The Village of East Palestine Newsletter

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GIANT T-REX TAKES OVER NORTH MARKET STREET

KAT'S KRYSTALS INTRODUCES 9FT TALL "PERK E. DIVA" TO DOWNTOWN

MARKET STREET - **Kat Smith**, Owner of **Kat's Krystals and The Vendor Vault**, was first of many to be awarded through the **East Palestine Business Vibrancy Grant** ("The Program"). The Program was created to support existing business owners, new business owners, and commercial property owners within the municipal limits of East Palestine to enhance their brand signage, business facade, or property to benefit foot traffic, enhance local vibrancy, and assist in codified improvements. With a distinctive approach for signage and branding, Smith introduces "Perk E. Diva" featuring community photo submission accessible through a QR code album.



> "Don't forget to take a selfie with her! She has a QR code for a community album!"

BUSINESS VIBRANCY GRANT AWARDS

The East Palestine Business Vibrancy Grant Program has had strong engagement from existing businesses, new businesses, and commercial property owners within our municipal limits. In August of 2026, Kat's Krystals was the first applicant for the Program and the first of many awarded. This Program is strategically structured to assist businesses and commercial property owners to have assistance in the facade, branding, signage and other exterior improvements to promote foot traffic to their business, and to East Palestine.

For more information, visit the East Palestine Municipal Office website at https://eastpalestine-oh.gov/forms/business-vibrancy-grant-program/, or hover over Business, click on Forms, and click East Palestine Business Vibrancy Grant Program Application to read the rules, regulations, and apply.



RENOVATIONS AT THE DEPOT

BLACK DIAMOND KITCHEN BREWERY & DISTILLERY MAKES POSITIVE HEADWAY AT NEW LOCATION

WEST TAGGART STREET - **The East Palestine Community Improvement Corporation (EPCIC)** and the Village have been working closely with **Black Diamond Kitchen, Brewery & Distillery** for the renovations at the freight depot on West Taggart Street. This new location and restaurant for our community will be a strong tenant for years to come. In the month of August 2026, the rough-in for the plumbing of the depot was completed. We welcome our residents, readers, and community organizations to stay up to date with the progress of Black Diamond's new location by following Black Diamond Brewery & Distillery East Palestine and the Village of East Palestine, Ohio on Facebook! In time, we are hopeful to share the approximate opening date of this incredible partnership, and we are grateful for the teamwork and diligence of not only Black Diamond and the EPCIC, but for the consultants with **Bricker Graydon** who have worked alongside all project partners to restore this historic building and create a new modern restaurant for our community. Be sure to keep an eye out in November for a sneak peek inside the depot, and to taste some of Black Diamond's spirits.



The Village of East Palestine
Newsletter

THE K-9 PAWS THAT PROTECT OUR LAWS

EAST PALESTINE K-9 UNIT SUSTAINED BY COMMUNITY

EAST PALESTINE POLICE DEPARTMENT (EPPD) - **The East Palestine K-9 Unit** has been a trusted and strong asset to our village, far exceeding their duty to keep our community safe.

Leiutenant Donald Johnson, who has worked with Toney, senior K-9 to Fran Chevy, shared that the East Palestine K-9 Unit was first call to scenes before other areas in our region obtained K-9 units. Since neighboring villages and cities have hired their own teams, Toney has been enjoying retirement, and Fran Chevy has been welcomed to the East Palestine K-9 Unit in her place. Born in North Carolina, Fran is trained in narcotics detection, article searches, and tracking. This year, Fran has gotten a plethora of success stories under his collar and continues daily operations with Lt. Johnson.

The East Palestine Police Department K-9 Unit has always been purely **operational through fundraisers and donations**. If an organization or individual would like to make a donation to support the East Palestine K-9 Unit, checks may be made payable to the *East Palestine Patrolman Association: K-9 Unit* and either mailed or dropped off at the Police Department located at 75 East Main Street East Palestine, Ohio 44413. For more information, call the East Palestine Police Department non-emergency line at 330-426-4341.



THE EP WEBSITES AND THEIR PURPOSES

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN EPOHIO.ORG & EASTPALESTINE-OH.GOV

THE VILLAGE OF EAST PALESTINE - The Village of East Palestine has two published websites as a resource for our community and visitors. Developed by WRL Advertising, **epohio.org** and **eastpalestine-oh.gov** were created for the East Palestine Community Improvement Corporation (EPCIC) and the Village Municipal Office.

Epohio.org is the website for the EPCIC, showcasing news and media articles published in the East Palestine Newsletter and other short articles for community members and visitors to digest. The EPCIC website also holds the Newsletter and Letterhead archive, where all publications of these local news sources can be found.

The East Palestine Municipal Office website, eastpalestine-oh.gov, includes information of all of our municipality's departments such as: Police Department, Street Department, Water Department, Fire Department, Finance/Cemetery Department, and the Building/Zoning Department. This website exists to also enable residents to pay their water bill online, submit public service requests, and stay updated on community events via the Community Calendar.

Both websites include pages of residents and community members that are involved with each organization or department. Stay updated with the Village of East Palestine on Facebook by clicking here.



The Village of East Palestine
Newsletter



YOUR VOICE FOR YOUR COMMUNITIY

SIMPLE STEPS TO CHECKING YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION

COLUMBIANA COUNTY - With the **November 2026 General Election** approaching, now is the perfect time to make sure voting registration is up to date. Whether you changed your name, moved, or have not checked in a while, confirming your registration is quick and ensures your voice is counted for on **Election Day**.

