



EAST PALESTINE PROGRESS

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Exciting Progress at East Palestine Park

Phase 2 Begins June 16

The revitalization of East Palestine Village Park is gaining momentum as we move into the highly anticipated second phase of the \$25 million renovation project. With Phase 1 nearly complete and essential permits now secured from the Ohio Department of Health, we are thrilled to announce that construction on Phase 2 will officially begin on June 16.

This phase marks a major milestone in the park's transformation and includes early site work for the future aquatic center. Residents can expect to see immediate progress starting with the mobilization of crews, safety fencing installation and demolition of the existing sports courts.

While this work may temporarily limit access to certain areas, we want to assure our residents that the park as a whole will remain open throughout the summer, fall and winter. The Community Center and other amenities will reopen as demolition concludes, and we'll provide weekly updates via the Village Facebook page and East Palestine Information platforms. *(Continued on page 4)*



Community Events CALENDAR

■ East Palestine Sesquicentennial Celebrating 150 Years

Saturday, July 12

9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Various Events – See Page 3

Sponsored by 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, Loyal Order of Moose and the Masonic Lodge #417.

■ EP Eagles #1506 Memorial Golf Outing

Saturday, July 12

8:00 a.m. to noon

East Palestine Country Club

Sponsored by the East Palestine Eagles #1506

■ EP Alumni Scholarship Association Golf Scramble

Saturday, July 19

8:00 a.m. Shotgun Start

East Palestine Country Club

Sponsored by East Palestine Alumni Scholarship Association



New EP Council and EPCIC Member Appointed Meet Erin Stauffer and Tim Blythe

The Village of East Palestine Council is made up of six elected members, serving overlapping terms of four years. Whenever there are vacancies, new members are appointed to fill the open positions.

Erin Stauffer was sworn in as the newest member of the East Palestine Village Council, replacing **Jessica Rocco**, who resigned in April. She also fills the Recreation, Parks and Cemetery Committee chair position.



Erin Stauffer

Stauffer is a 2002 graduate of Youngstown State University with a BA in Psychology. She has spent over 20 years in social services including the supervision and administration of child welfare, in-home support for youth with mental health diagnoses and is now employed at the Columbiana County Juvenile Court as a child advocate. After moving to the village in 2011, she has grown to love the area. Her husband was born and raised in East Palestine, her daughter is a 2021 graduate from East Palestine High School, and her 9-year-old son is in the 3rd grade at East Palestine Elementary.

"There are exciting things happening in East Palestine, and I'm eager to be part of the progression of our village," says Stauffer. "I want people to see that East Palestine is worth investing in. I highly value our small-town atmosphere and the wonderful community we have here. I am committed to setting the path to a positive future for the people of our village."

The EPCIC is a 501(c)(3)-charitable non-profit corporation created by the Village of East Palestine to lead economic development efforts for the community. The focus of EPCIC activities is to share positive messaging through the epohio.org website and EP newsletter, promote economic recovery and downtown revitalization and develop locations for business growth.

Tim Blythe was appointed as council's representative on the East Palestine Community Improvement Corporation (EPCIC), replacing Rocco.



Tim Blythe

A lifelong resident of East Palestine, Blythe graduated from EPHS in 1995. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Ohio Dominican University and is the owner of Blythe Appraisals LLC. After spending a decade in Columbus for school and work, he returned to his hometown to raise a family. He and his wife are raising three daughters in the East Palestine school system – a high school sophomore, a 4th grader and preschooler.

With over 20 years of experience in the real estate industry, Blythe is a Certified Residential Real Estate Appraiser and a Licensed Real Estate Agent. He also holds EPA Level One Certifications in both Water and Wastewater Operations, serving the village in infrastructure and utility planning. Blythe currently serves on Village Council and is committed to helping guide East Palestine's revitalization efforts.

"Having worked across all of NE Ohio, I have seen firsthand the positive transformation that strategic investment and planning can bring to communities," says Blythe. "Inspired by the success of some of our neighboring areas, I am excited to help guide the village through its own revitalization journey, bringing knowledge, experience, dedication and a passion for sustainable growth to the EPCIC. I am thankful for the opportunity and look forward to our journey."

