



# EAST PALESTINE PROGRESS

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Park Project - Phase I

## East Palestine Park - Phase 1 Update

Construction Expected to Start in July

At the April 8 East Palestine Village Council meeting, guest speakers Wendy Berrill, Director - Railway and Civil Design, Associate VP and Jason Wagner, Senior Civil Technical Specialist from Michael Baker International shared the revised park plan and explained Phase 1 initiatives. These include: relocation of sport courts and new stage, grading the oval and improving the field area to alleviate drainage issues, extending the parking areas along both sides of the main loop, and adding parking and lighting to the dog park area.

The Village Council confirmed that all the current courts will remain in place for play while the new ones are constructed in their new locations. After approvals, the plan is to start the bid process in May with the hopes to have selected a contractor and start construction in the park after the July 4th Celebration.

Read more and watch the video of the meeting on the news section at [epohio.org](http://epohio.org).

## Community Events CALENDAR

### ■ EAST PALESTINE STREET FAIR

**Wednesday, May 22 - Friday, May 24**

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

**and Saturday, May 25**

**1:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.**

*Sponsored by East Palestine Chamber of Commerce*

Enjoy four days of rides, games, food, and fun for the entire family.

### ■ EAST PALESTINE PARK COMMUNITY POOL

**Open:**

**Saturday, May 25 - Monday, May 27**

**Closed:**

**Tuesday, May 28 & Wednesday, May 29**

**Open for Schools Out Special:**

**Thursday, May 30**

**Open for the Season:**

**Friday, May 31**

### ■ MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

**Monday, May 27**

**11:00 a.m.**

*Sponsored by East Palestine Masonic Moose Lodge 467*

The parade will start on North Market St. going south to West Main St. and will end with a memorial ceremony at the Community Park Gazebo.

### ■ ALICE STREET SALE

**Saturday, June 1**

Save the date for the annual unofficial village-wide yard sale. Find special deals happening all over town.

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

### EAST PALESTINE THINK TANK OPEN HOUSES

**Tuesday, May 28**

**4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

**and Wednesday, May 29**

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

Way Station - 109 West Rebecca St.

The group has created strategic initiatives and a vision statement and community members are invited to provide their comments at two upcoming events. The EP Think Tank is a participant in the Ohio Rural Community Assistance Program's (RCAP) Building Thriving and Resilient Communities Program. This federally-funded program seeks to help communities grow and prosper through grass-roots economic and community development, by focusing on existing assets, placemaking strategies and building entrepreneurship opportunities.

## Park Community Pool Reopens with a Splash



East Palestine Park Community Pool will open back up at the end of the month just in time for summer fun. We have made some rate changes that allow all active military service members and veterans access to the pool free of charge!

The pool will be closed May 28-29, as schools remain in session. However, the pool will open its doors for the "School's Out Special" on Thursday, May 30 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. This event is exclusively for children in the East Palestine School District, grades K-8. Free admission passes for the event will be distributed to students in their classrooms prior to the end of the school year.

## 2024 POOL RATES

### Daily Admission Passes:

- Students (6 - 18 years).....\$5
- Seniors (62+).....\$5
- Active Military/Veterans..... NO CHARGE
- Adult.....\$7

### Season Passes:

- Individual .....\$85
- Family of 5.....\$180\*
- \* Additional Family Member.....+ \$20 each
- Student (6 - 18 years) .....\$75
- Senior Rate (Individual).....\$60
- Senior Rate (Spouses) .....\$80

### Swimming Lessons:

- Weekly .....\$40 per week/\$8 per lesson
- Water Aerobics .....\$7 (without pass)\*\*
- Lap Swimming per day .....\$7 (without pass)\*\*

### Youth Camps:

- Rate per person.....\$5

### Pool Parties:

- 1 - 25 people.....\$120
- 26 - 50 people .....\$175
- 51 - 100 people .....\$200
- 100+ people .....\$225

*\*\* There is no charge with a pool pass*

## Help for Small Business

Multiple programs exist to help small businesses in and around East Palestine grow. The following is a summary of resources that can help.

Businesses needing a loan to fund the "gap" between what a bank will loan and project needs, can look to:

- **Valley Ventures**, a non-profit out of Youngstown, can provide several different loans, including SBA 504 loans and several revolving loan funds. Generally, rates are below market rates. Learn more at [valleyedp.com](http://valleyedp.com).
- **OMEGA**, a regional council of governments offers revolving loan funds. Interest rates are generally below market and subordinate collateral requirements can help banks get comfortable with loans. Learn more at [omegadistrict.org](http://omegadistrict.org).
- The **Small Business Administration** (SBA) 7(a) Loan Guaranty is available through participating banks. Rates and terms are determined by the bank. The SBA guarantees a portion of the loan, allowing the bank to approve a loan it would not normally approve. Loan approval times can be expedited. Talk with your bank or go to [sba.gov](http://sba.gov).

