



EAST PALESTINE PROGRESS

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From weathered and worn to restored and ready for a new chapter – the freight depot's exterior transformation is complete, and interior renovations are next. Faded black lettering marks the names of freight workers and local businesses, some dating back over a century. These inscriptions will remain untouched, becoming a signature feature of the restored depot's interior. (Shown at right)

Revitalizing the Historic Freight Depot

Preserving the Past in Every Board

Progress continues on East Palestine's historic freight depot, proving this landmark is far from forgotten. Built in 1905 and restored on the exterior by Norfolk Southern in 2024, the 2,400-square-foot building is now prepared for an exciting new chapter.

In recent months, surveys, engineering work and selective disassembly have been completed through the East Palestine Community Improvement Corporation (EPCIC), supported by \$55,000 in technical assistance from Opportunity Appalachia and a \$100,000 grant from Norfolk Southern.

The next step is finalizing architectural plans and beginning construction. While specific tenants will be announced later,

interest is strong and future occupants are eager to get started.

Inside, one unique feature will remain – the original hand-painted names, dates and markings left by freight workers decades ago. This historic graffiti will be showcased as part of the finished design, honoring the building's working past while welcoming new life into downtown.

The depot's transformation is well underway, blending history with opportunity and contributing to the village's ongoing revitalization.



Community Events CALENDAR

■ Amateur Radio Club Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, September 2

6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

SR 14, Building behind Runnions Originals

All interested in amateur radio are welcome to attend.

Sponsored by the East Palestine Amateur Radio Club

■ 3rd Annual East Palestine Fall Fest

Saturday, September 13

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

East Palestine Downtown

Bring your family and friends for a day full of fun food, festivities. There will be food trucks, village-wide games with prizes and many craft vendors all downtown.

Sponsored by East Palestine Chamber of Commerce



Stay Connected – Join Our East Palestine Alumni & Friends Network

The East Palestine Community Improvement Corporation (EPCIC) is building a network of current residents, former residents and East Palestine High School alumni who care about the future of our village. By staying connected, you can be part of initiatives that strengthen our community, support local projects and keep you informed about ways to get involved – no matter where you live now.

This information will help us:

- **Share updates** about community events, public services and local initiatives.
- **Highlight opportunities** to participate in fundraisers and volunteer efforts.
- **Connect alumni and friends** to projects that benefit East Palestine today and for generations to come.

Your privacy is important to us. We **do not** sell, rent, or trade your personal information. Details you share will be used only for village-related communications, and we may work with trusted service providers to manage updates or process donations – always under strict confidentiality. You can opt out at any time.

Ready to reconnect?

Fill out our short online form here: [EPCIC Alumni & Friends Form](#).

Together, we can keep East Palestine's spirit strong – whether you're right here in town or cheering us on from afar.

EPMS Students Impress with “Learn to Teach, Teach to Learn” Presentation

At the July 28 Village Council meeting, members had the pleasure of hearing from some exceptionally talented East Palestine Middle School students. As part of their “Learn to Teach, Teach to Learn” program, the students shared what they've been learning in classes that included Canva design, Cricut crafting and even making homemade strawberry jam – complete with samples for the audience to enjoy.

The program was made possible through the collaboration of the Village of East Palestine, the East Palestine Memorial Public Library and the East Palestine City School District, and

the support of **Janice Cartwright, Noreen McBride, Michelle Martin, Councilwoman Barb Herriott and Desiree Stredney** of Nutrition Inc. Their guidance and encouragement helped students build valuable skills and the confidence to share their knowledge with the community.

The evening was a great reminder of the creativity and talent of our local students – and the importance of programs that help them learn by teaching others.

“We were so proud to see our students shine through this program, and we're grateful to the partnerships that allowed us to offer all of these classes free of charge this summer,” said Janice Cartwright. “The learning doesn't stop here – starting in September, we'll be holding a class once a month.

Students will meet right after school to learn a new skill, and then at 6:00 p.m. they'll turn around and teach it to the community – again, all free of charge. We invite everyone to join in and watch for upcoming dates on Facebook.”