CELEBRATE 150 YEARS OF EAST PALESTINE!

Join us for a day full of fun,
history, and hometown pride!

Event Highlights

Parade

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Moose Parade Route

March with the community and enjoy classic cars, local bands, and a special appearance from East Palestine alumni.

Student Art Walk & Local Art Exhibits

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Local Businesses & Vacant Window fronts
View artwork by East Palestine students grades 5 through 12 displayed throughout town.

150 Years of Stories

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

East Palestine Memorial Library
Explore a special exhibit featuring "150 Years & 150 Facts" about East Palestine.

A Trip into History Then and Now

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Historic Train Depot

Step into the past and glimpse the future with conceptual designs, historic displays, and a photo wall.

Log Cabin Museum Tour

11:00 AM 5:00 PM

Historical Society Log Cabin

Old Memorabilia will be on display.
Selling Mugs and T-Shirts.

Oldies Music Show

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

High School Auditorium

Enjoy a nostalgic performance full of hits from the past in this free evening celebration.

Family Fun All Day

- EP Rotary free bounce houses
10 AM – 5 PM
- East Palestine Police
Child ID Kit Program
10 AM – 5 PM
- Horse-drawn carriage rides
12 PM – 4 PM
- East Palestine Fire Department
Ax Throwing Trailer
12 PM – 5 PM
- EPGO Old-Fashioned Cake
and Sweets Walk
Noon
- EPCF Dunk Tank with
local personalities
1 PM – 3 PM
- Youth Boys Program
Penny Candy Store
10 AM – 5 PM
- Old Fashioned Games
(Jacks, Marbles, Checkers)
10 AM – 5 PM



Food & Flavors

10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Various Locations

Grab a bite from your favorite
food trucks, including:

- Taqueria El Vaquero (Mexican)
Village Parking Lot
- Jim's Roadhouse (American Burgers)
by Cornerstone Insurance
- Kast Iron Soda Company
(Interactive soda mixing!)
Green Space between Huntington Bank
and 1820 House
- Lawson's Food Truck (Burgers, Fries)
Parking Lot between Wall and Huntington

And local favorites like Sprinkles On Top,
lanazone's Pizza, China Cafe, McDonalds,
Doyle's Deli, Cozza's Pizza, Pizza Joes & more!

Information Booths and Vendors

Visit Chamber of Commerce, Garden Club,
Historical Society, the EPCIC, EPFD, EPPD
and The Way Station booths to learn more
and get involved in our community.

Don't miss the raffle prizes, giveaways
and items available for purchase!

Let's Celebrate Our Past and
Build Our Future—Together.

Follow the Village of East Palestine
(@villageofepohio) for updates and
parade participation details!



Exciting Progress at East Palestine Park

Continued from page 1

Recent Progress Recap

Phase 1 has seen exciting developments in recent weeks:

- Sand volleyball court installation completed.
- New patio furniture installed and ready for use.
- Final light poles installed, trees cleared, topsoil spread.
- Court fencing, sidewalk finishing and dog park parking lot paving are underway.
- The amphitheater, while slightly delayed due to material sourcing, is expected to have a new timeline next week.

Village Manager **Antonio Diaz-Guy** also confirmed that memorial plaques, rocks and Rainbow Dreamland's wooden memorial planks will be carefully preserved and respectfully relocated throughout the park after construction.

Phase 2 is currently projected to conclude by Summer 2026, bringing us another step closer to a fully modernized and inclusive recreational space for all residents to enjoy.

This project hasn't been without its challenges – from budget revisions to material delays – but thanks to ongoing collaboration between the village, community leaders and Norfolk Southern, real progress is happening. We remain committed to transparency and public input as the transformation continues.

Follow these Facebook pages to keep up to date on progress at the park!

