



EAST PALESTINE PROGRESS

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Local leaders and community members gathered to accept the 150th anniversary commemorative certificate from the State of Ohio. Pictured from left to right: Library staff members Noreen McBride, Diana Chick and Tamra Hess; Village Manager Antonio Diaz-Guy with his wife Brooke and son Eston; former East Palestine Mayor Mark Rhodes; Current Mayor Trent Conaway; Regional Liaison Fiona Ruminski; and Ron and Peggy Caratelli.

A Day to Remember

East Palestine Celebrates 150 Years with Hometown Spirit

East Palestine marked a major milestone on Saturday, July 12, with an unforgettable day of community, culture and celebration in honor of the village's 150th anniversary. From the moment festivities kicked off at 9 a.m., downtown came alive with hometown pride and the unmistakable warmth of neighbors reconnecting, reminiscing and looking ahead together.

The day began at the EP Memorial Library, where **Fiona Ruminski**, Regional Liaison for Ohio Secretary of State **Frank LaRose**, presented a commemorative certificate recognizing East Palestine's 150 years of history and progress. The official proclamation, delivered to local leaders and community

members, set a meaningful tone for the day – honoring the village's legacy and resilience while highlighting its importance to the region and the state.

Following the presentation, the excitement continued with the Moose Parade, a crowd favorite that featured East Palestine alumni, classic cars, floats, bikes and golf carts winding their way through the village in a joyful display of unity and tradition. Spectators lined the route, waving and cheering as the parade rolled by.

Art and history were central to the celebration. Visitors explored the town-wide Student Art Walk, which showcased the creativity

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Community Events CALENDAR

■ E-Waste Drop Off

Saturday, August 2

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Centenary United Methodist Church
40 S. Market St.

Small electronic recycling. Most accepted free, but there will be a charge for CRT monitors, printers and TVs.

■ Rotary Car Cruise

Saturday, August 16

11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

East Palestine Downtown

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of East Palestine



■ Jen + Tonic Polo Event

Saturday, August 16

2:00 to 5:00 pm

Paul J. Powers Memorial Polo Field

*Sponsored by the Jennifer R. Powers
Fruit Memorial Fund*

■ Back 2 School Bash

Saturday, August 23

4:00 p.m. - Meet the Team Parade

4:30 p.m. - Meet the Team

5:00 to 7:00 p.m. - Bash

360 W. Grant St.

Sponsored by the East Palestine School District

■ EP Eagles Night at the Races

Saturday, August 23

6:00 p.m. - Doors Open

7:00 p.m. - Race Starts

10:00 p.m. - Event Ends

320 E. Taggart St.

Sponsored by the East Palestine Eagles #1506

A Day to Remember

East Palestine Celebrates 150 Years with
Hometown Spirit *(Continued from page 1)*

of East Palestine students in grades 5 through 12. At the Memorial Public Library, guests stepped back in time with the "150 Years & 150 Facts" exhibit, uncovering stories that connected generations. The Historic Train Depot also welcomed crowds eager to see displays linking the village's past with a vision for its future.

Families had plenty to enjoy as well. Bounce houses, carriage rides, axe throwing, old-fashioned games, and even a dunk tank featuring well-known local personalities kept the energy high and the laughs flowing. The Penny Candy Store, run by the Youth Boys Program, was a hit with both kids and nostalgic adults.

Food trucks lined the streets, offering everything from Mexican street food and burgers to custom sodas. Attendees also browsed vendor booths hosted by local organizations like The Way Station, Garden Club and the East Palestine Community Improvement Corporation, picking up raffle entries, giveaways and items for purchase.

The evening wrapped up with a feel-good "Oldies Music Show" at the high school auditorium, where residents of all ages sang along to timeless hits. It was a fitting close to a day that honored the past while building excitement for the future.

Village Manager **Antonio Diaz-Guy** said it best: "This day was about more than looking back – it was about celebrating who we are and what we can accomplish when we come together."

