



# EAST PALESTINE PROGRESS

Your source for village news and information brought to you by the EP Community Improvement Corporation. | [epohio.org](http://epohio.org)



*Left to right: Michael Baker International representative Steven Savich, East Palestine Village Manager Chad Edwards, Norfolk Southern CEO Alan Shaw and Ohio Senator Al Cutrona break ground to kick off the East Palestine park renovation project.*

## Breaking Ground On East Palestine Park

On July 15, 2024, a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the multi-phase renovation project at the East Palestine community park. The first phase of the six-phase \$25 million project funded by Norfolk Southern will begin this month and the entire project is expected to be completed in 2026.

Phase 1 includes construction of an amphitheater, installation of new pickleball courts, relocation of the tennis and basketball courts, improvements to the field areas, extended parking, additional dog park parking, lighting, and new walking paths. This initial phase will also focus on parking around the central

grass area, which will later be paved; draining and grading work around the playing courts and field; moving electrical lines underground; and directing stormwater to a temporary retention pond.

Village Manager Chad Edwards stated, "We are looking forward to hosting community events here and the everyday joy the park upgrades will bring to our residents. We are also really excited the economic potential it brings to East Palestine as it becomes a destination location and attracts visitors to the village."

*Continued on page 7*

## Community Events CALENDAR

### ■ East Palestine Historic Car Cruise

**Saturday, August 17, 2024**

**11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

Downtown East Palestine

*Sponsored by East Palestine Rotary*

*Event times could change. Please check [epohio.org/around-town/](http://epohio.org/around-town/) and social media.*



## Advertising Opportunity

### Newsletter Now Accepting Ads

The *East Palestine Progress* is delivered directly to more than 3,300 local households and businesses. Published monthly by the East Palestine Community Improvement Corporation (EPCIC), the non-profit organization serving as the economic development agent for the Village, the newsletter is now accepting paid advertisements. If you would like to advertise your business or service, please fill out the ad request form on [epohio.org/rate-card](http://epohio.org/rate-card) or send an email to [epnewsletter@wrladv.com](mailto:epnewsletter@wrladv.com). Funds collected from advertising ad sales will support newsletter postage costs and other EPCIC development initiatives and administrative expenses.



**INTERESTED IN  
ADVERTISING?**  
Scan the QR code for  
more information.



**WEALTH ADVISORS**

Wealth & Retirement Specialists



**Parker Sherry**

## Home Grown Financial Advisor

East Palestine native Parker Sherry is now a Junior Partner and Train Derailment Financial Settlement Specialist at WRS Wealth Advisors located in Boardman, OH. He is excited to bring comprehensive wealth management & planning strategies to his hometown!

Contact Parker today to discuss your derailment settlement, financial goals, retirement plans, and investment opportunities.

**"My goal is to help you make informed decisions about your finances and work towards financial stability and prosperity," says Parker. "I look forward to dedicating my efforts to the residents of East Palestine and the neighboring communities."**

8286 South Avenue  
Building A  
Boardman, OH 44512

☎ 330-965-0370; ext. 107  
🌐 [www.wrswealth.com](http://www.wrswealth.com)  
✉ [PSherry@wrswealth.com](mailto:PSherry@wrswealth.com)



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## BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT

### Threshold Residential Services

#### Independence Lives Here

As the largest private employer in East Palestine, Threshold Residential Services has been in operation for more than 48 years, providing individuals with developmental disabilities opportunities for personal growth, independence, and overall improved quality of life. From residential homes to day programming and vocational opportunities, they ensure a safe and positive environment for all.

They offer residential services and nursing care in 22 locations throughout Columbiana County, along with high-quality employee benefits and competitive wages. Direct Support Professionals are the backbone of Threshold Residential Services and are always in high demand for hands-on support to individuals in both home and community settings. They assist with essential tasks such as cooking, housekeeping, medication administration, and skill development, positively impacting the lives of those they serve.

As a provider of Integrated Community Employment Services, Threshold matches individuals seeking competitive integrated employment with workplaces looking for employees. With job coaches, onsite training, and pre-vocational assistance, they assist adults with developmental disabilities to find employment and further their independence.

