

North Township NAVIGATOR



YOUR GUIDE TO NEWS AND SERVICES IN EAST CHICAGO, HAMMOND, HIGHLAND, MUNSTER AND WHITING • WINTER 2015

PEACE FROM THE PULPIT

North Township Trustee Frank Mrvan is working with the township's faith-based community to help reduce gang violence in the region.

Pastor James Calaway, of The Gate Church in Hammond and Munster, and Bishop Tavis Grant, of the Greater First Baptist Church in East Chicago, have stepped forward to lead the inaugural effort, which will involve coordinating with willing churches throughout East Chicago, Hammond, Highland, Munster and Whiting to preach "Peace from the Pulpit" during worship services in the spring.

"Our goal is not to bring everyone to one place, but to have as many region churches as possible preaching to bring an end to violence and gangs that plague many of our communities," Calaway said. "We hope that bringing our church leaders together preaching a consistent message of non-violence on the same day will have an impact."

The initiative was sparked by the death of 16-year-old Lauren Calvillo in July. The teen was simply trying to go about the business



PEACE FROM
THE PULPIT

All of the region's church leaders are invited to join "Peace from the Pulpit," an initiative planned to curb violence in our communities. Getting involved today will help bring a more peaceful tomorrow.

TO LEARN MORE: Call Operations Director Lori Polgar at the Trustee's office at (219) 932-2530, ext 324.

of living in her central Hammond neighborhood when she was slain by gang warfare.

Mrvan was inspired to create the "Peace from the Pulpit" initiative in Calvillo's honor.

"This young girl had everything to live for, but she wasn't given the opportunity," he said. "We want to do everything we can to make sure this type of senseless tragedy never happens again in our community. Gangs have no place here. The only way they will leave is if we all stand up, refusing to allow our neighborhoods to be turned into war zones." ▲

CALLING ALL CHURCHES ...

North Township churches and social service agencies are climbing aboard an inaugural effort to eliminate homelessness among children and their families as part of the national Family Promise initiative. Founded in 1985, Family Promise launches satellite initiatives throughout the country based on the willingness of local congregations to support efforts that reduce homelessness. The organization boasts a 78 percent success rate. While local social service organizations assist parents in finding jobs and permanent housing, congregations provide interim housing, meals and tutoring.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED? Call Organizer Jill Hostetler at (317) 450-7229 or email familypromisejillh@gmail.com.

CREDIT COUNSELING

Consumer Credit Counseling will host two workshops in December at the North Township Trustee's office in Hessville.

WHEN: 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. December 8

WHERE: Circle of Services, 2835 - 165th Street in Hessville

INFO: For more information or to reserve your spot, Cindy Rivera at (219) 803-0659.

RDA FUNDING ENSURES DIAL-A-RIDE TRANSIT SERVICE CONTINUES

The Regional Development Authority has extended Dial-a-Ride funding, guaranteeing the on-demand transit service will continue operating for the next two years.

North Township Trustee Frank Mrvan said the funding was an early Christmas present for residents throughout the five communities that depend on Dial-a-Ride to get to appointments and the grocery store.

"We are always lobbying to secure long-term funding sources for Dial-a-Ride," Mrvan said. "In the meantime, we are grateful for interim

funding to continue our promise to provide on-demand transit service to North Township residents who need it."

An ongoing blessing for township residents who cannot drive, the service works to keep 12,000 or more vehicles off the roads each month, reducing congestion on already overburdened thoroughfares.

The North Township transit system also helps reduce emissions and boost air quality in northern Lake County, which is considered a non-attainment area for air pollutants. ▲



RESERVATIONS

Dial-a-Ride operates Monday through Friday except holidays. Email dial-a-ride@ntto.net or call (219) 932-2530. Follow the prompts and push #4.



WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOU! FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT US AT NORTHTOWNSHIPTRUSTEE.COM.