The celebration was more than a party – it was a powerful symbol of East Palestine's enduring spirit. After 150 years, our village still shines, and on July 12, it shone brighter than ever.



East Palestine 150th Sesquicentennial - July 12 Events

CELEBRATE 150 YEARS OF EAST PALESTINE!



Saying Goodbye to Rainbow Dreamland

A Playground Built with Heart

As the sun sets on Rainbow Dreamland Playground, East Palestine is not only dismantling the wooden play structure and slides – it's parting with a beloved piece of community history. Built in 1995 through the passion, tools and teamwork of hundreds of volunteers, Dreamland has stood for 30 years as a symbol of what this village can achieve when it comes together.

Recently, a group of East Palestine schoolchildren visited Rainbow Dreamland for one last class trip, likely the final organized visit before the site is cleared. The photos from that day capture the joy, wonder and energy that have echoed through the playground since it opened.

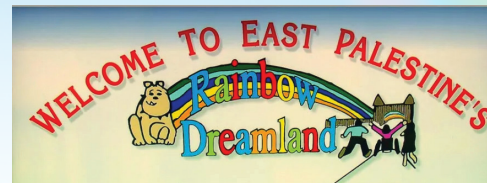
"We hate to see Rainbow Dreamland's last days," said Village Manager **Antonio Diaz-Guy**. "But the spirit – and even some part of it – will be remembered in what's to come next. The people who built it, who cared for it and who played here over the years have given this village a gift that will never be forgotten."

The playground was a grassroots effort in every sense. From the first fundraising penny drives to the final swings installed, local residents gave their time, energy and hearts. Volunteers worked long hours – some with no prior experience – guided only by a shared vision. Members of groups like Unity Grange cooked meals. Parents organized childcare. Neighbors donated tools. Kids helped sand wood and wash tires. And every evening, volunteers left the site a little more tired – and a little more proud.

As one organizer put it during the 1995 build, the feeling of "loopiness" – a kind of joyful exhaustion – was part of the magic. Rainbow Dreamland came to mean more than fun. It became synonymous with community, creativity, aching backs and deep pride.

Even as we say farewell, appreciation abounds. To everyone who helped build Rainbow Dreamland, who maintained it and who shared moments of joy there – thank you. Your work, your presence and your memories have made this playground a treasured part of the Village of East Palestine's story.

Though the physical structure may come down, Dreamland's legacy will live on. It will live in the newly revised park, in the laughter of future children and in every corner of the community where people still believe in building something – together.



BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT

Muscle Works Gym & The Dunes Tanning Salon

In the heart of East Palestine stands a unique, community-focused wellness hub: Muscle Works Gym and Fitness Center and The Dunes Tanning Salon. Owned and operated by **Kevin and Susan Reynolds** since 2009, these businesses offer residents a space to recharge both physically and mentally.

The Dunes Tanning Salon provides more than just a tan – it offers clients a 15-minute escape. “For many, this is the only vacation they get,” Susan says. “It’s their time to relax, rewind and reset.” The salon also focuses on complete skincare, offering personalized lotion recommendations, moisturizers and specialty products tailored to individual skin types. They are open Monday through Thursday from noon to 7:00 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from noon to 5:00 p.m. Closed on Sunday.

Muscle Works Gym, located in the same plaza, complements the salon with a no-frills, old-school approach to fitness. From cable machines to free weights, the gym

caters to everyone – from young athletes to seniors participating in the SilverSneakers program. Memberships are available for individuals, couples and families, and include key card access and 24/7 security monitoring. Sign-ups and administrative services are handled through the tanning salon office. Open from 3:00 a.m. to midnight, it provides flexible access for busy schedules and promotes a safe, supportive environment.

Susan’s connection to the community runs deep. From donating to local school events to supporting families through benefits and fundraisers, she sees her business as a pillar of support. “This town is something special,” she says. “I’ve never seen a community come together like East Palestine does.”