#### Businesses

- The **EP Corner Store** provides a wide array of gifts and goods to add to your home or give to someone special. Store hours are Monday through Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- The **Threshold Detail Shop** helps to keep your vehicle clean on the inside and out. Service with a smile is available Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

"By eliminating barriers to care and independence for our clients as well as cultivating a supportive and inclusive community for underestimated individuals, we're making a difference for our clients, our team members, and our community," said Chris Page, CEO of Threshold Services."

For more information or to apply for a Direct Support Professional opening, visit [thresholdresidential.org](https://thresholdresidential.org)

 [Threshold Residential Services](https://thresholdresidential.org)



*The Community Sensory Garden maintained by Threshold Residential supports the East Palestine community and residents with developmental disabilities, allowing for a safe, relaxing, and educational space.*



*Celebrating its 13th anniversary, the Corner Store embodies Threshold's commitment to community integration by providing meaningful employment to individuals with Developmental Disabilities.*

#### COUPON



**DETAIL SHOP**  
A THRESHOLD Business

# \$5 OFF

ALL ORDERS/PURCHASES GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO \$50 AT BOTH THE EAST PALESTINE CORNER STORE AND THE THRESHOLD DETAIL SHOP

**Expires on 8-31-24.** Cannot be combined with any other coupon. Coupon must be presented and surrendered at time of purchase. Not valid on gift cards or previous purchases. Exclusions may apply.



## 2024 Independence Day Festival

Thank you to everyone who celebrated July 4th with our community at the annual East Palestine Independence Day Festival! To stay updated with community events follow us on social and check out our website: [epohio.org/around-town/](https://epohio.org/around-town/)

*Pictured at right from top to bottom and left to right: the stunning fireworks; spectators in the park waiting for the show to begin; Patrolman Anthony Monteleone; and Firefighters collecting to Fill the Boot for the E.P. Firefighter Association (from left to right) Mary Matthews, Matt Dodge, Frank Policaro and Shane Griffith.*




**HAPPY**  
**INDEPENDENCE**  
*Day*

## EAST PALESTINE CLINIC PROUDLY SERVICING THE HEALTHCARE NEEDS OF THIS COMMUNITY HERE WHEN YOU NEED US MOST!

- Mild Illness & Injury
- Flu Vaccines
- Child Immunizations & Check Ups
- Annual Wellness Exams
- Laceration Repair
- Train Derailment Screening for First Responders and Residents
- STI Screening & Treatment
- Women's Pap Test & Pelvic Exams
- Glucose, A1C, and Blood Pressure Screenings
- Point of Care Testing for common illnesses (COVID/Flu/Strep)
- Sports Physicals

**OPEN MONDAY THRU FRIDAY  
FROM 8 AM — 4 PM  
139 NORTH WALNUT STREET,  
EAST PALESTINE, OH 44413  
(330) 362-4920**

 **East Liverpool City Hospital**

Member of Prime Healthcare Foundation





## Opportunity Appalachia Awards Grant to Village

### Funding to Support the Historic East Palestine Freight Depot

The Village of East Palestine has been awarded technical assistance services valued at \$55,000 from Opportunity Appalachia, a program aimed at fostering job growth, business support, and investment in Central Appalachia. One of 29 high-impact initiatives selected, the funding will help revitalize the historic freight depot near the northwest corner of Taggart and N. Market Streets, contributing to the community's economic and cultural resurgence.

#### Project Overview

Originally built in 1905, Norfolk Southern Corporation (NS) will be transferring the depot to the Village for a nominal fee of \$1 after restoring the building's exterior. The Village has appointed the East Palestine Community Improvement Corporation (EPCIC) to manage the redevelopment and reuse of the depot project on its behalf.

The depot is approximately 18.5' x 133.5' (just over 2,400 square feet). The exterior was restored in keeping with its historic design. Currently, the inside of the depot has no working electric, HVAC or plumbing, but NS has committed to providing an additional \$100,000 grant for interior improvements. The Opportunity Appalachia grant will pay for architects and consultants to create architectural concepts, construction cost estimates and market assessments to support this initiative. Through Opportunity Appalachia, these services will be contracted directly by the grant funder for the benefit of the Village and EPCIC. The architectural concepts will be tailored to desired end uses.



## Request for Proposals

The East Palestine Community Improvement Corporation (EPCIC) and the Village of East Palestine are seeking viable business proposals from interested businesses, organizations, or entrepreneurs for the redevelopment and reuse of the historic freight depot. We are not seeking ideas or suggestions for what someone else should do, but what you, your business or your organization propose to do with the space.