East Palestine Takes Flight with Drone Donation for Safety, Planning and Education

The Village of East Palestine is stepping into the future with a generous donation from Cleartopia Solutions™, a drone technology company co-founded by East Palestine native **Trent Casi**. The company has gifted two advanced Skydio drones – an S2 Plus and an X10 – to support both municipal operations and educational programs.

One drone will be operated by the village to enhance emergency response, infrastructure planning, environmental monitoring and economic development. The other will be donated to East Palestine High School, adding to its STEM and drone technology curriculum.

“This donation allows East Palestine to take a major step forward in how we plan, protect and prepare for the future,” said Village Manager **Antonio Diaz-Guy**. “Drone technology will give us a significant edge in gathering the high-fidelity data we need to make faster, smarter decisions. And we’re thrilled our students will have access to the same next-generation tools professionals are using.”

Licensed members of the East Palestine Fire Department will operate the village’s drone, which features thermal imaging, 120-megapixel sensors and vertical takeoff and landing capabilities. These tools allow for rapid deployment in emergencies and support tasks like roadway inspections, vegetation health monitoring and utility mapping.

Cleartopia also provided free software licenses, on-site training and aerial mapping valued at \$20,000 – completed in just two days and providing data comparable to traditional \$75,000 fixed-wing aircraft surveys.

The high school program will give students hands-on experience with professional-grade tools, real-world problem-solving opportunities and potential collaborations with village departments.

“East Palestine has always been home,” said Casi. “It’s more than just technology – it’s about using innovation to empower people, especially the next generation.” Learn more at cleartopia.io or follow village updates at epohio.org.

Shown below: Drone footage taken of downtown East Palestine.



Kids Lead the Way in Reimagining Rainbow Dreamland

In August, the Village of East Palestine took a bold and refreshing approach to designing the future playground – by letting kids take the lead. Thirty-three children, ages 3 to 14, gathered at the East Palestine Community Center for the “Rainbow Dreamland Kids Think Tank,” a creative workshop designed to capture the imagination and priorities of the very people who will use the new playground most.

The event was organized and led by **Lenny Glavan** and **Melinda Crist**, who recognize that playgrounds are more than just slides and swings – they are places where imagination, friendships and movement come alive. By engaging children directly, the village ensured the design reflects genuine play experiences, not just adult assumptions. The Think Tank also gave young residents a sense of ownership and pride, connecting them to the project from the start.

The day began with a discussion about the history of Rainbow Dreamland and why their ideas mattered. Kids shared what they liked about the old playground – slides, the fire pole, monkey bars, tire swings, shaded hide-and-seek spots – and what they didn’t, including splinter-causing mulch, overly hot slides and broken features left unrepaired.

Next, they explored themed design stations, imagining what the best playground in the region could look like. The top choice was a Nature Theme, with forest elements, trees and natural textures. Castles and whimsical fantasy zones were close behind, with many imagining “adventure-to-adventure” layouts connecting multiple themed areas.

When it came to equipment, the requests were clear: a three-tiered zip line, a jumping pillow and a large group swing topped the list. Kids also wanted interactive features like musical drums, sensory panels, tunnels and inclusive swings for all abilities. Comfort was important too – shade structures, bright colors and continuous play flow were must-haves.

Additional ideas included treehouses, a Victory Wall challenge, glow-in-the-dark pathways, in-ground trampolines and mushroom hop paths. The group also created a “No” list, ruling out hot metal slides, unsafe materials, confusing layouts and excessive mulch.

The kid’s ideas will be shared with designers and engineers who will help shape the playground’s final design. The Think Tank proved that when children are invited to share their vision, they bring creativity, practicality and a big-picture perspective that can inspire the whole community.



BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT

Craftsmanship That Stands the Test of Time: R.A. Mayo Industries

For more than six decades, **Bob Mayo** has been perfecting the art of upholstery, cabinetry and fine furniture restoration. As the founder of **R.A. Mayo Industries**, Bob brings unmatched expertise to every project, ensuring each detail reflects the quality craftsmanship that has defined his career since 1961.