Despite the challenges the town has faced, Susan remains committed. “We’re not going anywhere anytime soon,” she says. “This is home.”

Visit the [website](#) to learn more.

 [The Dunes/Muscle Works](#)



Donation to Help Fund Public Plaza

Huntington Bank donated \$30,000 to the East Palestine Community Improvement Corporation (EPCIC) to support the development of a public plaza at 74 North Market Street, the site of the former PNC bank drive through.

“We are extremely appreciative of Huntington Bank’s generous donation to the Community Improvement Corporation,” said EPCIC President **Chris Page**. “We have a vision for developing the plaza, and Huntington’s support will help us execute on some key first steps.”

In December of 2024, the EPCIC used proceeds from the Brighten Our Future campaign to acquire the lot. The idea for the plaza originated from a streetscape concept to improve the attractiveness of downtown East Palestine. The Safe Streets for All planning grant recently awarded to the village will further develop the streetscape plan. The EPCIC envisions the Plaza as a central gathering place for everyday use as well as for special events, featuring benches, green space, landscaping and a small gazebo or pavilion. A site survey has been ordered and architects have been engaged by the EPCIC to design a renovation of the existing 500 square feet building and an addition of up to 1,200 square feet. Once completed, the building will be leased to a local business, which will complement the Plaza and be an additional draw to the downtown.

“Huntington is focused on strengthening the communities we serve, and this project is key to further investments in downtown East Palestine,” said Sam Huston, market president for Huntington Bank. “We’re proud to work with critical partners who have this community’s future in mind.”

“This ambitious project will have a big impact on the downtown,” said Page. “We feel like our non-profit group of volunteers, working closely with the village, can spark other businesses and property owners to invest. We have tenant interest on the property. Now we just need to continue to seek and leverage funds to make the improvements so that the vision becomes a reality.”

The EPCIC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization created by the Village of East Palestine to lead economic recovery efforts. Please consider donating to the EPCIC through the [Make a Donation](#) link on the website epohio.org.

New Benches Add Beauty and Comfort

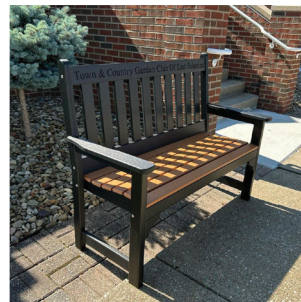
Seating Donated by the Town & Country Garden Club

Thanks to the generosity of the Town & Country Garden Club of East Palestine, downtown just became a little more welcoming – and a lot more beautiful. The club has donated 13 new benches, thoughtfully placed throughout the downtown area, offering residents and visitors a place to relax and enjoy the village.

The benches, custom-designed by local business Runnion's Originals, feature rich terra-cotta seating that complements the downtown planters the club also maintains. This design choice helps tie the elements of the streetscape together, creating a more polished and inviting atmosphere.

Village officials shared their appreciation calling the Garden Club "an amazing group" and praising their hard work in "making the downtown colorful with their beautiful flowers." The new benches are the latest in a series of contributions from the club, whose ongoing efforts have included seasonal flower installations and care for the downtown planters.

As you stroll through town, whether you're running errands or just out for some fresh air, take a moment to enjoy one of these new benches. They offer more than just a place to sit – they represent a spirit of care, community and creativity that continues to bloom in East Palestine.





CHEVROLET

In the market for a Chevy Truck, Car or a SUV? Schedule a free test drive or stop by our showroom today.

We are ready to help our East Palestine friends and neighbors into a new or used vehicle that meets their transportation needs.

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Our Students Take to the Skies

We're incredibly proud to celebrate two of our very own, **Deacon Norton** and **Maxx Kunselman**, who recently completed the prestigious **Aviation Career Education (A.C.E.) Academy at Kent State University!** This fantastic opportunity was possible through the Enriching Opportunities for Every Child (EOEC-NC) grant, which was awarded to EPMS. This intensive, week-long program provided Deacon and Maxx with an unparalleled experience in the world of aviation.

