NOVEMBER 2026

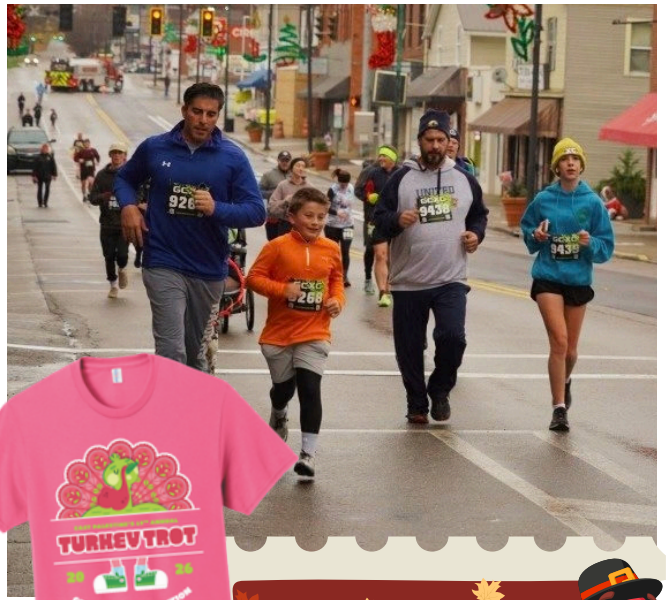
Volume 3, Issue 11

VILLAGE OF EAST PALESTINE OHIO

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THE EAST PALESTINE TURKEY TROT

The Turkey Trot returns on Thanksgiving Morning!

The annual **East Palestine Turkey Trot** is returning to City Park on November 26, offering community members a fun and active way to begin their Thanksgiving Day celebration. This popular holiday tradition brings together runners, walkers, families and friends of all ages for a festive 5k event while promoting wellness and community spirit. The Turkey Trot is sponsored by the **East Palestine Area Chamber of Commerce**, and continues to be one of our favorite Thanksgiving events.

Participants are encouraged to register early and make plans to join fellow community members for a memorable Thanksgiving morning. Whether you are an experienced runner, casual walker or looking for a great start to Thanksgiving morning, this event is welcome to all fitness levels and ages.

Early packet pickup will be held at the East Palestine City Park Community Center on Sunday, November 22, from 1:00PM to 3:00PM. Race day registration and packet pickup will take place at the Community Center from 8:00AM to 8:45AM on Thanksgiving morning. Participants who register in advance will recieve commemorative medals, and are limited to the first 300 pre-registered runners and walkers. Early registration not only guartentees the best event experience, but also helps ensure participants recieve their race materials before race day.

Cash prizes of $10 will be awarded to the first-place male and female finishers in each of the following age groups: 10 & under, 11-15, 16-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69 and 70 & up. In addition to the age-group awards, the overall male and female first-place finishers will each receive a $100 cash prize. All awards will be mailed out following the race.

The Turkey Trot serves as an opportunity to connect with our neighbors, celebrate community traditions, and enjoy the holiday in a positive and energetic way. Many participants return year after year, including **Illustrator Laura Garvin**, who has been the graphic designer and promoter of the Turkey Trot for 13 years! Her grandfather, **John Turner**, has been the chairman of the Turkey Trot since 2013. This event makes a cherished Thanksgiving tradition for families throughout the region. So whether you are aiming for a personal best, enjoying a leisurely morning walk, or continuing a family tradition, the East Palestine Turkey Trot is the perfect way to kick off your Thanksgiving Day. To register, please visit the Run Sign-Up website, or scan the QR code below.



A Treasure in Art with East Palestine Roots

EPHS Class of 2013 Illustrator Laura Garvin brings whimsical art to the region

Illustrator and designer Laura Garvin brings imagination, nostalgia, and vibrant images to life through her illustrations. Based in Pittsburgh, her whimsical style blends modern digital techniques with the warmth and familiarity of traditional art styles while giving adults a touch of childhood wonder. Beyond her creative work, Laura serves as an illustrator for SCBWI Pennsylvania: West and has collaborated with a variety of regional and national clients. Her passion for art, community, and creativity shines through every piece, making her work both memorable and delightfully inspiring.

