



EAST PALESTINE PROGRESS

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Forgivable Loans Still Available from EP Emergency Support Program

[The East Palestine Emergency Support Program](#) was created to provide loans to assist with ongoing expenses and recovery efforts for businesses impacted by the February 2023 train derailment. To date, 23 businesses have received support totaling more than \$3.8 million of the \$5 million available for 0% interest, forgivable loans. The loan program was created by the Ohio Department of Development in partnership with the Ohio General Assembly with funds from the Controlling Board Emergency Purposes/Contingencies Fund.

Eligibility

For-profit and non-profit businesses located within a two-mile radius of East Palestine that were operational on or prior to Dec. 1, 2022, are eligible to apply. The loans are 0% interest and range from \$10,000 to \$1 million. The loans are forgivable

if utilized for payroll, employee benefits, rent or mortgage payments, utility expenses, worker protection, or inventory replacement expenses related to the train derailment. Please be aware applicants will need to document financial impacts from the derailment.

How to Apply

The EPESP will be available until all funds have been committed. Eligible businesses can still apply through the online application available at development.ohio.gov/EastPalestine.

For help or questions about the program, contact:

Haedan Panezott - Columbiana County Port Authority Private Sector Specialist
(330) 424-1800 ext.120
haedanp@ccpa-ohioriver.com • <https://ccpa-ohioriver.com>

Community Events CALENDAR

■ Merchant Summer Sidewalk Sale

Saturday, July 20

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

Sponsored by East Palestine Chamber of Commerce

■ WRS Train Derailment Financial Settlement Forum

Monday, July 22, 2024

6:00 p.m.

East Palestine High School Auditorium

Sponsored by WRS Wealth Advisors

■ Rotary Annual Car Cruise

Saturday, August 17, 2024

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

Downtown East Palestine

Sponsored by East Palestine Rotary

Management Transition in East Palestine Train Derailment Cleanup

The cleanup operations following the train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio, transitioned from a Unified Command (UC) to a Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) structure on June 28, 2024. The UC, established in February 2023, brought together various agencies to manage the long-term emergency response effectively, achieving key milestones such as completing main line and car scrapping cleanup activities and making significant progress in Sulphur and Leslie Runs. Remaining tasks include waste shipment, equipment demobilization, property restoration, and continuing environmental monitoring. The U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA will maintain a strong on-site presence, ensuring compliance with legal requirements and overseeing ongoing activities. The public will see no apparent changes in site operations, and cleanup activities are expected to continue through 2024, with updates available on the US EPA's website. [epa.gov](https://www.epa.gov).

WATER/SEWER DEPARTMENT UPDATE



The Village of East Palestine's new Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) Filtration system was placed in service on June 13, 2024. The filters were installed as part of a contingency plan put in place because of the train derailment. The GAC filters will add another layer of protection to the Village's water treatment plant now and in the future. Sampling of the municipal and monitoring wells will continue on a monthly basis. Be on the lookout for information regarding an open house that will be held later this summer at the water treatment plant.



WEALTH ADVISORS

Wealth & Retirement Specialists

Save the Date

Train Derailment Financial Settlement Forum



Parker Sherry

- Monday, July 22 at 6:00 p.m.
- East Palestine High School Auditorium
- 360 West Grant Street East Palestine, OH 44413



WRS Wealth Advisors Financial Advisor/EP native **Parker Sherry** and the WRS Team will be hosting a **FREE** Train Derailment Financial Settlement Forum featuring a panel of certified industry professionals.

- Learn about your rights and options
- Compensation may be available
- Deadline to file a claim is August 22, 2024
- Tax Relief Update on Railroad Payments (1270)
- Q&A with Local Financial Advisors and panel of professionals

Space will be limited. RSVPs are encouraged by scanning the QR Code or emailing

PShermy@wrswealth.com



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Threshold Residential Services Celebrates Grand Reopening of Community Sensory Garden

Threshold Residential Services recently revealed the grand opening of their newly renovated Community Sensory Garden at 71 W. Taggart Street. This beautiful garden is now open to residents and the broader East Palestine community, offering a safe and relaxing space to engage with nature in a sensory-rich environment. Sensory gardens are renowned for their therapeutic benefits and are particularly impactful for individuals with disabilities, additional needs, and young children.

A notable feature of the garden is the decorative raised beds, painted by members of the East Palestine Middle School (EPMS) Student Advisory Council. The creation of the garden was a collaborative effort and brought together many state and local organizations including Columbiana County Mental Health & Recovery Board, the East Palestine Resiliency Center, and the Columbiana County Board of Developmental Disabilities.



State Representative Monica Robb Blasdel attended the ribbon cutting ceremony of the renovated Community Sensory Garden.

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 (CIC), 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 or send an email to epnewsletter@wrladv.com. Funds collected from advertising ad sales will support newsletter postage costs and other CIC development initiatives and administrative expenses.



Celebrating East Palestine Traditions The History of Our Annual Street Fair



This May, we celebrated the 137th annual East Palestine Street Fair. Bringing joy since 1887, the event looks very different today than a century ago when it was billed as the largest fair in the county. Originally, it took place at the community park and resembled a carnival with attractions that included elephants and tigers. Horse races took place where the current walking track resides. The horse stables also were located at the park. Another unique attraction was the homemade aircraft competition! Attendees enjoyed food and games.

Since then, the fair has evolved into the downtown street festival it is today. Long gone are the exotic animals, horses, and homemade flying machines, but the fair still brings entertainment to the village. Carnival games, rides, raffles, live music, and food offer a variety of fun for all ages. We hope to see you next year at the 2025 Street Fair.





85 North Market Street
East Palestine, OH 44413



@villageofepohio

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EAST PALESTINE PROGRESS

BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT

Find True Value at a Hometown Hardware Store

Fuller's True Value takes pride in being an "old-fashioned hardware store." They carry a wide range of products and provide knowledgeable advice, but unlike the big box stores, they just might call you by name.

"When you come in my store, you're a friend. That's how we want to treat you," says owner Ron Fuller.

Shoppers include local folks, but people also have come from miles around. Customer service and that "mom and pop" feel

are part of the draw. (And the price of water softener salt – the best in Columbiana County!) The store has been selling hardware in this location for 134 years with Ron running the business for the last 36 years.

"I'm a fourth-generation family in East Palestine," says Ron. "The village means everything to me. And we always try to give back to the community."

Read the full story on our website.

COUPON

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FULLER'S

25% OFF

COUPON VALID ON ANY NON-SALE ITEM.

Expires on 8-31-24.

Cannot be combined with any other coupon. Coupon must be presented and surrendered at time of purchase. Exclusions may apply.