They had the incredible opportunity to:

- Take the controls of a single-engine Cessna.
- Explore commercial and corporate jets.
- Learn about advanced air mobility, including drones.
- Go behind the scenes with a special tour of Cleveland-Hopkins Airport.
- Experience Kent State University's state-of-the-art flight and Air Traffic Control (ATC) simulators.
- Gain insights into unique aspects of military flight operations.

We are thrilled to see our students pursuing unique learning opportunities that expand their horizons and prepare them for success in an ever-evolving world.



Do You Have Our App?

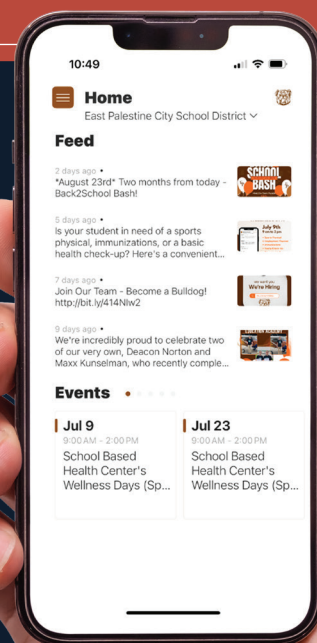
In today's fast-paced world, staying informed and connected is more important than ever. That's why we're thrilled to remind you about our school district's official mobile app – your one-stop shop for all things East Palestine School District!

Designed with our busy families and community members in mind, our app provides instant access to the information you need, right at your fingertips.

- **Real-Time Alerts & Notifications:** Be the first to know about school closings, delayed starts, early dismissals and other important announcements.
- **Calendar & Events:** Stay up-to-date with school holidays, parent-teacher conferences, sports schedules, and all district-wide events. Never miss an important date again!
- **News & Updates:** Get the latest news and stories from our schools, celebrating student achievements and keeping you informed about district initiatives.
- **Lunch Menus:** Easily view daily lunch and breakfast menus for all schools.
- **Staff Directory:** Quickly find contact information for teachers, administrators and support staff.

Downloading the app is quick, easy and free! Simply search for "East Palestine City School" in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

We are committed to fostering strong communication between our schools, families and community. Our district app is a powerful tool to help us achieve that goal. Download it today and experience the convenience of staying connected with EP Schools!





PRIDE. TRADITION. PROGRESS.

85 North Market Street
East Palestine, OH 44413

EAST PALESTINE PROGRESS



@villageofepohio

Reach Local Readers

Advertise in East Palestine Progress

Looking for a meaningful way to promote your business or service in the heart of the community? The East Palestine Progress newsletter offers advertising opportunities for local organizations and entrepreneurs who want to connect directly with their neighbors.

Delivered monthly to more than 3,300 households and businesses throughout the village, East Palestine Progress is published by the East Palestine Community Improvement Corporation (EPCIC) – the nonprofit organization dedicated

to local economic development. It's an ideal platform for sharing your message, supporting the community and reaching an engaged local audience.

East Palestine Progress includes four professionally printed editions – mailed directly to thousands of homes and businesses – and eight digital-only issues that are emailed and promoted online. This hybrid approach gives you the best of both worlds: the credibility and staying power of print, plus the extended reach and shareability of digital content. Mixing your ad placements across both formats helps reinforce your message, improve recognition and give your business consistent exposure all year long.

Advertising in East Palestine Progress doesn't just benefit your brand – it helps the whole village. Proceeds from ad sales go toward covering postage and supporting other EPCIC development initiatives and administrative expenses that keep this publication going strong.

Ready to Get Started?

Fill out the ad request form at epohio.org/rate-card or scan the QR code to learn more.



Advertising locally has never meant so much – or reached so many.