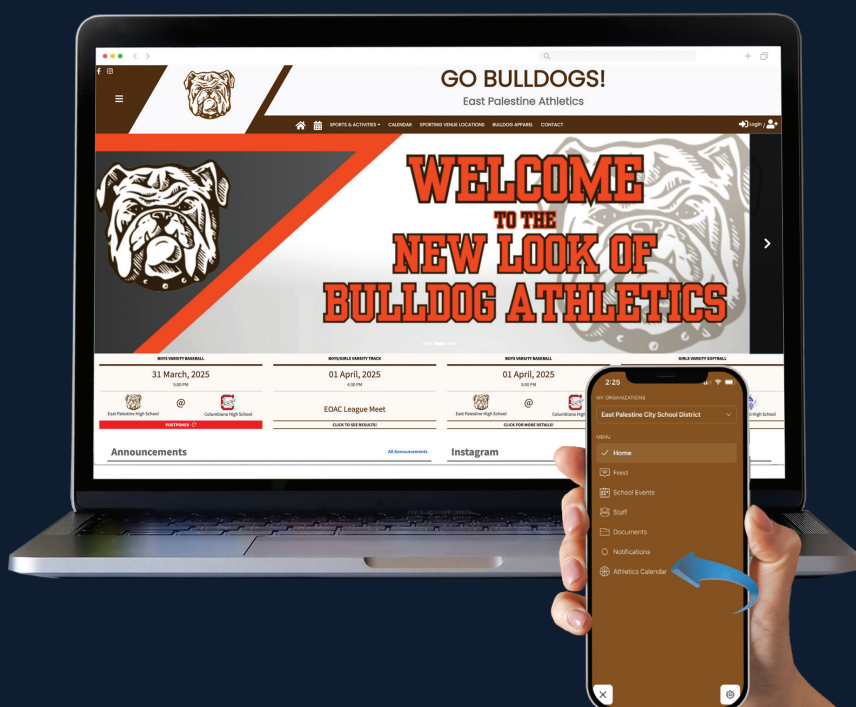
This program has demonstrated remarkable growth, but with half of the team graduating this year, they are looking to recruit underclassmen to take on the (academic) challenge!

Top Right: Members of the team who competed at State: Amelia Persing (Senior), Alex Mead (Senior), Izzy Ratner (Sophomore), Logan Rose (Junior), Keller Bupp (Senior), Heather Mohnney (Senior) and Brady Brubaker (Junior)

Bottom Right: The MVAC League Division II Co-Champions: Izzy Ratner, Amelia Persing, Heather Mahoney, Keller Bupp, John Kinkead, Alex Mead and Logan Rose.



NEW Bulldog Athletics Website



Attention Bulldog Fans!

There's a new way to stay updated on your favorite athletic events and teams throughout the school year. You can visit www.epathletics.org or quickly access our calendar through the East Palestine School District App. With just a few clicks, you can view the Athletics Calendar directly from your phone.

By creating a Fan Account, you will receive timely updates on game changes and cancellations. Simply select the teams you want to follow and add them to your favorites. You'll receive email and/or text notifications for important updates. If you have any questions or need assistance in setting up your Fan Account, please call **330-426-5302**.



PRIDE. TRADITION. PROGRESS.

85 North Market Street
East Palestine, OH 44413

EAST PALESTINE PROGRESS



@villageofepohio

Don't Miss an Issue!

Subscribe to Receive Monthly Digital Newsletter

Did you miss the March issue of East Palestine Progress? It was the first digital-only issue produced as we moved to printing only quarterly issues of the publication. We still will produce the newsletter monthly, but you need to register to be added to the email list in order to receive the newsletter without a break. We hope you have enjoyed reading the positive news and information we have shared about our forward momentum.

Please click on this QR code to register and continue reading the articles to stay up to date on all the issues affecting the village.