Businesses needing counseling or technical assistance also can get free or reduced cost access to services through:

- The **Small Business Development Center** (SBDC) out of Youngstown State and Kent State Universities offers free classes and can provide one-on-one counseling, including exporting assistance, procurement assistance and advice on business plans. Learn more at [sbdc-ysu.org](http://sbdc-ysu.org).
- The **Youngstown Business Incubator** can provide entrepreneurial support services and specializes in additive manufacturing, digital sales, and technology company development. Learn more at [ybi.org](http://ybi.org).
- **MAGNET** can assist manufacturers with customized consulting services, talent development, and automation. Learn more at [manufacturingsuccess.org](http://manufacturingsuccess.org).
- **Mahoning Valley Manufacturers Coalition** can help with work force recruitment and development strategies. Learn more at [mahoningvalleymfg.com](http://mahoningvalleymfg.com).



## BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT

### Sparkle Market Shines as the Community Grocery Store

Since 1955, Sparkle Market has been rooted in a vision forged by four local independent grocers: provide customers with neighborly service and high-quality products at the lowest prices possible. Today, there are 17 Sparkle Markets serving communities in Ohio, West Virginia and Pennsylvania.



"All Sparkle Markets are locally owned and operated by independent operators," notes owner Joe Rosak, Ohio Valley Sparkle Markets. "Shopping at Sparkle Market is a more friendly environment than your big box grocery stores or corporate-minded grocery stores."

Life-long resident Scott Dodge, store manager at the East Palestine Sparkle Market, has worked in the store for over 40 years, serving as manager for the last 30. "We are a full-service supermarket. We carry a complete line of groceries, meats, and deli." Scott adds, "I think we have really fair prices. As far as meat and milk prices, it's really going to be hard to beat. We have pretty much everything you would need. And in everything we do, we try to help the customers."

The East Palestine Sparkle Market also contributes to the community, donating to charities, organizations, and sponsoring local sports through the High School.

Joe and Scott invite you to come shop at the East Palestine Sparkle Market.

[ohiovalleysparklemarket.com](http://ohiovalleysparklemarket.com)



Scott Dodge, Store Manager

## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



### Student Writers Excel at Power of the Pen

Across Ohio nearly 300 schools compete in Power of the Pen writing tournaments. This program allows students to collaborate with each other to grow their skills and foster teamwork with the help of a mentor. These young writers work on mastering their skills and developing their own unique writing style. Two middle school students, Kara Lewis and Kristina Huffman, showcased their exceptional writing abilities as Regional Contestants for Power of the Pen.



Their remarkable performance is advancing them to the State Tournament held at Ashland University in May. Congratulations Kara and Kristina!

Pictured are Kara Lewis and Kristina Huffman

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

### Golf Cart and Under-Speed Vehicle Registration

Under-speed vehicles/golf carts must be inspected annually and have a valid inspection sticker.

**Fee:** \$20.00

**Location:** Police Department

**Time:** Seven days a week  
11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

**Call to Schedule:** 330-426-4341

Remember these rules:

- Driving is allowed Wednesday, May 1 through Thursday, October 31.
- Driving is NOT allowed between dusk and dawn or during inclement weather.
- Operators must be at least 16 years of age and have a valid driver's license.
- Children 8 years old or less and under four feet nine inches (4'9") in height, are prohibited from being a passenger.

Owners and operators are encouraged to familiarize themselves with ordinance 447.



# EAST PALESTINE PROGRESS

## Advertising Opportunity Newsletter Now Accepting Ads

The *East Palestine Progress* is delivered directly to more than 3,000 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](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 CIC development initiatives and administrative expenses.



[epohio.org](http://epohio.org)



## Are You a Local Merchant that Wants to be Featured?

We are featuring one business per month with articles and a video on [epohio.org](http://epohio.org) and in *East Palestine Progress*. If your small business would like to be considered for an upcoming spot this summer/fall and would be willing to be interviewed on camera and possibly offer readers a coupon, please submit your name and contact information on the Ask a Question contact form at [epohio.org/contact](http://epohio.org/contact). We are also highlighting businesses on the CIC social media pages on a more frequent basis, with a short blurb, photo, and business tag. Please use the same contact form for consideration.



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