How to Check your Registration Status - East Palestine residents can verify their voter registration though the **Ohio Secretary of State Voter's Search Tool**. You will need your name and address in order to confirm your voting status.

If you are not registered - You can register online through the Ohio Secretary of State, at the Columbiana County Board of Elections, or at the East Palestine Memorial Public Library.

The **deadline to register to vote is October 5**, with early elections beginning on October 6 and Election Day on November 3.

READY TO GET YOUR SPOOKINESS ON?

THE HALLOWEEN PARADE AND TRICK-OR-TREAT IS RETURNING!

NORTH MARKET STREET – The Annual East Palestine **Halloween Parade** and **Trick-or-Treat** is returning to our streets later this month! With more spook-tacular themes, costumes, and parade participants, this year's Halloween parade is sure to bring some fantastic Halloween spirit.

Trick-or-Treat will be Saturday, October 31 from 5:30PM to 7:00PM. Participants in this year's Halloween parade will meet at the Centenary United Methodist Church parking lot by McDonald's. East Palestine School Band members should meet at the Methodist Church at 5PM. The parade will conclude at the East Palestine Memorial Public Library. Happy October!



LIBRARY FALL PROGRAMS FOR EVERY AGE!

EAST PALESTINE MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY - As the leaves begin to change accross East Palestine, our local library is stepping into one of their busiest and most colorful seasons. Whether you are looking for a quiet place to read, looking for family activies, or simply ways to stay engaged with our community, the East Palestine Memorial Public Library continues to be one of the most welcoming spaces in town with many activities and events for chidlren and community member of all ages.

Calendar of events at the Library October 2026:

- **3rd: Blockbuster Builds: Halloween Edition** 11A - 12P
- **Mini Mondays** 11A - 12P (every Monday)
- **6th: What is Raptor? By Raptor Hallow Sanctuary** 6P - 7P
- **Storytime** 11A - 12P (every Wednesday)
- **8th: Planning for Retirement by AARP** 6P - 7P
- **13th: AI Productivity: The Tools of Artificial Intelligence** 2P - 3P
- **14th: Tweens & Teens: Halloween Trinkets** 3:30P - 4:30P
- **14th: Drop-in Book Club** 6:30P - 7:30P
- **15th: Afternoon Book Club** 1:30P - 2:30P
- **19th: Create & Innovate**: **Autumn Stencil Frame** 1P - 2P
- **20th: Evening Book Club** 6:30P - 7:30P
- **27th: ACOTAR 6 Release Party** 6:30P - 7:30P
- **29th: Gentle Reads Book Club** 1:30P - 2:30P
- **29th: Night Owl: Pumpkin Patch** 6:30P - 7:30P

The Village of East Palestine
Newsletter

SCHOOL Spotlight

EP SCHOOLS SHOWS GROWTH ON 2025-2026 STATE REPORT CARD!

INCREASED RATINGS FOR EAST PALESTINE SCHOOLS!

EAST PALESTINE SCHOOLS - The Ohio Department of Education has officially released the 2025-2026 State Report Cards, and East Palestine City Schools is proud to have earned an overall 3-Star Rating, indicating we are meeting state standards across the district! This year's results reflect meaningful progress in several key areas, including three areas earning 4 stars, exceeding state standards:

- Gap Closing: Our rating doubled, with annual performance goals increasing from 25.6% to 46.6%.
- Collage, Career, Workforce & Military Readiness: 75.7% of high school students are demonstrating readiness for post-secondary success – an increase of nearly 9% from last year.
- Graduation Rate: A 94.3% four-year graduation rate earned another 4-star rating.
- Academic Growth: Our Performance Index increased to 81.3 points, reflecting student performance on state assessments.

While we celebrate this momentum, we remain focused on what is next. Strengthening early literacy in grades K-3 remains a priority. Through targeted reading tools and specialized instruction, we are committed to helping every young Bulldog build the skills needed for longer-term success.



We are proud of the progress our students, teachers and staff are making, and grateful for a community that continues to support our schools as we move East Palestine forward.

East Palestine Elementary School - 4 Stars (Exceeds state standards), East Palestine Middle School - 3 Stars (Meets states standards), East Palestine High School - 3.5 Stars (Meets state standards). Unleashing Potential. Learn more about the 2025-2026 State Report Card on our website: https://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/district/overview/043927

THE DSP-U PROGRAM THRIVES AT EPHS THROUGH PARTNERSHIP WITH EP THRESHOLD RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

Over the past three school years, our DSP-U program has truly blossomed, creating meaningful opportunities for students seeking hands-on experience and industry-recognized credentials as Direct Support Professionals.

Through our partnerships with Lighthouse Cove and Threshold Residential Services, our students are able to take what they learn and apply it in real-world settings—building skills, confidence, and a foundation for future careers.

We're proud to see this program continue to grow and provide our students with opportunities that make a difference!



VILLAGE OF
EAST PALESTINE
OHIO

PRIDE. TRADITION. PROGRESS.

85 North Market Street
East Palestine, Ohio 44413



Meet Our LETTERHEAD

The East Palestine Progress Letterhead is a monthly print that is kind of like the East Palestine Newsletter's little brother. Created to spotlight Newsletter articles and other activities and events around town, you can get this colorful source of news directly to your inbox by subscribing to our email list! Visit epohio.org to sign up, and view our Progress Letterhead archive!