



EAST PALESTINE PROGRESS

Your source for village news and information. | Volume 1, Issue 2 | epohio.org



Left to right: Fire Chief Keith Drabick, President Joe Biden, Mayor Trent Conaway, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Michael Regan

President Biden Visits East Palestine

On Friday, February 16, a little more than a year after the Norfolk Southern train derailment, President Biden visited the Village of East Palestine. He toured the site with Mayor Trent Conaway and Fire Chief Keith Drabick and received a briefing from the Environmental Protection Agency on the continuing response and recovery efforts before holding a press conference.

Mayor Trent Conaway had the opportunity to speak on behalf of the village and noted, "Our village has faced many challenges, but as a community, we have shown resilience. We will not be defined by this single event, rather our response to it and our perseverance. President Biden, your long awaited visit to our village today allows us to focus on the things we agree with. Acknowledging this disaster should have never happened.

Address the long time health concerns and the economic growth of the village, and ensure this never happens again to another community."

"Our goal is to be collaborative and proactive, collectively taking control of what we can shape for a stronger future. ... We are committed to seizing every opportunity for growth, enhancing our community's strength and resilience through initiative and perseverance. Here in East Palestine, we are rooted in pride, tradition, and unwavering in our drive for progress and to determine the outcome of any obstacle. I thank you all for coming here today and God bless East Palestine and the United States."

Visit the news on epohio.org to watch a highlight video with Mayor Conaway's full comments.

Community Events CALENDAR

We have some exciting events coming up this spring.

■ Park Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 20

6:00 p.m.

Municipal Building

■ East Palestine Spring Fling

Saturday, March 30

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Downtown Merchants

Sponsored by East Palestine Chamber of Commerce

Show your support for local small businesses with some downtown shopping.

■ Easter Bunny Breakfast

Saturday, March 30

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Park Community Center

Sponsored by East Palestine Rotary

Don't miss out on a morning of delicious food, raffle baskets, 50/50 and memories to last a lifetime.

■ Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 30

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

East Palestine Community Park - Basketball and Tennis Court Area

Sponsored by East Palestine Park Board

Following the breakfast, enjoy an Easter egg hunt for kids of all ages.

Critical Safety Information with RapidSOS

Enhancing Access for First Responders

A new intelligent safety platform has been deployed as part of a partnership between Norfolk Southern Corporation and RapidSOS that will help meet Rail Safety Act regulations and deliver essential data directly into the hands of first responders when they need it most.



Prior to the partnership, emergency dispatchers had to manually search online databases and verbally relay critical information to field responders. The RapidSOS platform securely links over 500 million devices, apps, and sensors to more than 15,000 911 and field responder agencies. The partnership will leverage that network to help provide critical information and capabilities to first responders, including:

- Train cargo contents with details by train car
- Hazardous materials information and emergency response standards and best practices
- Ability to digitally escalate for mutual aid to surrounding agencies
- Online learning, support, and training at no cost to first responders

"Thanks to RapidSOS and Norfolk Southern for coming together to make this information widely accessible," noted Fire Chief Keith Drabick, "and I challenge all the other class one railroads to do the same. This software will get critical information to first responders faster, helping them respond quickly, save lives, and keep our communities safe."

Read more at rapidsos.com.

EPA Progress Report

Highlights from the EPA's February newsletter include:

Backfilling Excavated Areas

Backfilling operations in Car Scrapping Area 4 are now complete. Over the last few weeks, as many as 100 trucks a day delivered clean stone and gravel into this excavated area where it was then graded and leveled.

Easing Taggart Street Traffic Restrictions

Truck traffic on E. Taggart Street will decrease with the completion of major backfilling operations and traffic controls will be reduced, including fewer cones and signage. The speed limit will remain at 15 mph to ensure both community and worker safety while site restoration and other work continue.

Read more in the most recent edition of the East Palestine Train Derailment Response Newsletter delivered to your homes.

STREET AND UTILITY DEPARTMENT

Glenview Cemetery Seasonal Decoration Changes

As the seasons change, please note that all fall and winter decorations must be removed by March 15. Spring and summer decorations can be put up starting April 1, 2024. Thank you for helping us maintain the cemetery's appearance.