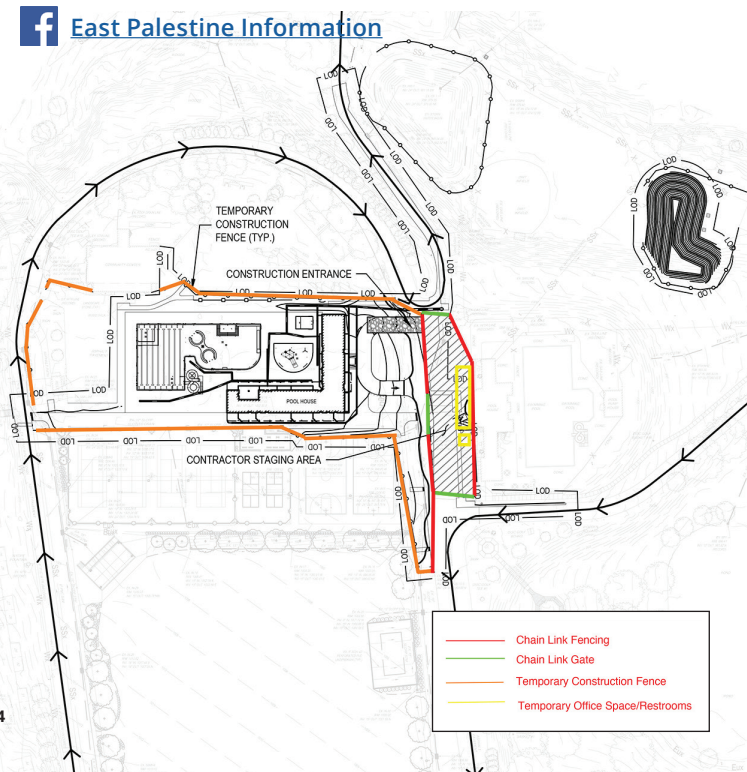
 [Village of East Palestine](#)

 [East Palestine Information](#)



Important Details for the Public

- **Work Hours:**
Approximately 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday.
- **Safety First:**
The construction area will be **secured and off-limits to non-authorized personnel** for safety reasons.
- **Rainbow Dreamland Closure:**
As a safety precaution, **Rainbow Dreamland will close on June 15 and remain closed throughout the duration of Phase 2.** We know how much these spaces mean to residents, and we're committed to preserving these memories while we update our facilities and build towards our future.
- **Work Zones:**
The parking lot between the current tennis courts and the existing pool building will serve as the primary work and laydown area.
- **Temporary Closures:**
Additional nearby facilities may be briefly closed as needed for safety during demolition.



BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT

HammerNink

Tattooing with Heart in East Palestine

For **Lenny Glavan**, owner of HammerNink, tattooing is more than art – it's a deeply personal experience. Born and raised in East Palestine, Lenny has recently opened a private studio on East Taggart Street that focuses on connection, creativity and community.

"I redesigned my profession around how I could best serve people," he says. "Tattooing takes me away from the world, and this space lets me invite others into that escape."

Lenny's studio isn't your typical walk-in shop. HammerNink is appointment-only, offering a one-on-one environment where clients can relax, have a cup of coffee and collaborate on meaningful designs. "It's not just about what you want inked – it's about who you are," Lenny explains. "I want to understand your story and help you wear it proudly."

A second-generation entrepreneur and former builder, Lenny draws on his creative roots – watching his father design and build custom homes and his grandmother's music and artistic

legacy – to fuel his craft. His tattoos are custom-designed with an eye toward longevity and personal meaning. "Tattooing is forever," he says. "I want to make sure it's done right."

Today, Lenny is known for his versatile style, blending American traditional, realism, black and gray, and bold color work. But it's not just his skill that sets him apart – it's his ability to listen. "I always want people to leave with something they're excited about and feel proud of," he explains. "If someone comes in with a general idea, I try to bring that to life in a way that fits them perfectly."


Now entering his 18th year in the business, Lenny proudly serves as a village council member and views his studio as a symbol of the town's revival. "The building is owned by my friend **Tommy Figley**, and he asked if I would like to share the space with **Jessie Wince** of Cuttin' Loose Family Hair Shop. It's a three-way win, and I think this type of multi-use collaboration could work at other properties downtown. East



Lenny Glavan

Palestine gave me everything – my roots, my family, my strength. I'm proud to be part of its rebuilding and growth."