Proposals will be evaluated based on their viability, job creation potential, economic benefits, and long-term sustainability. The EPCIC may want to arrange a phone call or interview to learn more about your business and your proposal and discuss any proprietary or financial information.

The RFP will be advertised on the village website, newsletter, and social media for approximately 30 days through September 15, 2024.

Proposals can be submitted using the online form located at [epohio.org/historic-freight-depot](https://epohio.org/historic-freight-depot), or printed and mailed to the EPCIC at 85 N. Market St., East Palestine, OH, 44413, or scanned and emailed to [info@eastpalestine-oh.gov](mailto:info@eastpalestine-oh.gov).



## Attention Savvy Shoppers

### Be Part of Our Progress

To boost our economy and help support local businesses, we will be introducing the **EP VIP Shopper Club**. We are currently seeking local businesses to sign up to become authorized vendors. The program is free for businesses to join, and they choose the discount they offer shoppers, be it a specific dollar amount or a percentage off a purchase. It could also be a special offer or package deal created just for the program.



Merchants who take advantage of the program will benefit because the Village of EP will be spreading the word with billboards, television commercials and social media advertising that will drive traffic to your store at no additional advertising dollar spend for you. Traditionally, shoppers who visit your establishment specifically for the deal may end up spending even more as they shop! We are looking for merchants with physical brick and mortar retail store locations and not online-only vendors.

Once we have enough vendors signed up to participate and can offer a variety of deals and discounts to local shoppers, we will widely publicize the membership website and begin to email out the electronic membership cards. Anyone can sign up, and there is absolutely no membership fee to join the club. If you prefer, you can also pick up a physical card to carry in your wallet at any participating vendor by showing your electronic membership the first time you use the program.

So let's get shopping and saving together. It's a WIN-WIN to bring customers back to the Village of East Palestine and for savvy VIP shoppers to get deals on the local goods and services they need. Stay tuned for announcements on social media for the official launch of the program and look for posters and door clings in the windows and doors of Certified Participating Vendors. These discounts will change frequently and opportunities to save will increase as new businesses join the program, so check the website often.

Scan QR code or visit [epohio.org/rewards/vendor-registration/](https://epohio.org/rewards/vendor-registration/) to sign up!



## EP VIP SHOPPER CLUB

### Certified Participating Vendors

Here are just a few of the merchants who signed up first to be part of this amazing program.



## DETAIL SHOP

A THRESHOLD Business





## Breaking Ground On East Palestine Park (Continued from page 1)

As presented at the East Palestine Village Council special meeting on June 3 by Michael Baker International, the project's architect, the new aquatic center is the largest undertaking. It will have an Olympic-sized pool, splash pad, modern pool house and concession stand, a large deck and retractable glass doors

and improvements to the brick pavilion, which will winterize the space for year-round usage.

To stay up to date on the renovation progress, please visit our website [epohio.org/news](http://epohio.org/news).

### East Palestine Park Revitalization



*The rendering shown above is for illustrative purposes and may not reflect the final design.*

#### Major elements of the project include:

- A new zero-entry swimming pool with a splash pad and toddler area and a new pool house
- Three new modern playgrounds
- Upgraded baseball fields
- New basketball courts, tennis courts, and pickleball courts
- A new amphitheater with an electrified stage
- Improvements to the brick pavilion and community center
- Enhanced parking lots and improved traffic flow
- General upgrades to facilities and walkways



NEED  
INDICIA

85 North Market Street  
East Palestine, OH 44413



@villageofepohio

# EAST PALESTINE PROGRESS

## New Listing of Available East Palestine Properties

The EPCIC website has added an additional resource to help spur economic growth in the Village of East Palestine. On [epohio.org](http://epohio.org) under the Economic Development drop down there is a new web page that lists [available sites and buildings](#) for sale or lease.

With the help of the [Columbiana County Port Authority](#) and ZoomProspector, we have been able to build a page with East Palestine listings. If you are a property owner who would like to list your property or buildings for sale or lease, please fill out the forms on the page. This is a free service that can be used whether or not the property is listed with a broker.

Entrepreneurs, consider starting and/or growing your business with us here in the Village of East Palestine. Check back often for new listings and investment opportunities.

We are committed to assisting our business community as well as our residents in any way we can. Check out these other available small business resources on the [Economic Development page](#) of our website.