Not only an annual participant of the East Palestine Turkey Trot, Laura also graduated from East Palestine High School in the Class of 2013, where she knew even in her younger years that art was her passion. Laura shares, *"Growing up in a small town means you get to watch how important and impactful grass root initiatives can be. Having a creative career means I need (and get!) to wear many hats - I'm an illustrator and designer, but I'm also a social media coordinator, video editor, marketer, storyteller, etc. I'm proud of the perseverance and DIY approach to life I learned from being a part of the East Palestine community."* In her work, you are sure to find her warm charm and childlike spark with inspiration from books, childhood memories, nature, museums, and anything that reminds her of the magic in our world and within ourselves.



Laura's favorite projects and accomplishments to date have been illustrating picture books, her solo exhibit at the McDonough Museum of Art in Youngstown, creating artwork for the Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens in Pittsburgh, and branding the East Palestine Turkey Trot - which changes in color and style each year!

Beyond her accomplishments, Laura continues to inspire new artists and illustrators to believe in themselves, and to be proactive. Laura shares, *"Having a creative career has never been easy and there isn't a single or 'right' roadmap to follow, meaning you'll be figuring it out as you go. Don't be afraid to take a chance (people are more likely to say yes than you think!) and connect with other creative people who understand you and your art. The life you want as an artist, whatever that means to you, is totally possible but it only works if you work, too."*

With Laura's goals exceeding many milestones in the past few years, her dreams continue strong towards publishing prints on her own online shop. Soon, her shop snailberryart.com will have stickers, prints, and more holiday features available for purchase. To stay updated with Laura's journey and support her artwork, follow SnailBerryArt (on most platforms) on Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok!

@ SNAILBERRYART











EAST PALESTINE'S WICKED WINDOWS CONTEST











Fast Fact Fridays: Learn More About EP Schools One Fact at a Time

How much do you know about East Palestine Schools? From student achievements and classroom experiences to district finances and the many opportunities open to our students, a lot is happening within our schools that may not always be visible to our community.



That is one of the reasons East Palestine Schools introduced Fast Fact Fridays just before the start of this school year. The goal is simple: to share information about our district in small, easy-to-understand pieces that help our community learn more about the schools that serve them. Through these weekly posts, we are highlighting facts about our students, staff, programs, accomplishments and district operations. Some facts celebrate the hard work happening in our classrooms, while others offer insight into the numbers, decisions and resources that help keep our students moving forward.

We recognize that school districts are complex organizations, and it can be difficult to understand everything that goes into educating students and operating a district. By sharing more information one fact at a time, we hope to make that information more accessible, encourage questions and provide a clearer picture of what happens behind the scenes. For a community like East Palestine, our schools are an important part of who we are. The more our residents know about the district, the better equipped they are to understand our progress, recognize the work taking place and stay informed about the issues that affect our students and our community.

Fast Fact Fridays are also an opportunity to share information that might otherwise go unnoticed. Whether it is a measure of student growth, the experience of our teaching staff or a closer look at how the district operates, each fact offers another piece of the the bigger picture.

We encourage residents to follow East Palestine Schools on social media and/or download our app, and take a few moments each Friday to see what is being shared. We hope that, over time, these small pieces of information will add up to a greater understanding of our district and the people who make it a special place to learn and work. Because understanding our schools starts with knowing more about them, one fact at a time.

Creativity Runs Deep in EP Schools!

Our Bulldogs brought home some big honors at the 2026 Johnny Appleseed Festival Art Competition! EPHS senior Lacie Brown earned Best of Show (Johnny's Choice) for her artwork, earning a cash prize and the exciting opportunity to have her design featured on next year's Johnny Appleseed Festival shirts! What a fantastic accomplishment!

And the recognition did not stop there: Eigth-grader Brooklynn Barr earned 1st place in her age group, while seventh-grader Chezna Rettig and fifth-grader Daxton Vitko each earned 3rd palce in their respective age groups.

We are so proud of these talented Bulldogs and the creativity they shared from our community!



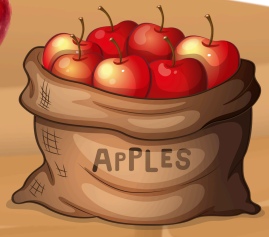












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