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HAMMOND OFFICE

5947 Hohman Ave., Hammond, IN 46320
Phone: (219) 932-2530 **Fax:** (219) 937-4412
Hours: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday – Thursday

EAST CHICAGO OFFICE

2105 Broadway, East Chicago, IN 46312
Phone: (219) 398-2435 **Fax:** (219) 397-2190
Hours: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday – Friday

HESSVILLE CIRCLE OF SERVICES

2835-165th St., Hammond, IN 46323
Phone: (219) 803-0659
Hours: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday – Friday



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NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

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The Navigator is produced by:
 The Idea Factory • (219) 779.9041
www.theideafactory.us.com

Printed by Miss Print
 8244 Calumet Avenue
 Munster, IN 46321



COAT DRIVE A SUCCESS! North Township's 8th Annual Coat Drive arrived just in time for 200 individuals from more than 60 families who were desperately in need of warm winter coats, hats, scarves and mittens. Partners in the project were NIPSCO, BP, Salzeider Family Charity and Kusiak Cares. A huge thank you to everyone who donated gently used winter clothing items to the effort to keep North Township warm this winter! **[North Township photos]**



LETTER FROM THE NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

211 call system helps with personal crises, those in need, the elderly and so much more

Did you know social service assistance for North Township residents can be accessed simply by dialing 211?

A call to 211 activates a regional personal emergency response system designed to keep residents in need from falling through the cracks. An online chat feature is also available at www.nwi211.com.

We are partnering with Northwest Indiana Community Action to get the word out that help is available 24/7 for crises that cannot wait – such as the threat of suicide, addiction issues and senior assistance.

NICA Communications Manager Melissa Bohacek is working with us to make residents aware of the service and all of the issues that can be handled through the call center.

The 211 system provides a vital safety net for the most vulnerable members of our community. These are the kind of emergencies that come without warning and strike those we hold most dear.

The 211 system is free and confidential and works in concert with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It provides an advocate for individuals who are not in a place where they can advocate for themselves. ▲

FRANK J. MRVAN
 North Township Trustee

SIGN UP FOR OUR CALL LIST

If you are a senior or homebound and would like to be part of the township's well-being checks, call the trustee's office at (219) 932-2530, ext. 324. There is no cost for the service.

SHOVELING ASSISTANCE

During heavy snow, North Township implements an automated call system to help those who are snowed in.

INFO: If you need assistance or want to volunteer, call the North Township Snow Hotline at (219) 306-1344.

WINTERIZATION KITS

Eligible residents can use one \$40 voucher per month – December through February – to purchase items at Menard's stores that conserve energy and heat.

INFO: Eligibility is based on income. Call (219) 932-2530 to see if you qualify.

PET ASSISTANCE

The township continues to work with Buddies Pet Pantry to provide pet food, pet supplies and toys for those in need.

INFO: Call (219) 932-2530 to see if you qualify. If you want to donate cash, pet food or toys, call (219) 728-1401.

WINTER IN THE PARK

Wicker Park is alive with activity throughout the winter season. Bundle up for a brisk walk or bring your binoculars and look skyward. Chances are you'll spy more than one of our feathered friends — blue jays, cardinals and woodpeckers are abundant throughout the park.

WINTER SNOW TRAILS

When the weather outside is frightful, walkers and runners are often accompanied on the Wicker Park trails by snowshoe enthusiasts and cross-country skiers. Bring your own equipment and join in the fun on either the 2.5 mile trail or the more manageable half-mile inner trail.

DOG RUN

Look for the new and improved dog run to open in May. Be sure to check out the spring issue of the North Township Navigator for new guidelines to register your dog along with the introduction of minimal fees.

SHELTER & PICNIC RENTALS

As soon as the end of the year approaches, Wicker Memorial Park Superintendent Brett Bierman knows he will begin fielding calls to rent summer space at one of the park's 11 picnic areas and six buildings. "We open reservations right after the New Year and expect that all of our facilities will be fully booked for the summer by the middle of January," Bierman said. "Right after Thanksgiving, we start getting daily calls from folks who know how popular Wicker Park is for family reunions, class picnics and general get-togethers."