Originally based in Carnegie, PA, Bob moved his operations to East Palestine in 1997 to expand into a larger 7,000-square-foot workspace. His shop is a hub of creativity and precision, offering everything from upholstered sofas and chairs to custom-built cabinetry, booth seating for restaurants and complete refinishing services. As Bob puts it, "If you can sit on it, lay on it, or store something in it, chances are we can build it, fix it or restore it."

Over the years, R.A. Mayo Industries has earned a reputation that stretches far beyond the local community. Bob's projects include work for historic landmarks such as the Frick Mansion

and the Westmoreland County Courthouse, as well as luxury resorts like Nemacolin. His craftsmanship has also been showcased in unique projects, including a custom oversized sofa for the Chartiers Valley High School football team, designed in school colors with embroidered pillows. (see below)

Despite the prestige of such large-scale projects, Bob emphasizes that no job is too small. From manufacturing a simple safety net to restoring antique furniture with rare materials like silk, wool and leather, his team of seven treats every piece with the same care and respect.

Operating from Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., R.A. Mayo Industries continues to serve both residential and commercial clients across the tri-state area. Bob's philosophy is simple: "We do good work, and our prices are fair. We're not the cheapest, but we're not the most expensive – just right in the middle."



Bob Mayo

For more information, call 412-279-4227 or text a photo of the furniture you want reupholstered for a quote. Or visit the website at mayoindustries.com or check out their Facebook page.



*R.A. Mayo Industries Custom Cabinetry & Refinishing
Serving the Tri-State Area Since 1961*





A Warm Welcome to Our New Staff!

The East Palestine City School District is buzzing with excitement as we welcome our newest team members! Our new staff recently completed their orientation, getting acquainted with our schools, community and our Bulldog pride. The day was filled with activities, including a bus tour of our community, offering them a firsthand look at the wonderful place they will now be serving.

We are incredibly excited about the skills and passion they bring to our district. Their energy and commitment will undoubtedly enrich the learning environment for our students. Please join us in extending a huge Bulldog welcome to each of them. We look forward to a fantastic school year and the positive impact they will have on our students and the entire East Palestine community.



Full Speed Ahead for Bulldog Athletics!

The East Palestine Bulldogs have a packed schedule of fall athletic events, and our student-athletes would love your support! This season, our teams are competing in a variety of sports, including **football, volleyball, cross country, golf** and **girls' tennis**. Every game, match and meet is an opportunity for our students to showcase their dedication and hard work.

There's a special energy in the air during the fall season – the roar of the crowd at a Friday night football game, the quick-paced excitement of a volleyball match and the quiet determination of our cross-country runners. Attending these events is a fantastic way to

connect with the community and cheer on the next generation of Bulldogs. Your support makes a tremendous impact, inspiring our athletes to give their all.



Whether you're a long-time fan or a new family in the district, we invite you to be a part of the East Palestine Bulldogs family. Bring your friends and neighbors, grab a snack from the concession stand and enjoy the thrill of high school sports. We look forward to seeing you in the stands!

For full schedules and more details on all fall athletic events, please visit epathletics.org.



Shining Rides and Small-Town Pride

2025 Rotary Car Cruise

Downtown East Palestine roared to life on Saturday, August 16, 2025, as the East Palestine Rotary Car Cruise rolled in for another year of chrome, nostalgia and community fun. From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Main Street was lined with gleaming classic cars, vintage cruisers and custom creations that drew admirers from near and far.

The warm summer afternoon was filled with the sounds of revving engines, laughter and live music, while local food vendors served up crowd favorites. Families, friends and car enthusiasts enjoyed strolling the street, swapping stories and snapping photos of their dream rides.

The event, hosted by the Rotary Club of East Palestine, was made possible thanks to the support of local sponsors including Pizza Joe's, Brittain Chevrolet, CSI Environmental, T&M Hardware & Rental, Bea's Insurance, O.T. Beight & Sons Monuments, East Palestine Resiliency Center, Covington Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation, D.D.T.A. Services Inc. and East Liverpool City Hospital's East Palestine Clinic.

With sunshine, stunning cars and a strong turnout, the 2025 Car Cruise proved once again why it's a highlight of the summer in East Palestine.