Village Manager Reflects on Three Months In

At the end of January, I finished my third month as your Village Manager. It has been a busy and exciting time to be sure. We have a lot to do in the upcoming days and I'm really looking forward to listening to your opinions and suggestions.

So far, we have seen some movement toward that future. We are replacing deteriorating water lines throughout the town. The Community Improvement Corporation has been approved by the state of Ohio and our village council will be appointing its first board in the near future. We are taking action on blight in our village, and we are just getting started.

I want to say thank you to everyone here in EP for making me feel welcome since coming here. I am happy and grateful to be with you on this journey in the days to come.



Chad Edwards
Village Manager

A Well-Earned Farewell

After more than three decades of unwavering commitment to our community, Traci Spratt is retiring as Finance Director of our village. Traci's journey began in 1991 when she first joined as a Finance Clerk. Over the years, her dedication, hard work and leadership skills propelled her to the role of Finance Director, where she has played a vital role in managing our village's finances and served as interim Village Manager during our most trying days.



Traci Spratt
Retired Finance Director

"It has been a pleasure working for the Village of East Palestine for 33 years," said Traci. "I have enjoyed my time serving as the Finance Clerk, Finance Director and Interim Village Manager."

The entire village extends its heartfelt gratitude to Traci and wishes her a joyful retirement. As we bid Traci farewell, we warmly welcome Melissa Hiner, who will be stepping into the role of Finance Director.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



Celebrating Innovation with East Palestine Middle School Robotics Team

Our East Palestine Middle School Robotics Team gives students the invaluable opportunity to practice hands-on learning and teamwork. They can develop key skills in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). The 7th and 8th grade robotics teams showcased these skills at the VEX Robotics Competition hosted by CCCTC (Columbiana County Career and Technical Center). This competition brought together students from neighboring schools to show off their brilliant robot creations. Among fierce competition, Team 33042T set themselves apart by securing the prestigious "Create Award" for their outstanding robot design. Congratulations Team 33042T!



Left to right: Maxxamus Kunselman, Carlie Sorrell, Bryce Giambrone

BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT

1820 Candle Company 20 Years of Scented Success

Established in 2004 by Melissa Smith, 1820 Candle Company has strong roots within our community, dating back to the local 1820's farmstead where it all began. It was here in the kitchen of Melissa's family farmhouse where she first began crafting her signature candle creations. From these humble beginnings the business evolved into a thriving downtown storefront, online shop, and wholesale account friendly supplier for shops all over the country.

1820 Candle Company has kept its small-town charm alive thanks to the three generations of women that run it. Melissa works alongside her mother, Cindy Parker and daughter Sidney Smith.



They make every candle with care on-site; you may even get to witness the process through their shop window. They offer a variety of fragrance lines with over 60 unique scents.

Read more and see a business highlight video on epohio.org. Visit 1820co.com.



1820 House



1820 House

COUPON

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COUPON VALID ON ANY FULL PRICE ITEM.

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.

EAST PALESTINE PROGRESS

2024 Village Council Committees

STREET

Harry "Lenny" Glavan, Chairperson;
Thomas Povenski; Linda May

DEVELOPMENT/FINANCE

Linda May, Chairperson; Tim Blythe;
Thomas Povenski

PARK/RECREATION/CEMETERY

Jessica Rocco, Chairperson; Harry "Lenny"
Glavan; Linda May

UTILITY

Tim Blythe, Chairperson; Doug Simpson;
Jessica Rocco

SAFETY

Thomas Povenski, Chairperson; Jessica
Rocco; Doug Simpson

LEGISLATION

Doug Simpson, Chairperson; Tim Blythe;
Harry "Lenny" Glavan



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Be sure to review the online business directory on the new website epohio.org. Here we have provided a convenient, categorized listing of all the stores and services you might need as a resident or visitor. We are currently listing business names, addresses, phone numbers and website URLs. If you are a business and your information is missing or incorrect, please submit the correction using the form on the site. We hope to enhance these listings with social media links and an email address during the next phase of development.



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