HammerNink is located in East Palestine and operates by appointment only, Monday through Friday. To learn more or schedule a consultation, visit [hammernink.com](https://www.hammernink.com).

 [Hammernink](https://www.hammernink.com)



Honoring 130 Years of Service and Sacrifice

East Palestine Firefighters Memorial Service

On Wednesday, June 4, 2025, the East Palestine Volunteer Firefighters Association hosted the 130th annual Firefighters Memorial Service at the Clark Street Fire Station. This solemn tradition, first held in 1894, honors the dedicated men and women who gave 20 years or more of service to the East Palestine Fire Department – whether as firefighters, EMTs or auxiliary members – standing as a lasting tribute to duty, sacrifice and community.

This year, 96 names were read during the ceremony, including the most recent addition with the passing of retired firefighter **James Collela**. Each name represents a life spent in selfless service – individuals who routinely sacrificed time with their families to protect others, often missing family milestones, meals and moments to respond to emergency calls, train and serve.

The ceremony included time-honored traditions and heartfelt tributes. Fire Department Chaplain **Mark McTrusty** delivered the invocation and benediction, while Chief **Keith Drabick** read the Fireman's Prayer and the Honor Roll. Bagpiper **Leslie Knox** offered a moving performance, and Battalion Chief **Brian Rutledge** provided the welcoming and final call home. Battalion Chief **Josh Foster** performed the tolling of the bell – a ceremonial act signifying each member has answered their final call. This bell tradition is deeply rooted in fire service culture, symbolizing the end of duty and a return to eternal rest. At the service's conclusion, a final 2-8 (Signal 28) bell call rang out, signifying returning to quarters.

This enduring tradition is more than a remembrance – it is a reflection of gratitude. The Village of East Palestine proudly honors those who gave so much of themselves in service to others and pledges never to forget their sacrifice.





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Congratulations Graduating Class of 2025

Good Luck in your Future Endeavors!

On a clear, crisp Saturday, May 24th, our graduating Class of 2025 took their first steps into a new chapter. With a blend of excitement and a touch of apprehension for the unknown, they are now ready to face what's next. No matter their chosen paths, this class is armed with the resilience, innovation and ambition needed to make a significant impact. Their journey will undoubtedly bring new experiences, learning opportunities and the chance to contribute to a world eager for their talents. Congratulations, graduates – the future is yours to shape! (Shown at right) Congratulations to this year's Valedictorians, **Amelia Persing**, **John Kinkead** and **Heather Mohney**.



Free Summer Meal Program

June 4th to August 8th

As a school district, we strive to nourish the minds of our students during the school year, but we also want to ensure they receive the nutrients their bodies need during the summer. We are thrilled to announce that our Food Service Department will be running a Summer Breakfast and Lunch Program from **June 4th to August 8th**.

- Program is **FREE!**
- Available to all students under the age of 18
- Breakfast and Lunch served in the EPHS Cafeteria.
- Breakfast will be served from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
- Lunch will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



Dog Days 2025

A Return to the Heart of Community Giving

This year's Dog Days may have been smaller in size, but it was mighty in spirit. From flower planting and painting at the historic Log Cabin on Bacon Avenue to landscaping around the school and cleaning up public spaces long neglected, Dog Days 2025 reminded everyone of the power of shared purpose.

Dog Days is a proud collaboration between the Village of East Palestine and the East Palestine City School District, but its strength lies in its community. It's a reminder that caring for our town doesn't need to happen just once a year.

"It's moments like these – where work becomes fun – that make me appreciate what Dog Days really is and what it can be," said Village Manager **Antonio Diaz-Guy**. "It gave us the opportunity to regroup and understand what this event was always intended to be – a day of giving, hard work and dirty hands."

East Palestine thanks every student, resident and volunteer who gave their time, energy and care to this special day. Let Dog Days 2025 be more than a memory – let it be a spark that inspires us all year long.

Dog Days 2025



Photos from the day captured local basketball teams of all ages getting their hands dirty, smiling as they landscaped school grounds. Other students took on campus cleanups, while residents – young and old – picked up branches, swept sidewalks and cleared curbs that hadn't seen the sun in years.