Reservations for the 2016 summer season – May 1 to Sept. 30 – begin 8:30 Jan. 4. The fees for 2016 are:

	WEEKENDS/ HOLIDAYS	WEEKDAYS
GENERAL PICNIC AREA	\$ 100	\$ 75
PAVILION	\$ 525	\$ 275
STANDS	\$ 225	\$ 175
SHELTERS	\$ 175	\$ 125
BREEZEWAY	\$ 275	\$ 225

Reservations are available for out-of-township and out-of-state residents at a higher cost. Discounts are available for not-for-profit organizations that have a member who is a North Township resident. For more information, contact Wicker Memorial Park at (219) 838-3420.



For more information

WICKER MEMORIAL PARK
8554 Indianapolis Boulevard
Highland, Indiana 46322
www.wickermemorialpark.com



Around the Township

East Chicago

PICTURES WITH SANTA

Trustee Frank Mrvan invites all North Township parents and guardians to bring your little ones for a visit and free photo with Santa!

WHEN: 3:30 to 5 p.m. December 17
WHERE: North Township Trustee's East Chicago office, 2105 Broadway
INFO: Call (219) 398-2435.

Hammond

A CHRISTMAS STORY

This annual exhibit features Macy's window displays depicting scenes from "A Christmas Story." Kids also can make crafts and write letters to Santa. We "triple dog dare" you to stop by and get your picture taken with Flick!

WHEN: Now through January 3
WHERE: Indiana Welcome Museum, 7770 Corrine Drive, Hammond
INFO: Call (800) ALL-LAKE or visit AChristmasStoryComesHome.com.

Highland

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS

Children and their parents are invited to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Each child should bring canned goods or paper products for the Old Firehouse Community Center. This free event features activities, pizza and beverages.

WHEN: December 10. Preschoolers from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. K-5 from 3 to 5 p.m.
WHERE: Wicker Park Social Center, 2215 Ridge Road
INFO: Call Tya at (219) 923-9410.

Munster

ROCK ALONG WITH SANTA

Children will enjoy food, songs and holiday stories with Santa Claus. Bring your camera and capture the fun!

WHEN: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. December 10
WHERE: View Restaurant, Centennial Park, 900 N. Centennial Drive
COST: Residents \$10 / Nonresidents \$15
RSVP: Call (219) 836-6900.

Whiting

CHRISTMAS PARADE

Whiting sparkles its way into the season with this hometown holiday parade.

WHEN: 7 p.m. December 4
WHERE: 119th Street business district
INFO: Call (219) 659-7700.

SENIOR DECEMBER LUNCHEON

The luncheon features mixed green salad, baked ham with horseradish, green beans almondine, baked potato with butter, chives and sour cream, apple pie. Includes bread and butter, coffee or hot tea.

WHEN: Noon Dec. 16. Doors open at 11:30 a.m.
WHERE: Wicker Park Social Center, Highland
FEE: Seniors enjoy great food, entertainment, guest speakers and door prizes for \$5.
RESERVATIONS: Call the North Township office at (219) 932-2530, extension 301.



CHRISTMAS DINNER-DANCE

This special holiday dinner-dance features singing sensation Peter Oprisko, who will entertain the crowd with oldies and Christmas songs. Enjoy a delicious dinner of baked ham with dressing, mashed sweet potato, vegetable medley, mixed green salad, cherry pie, homemade bread and coffee.

WHEN: Monday Dec. 7. Doors open 11:30 a.m. Dinner will be served at 12:30 p.m. Door prizes from 1:30 to 2 p.m. and entertainment from 2 to 4 p.m.
WHERE: Wicker Park Social Center, Highland
COST: \$20 per person.
INFO: Call Senior Event Coordinator Eleanor Uribe at (219) 313-3934 or email uribee@ntto.net.



SENIOR FEBRUARY LUNCHEON

The luncheon features vegetable soup, baked fish, scalloped potatoes, green beans and tapioca pudding. Includes bread and butter, coffee or hot tea.

WHEN: Noon Feb. 10. Doors open at 11:30 a.m.
WHERE: Wicker Park Social Center, Highland
FEE: Seniors enjoy great food, entertainment, guest speakers and door prizes for \$5.
RESERVATIONS: Call the North Township office at (219) 932-2530, extension 301.



SENIOR VALENTINE'S DANCE

Join us as we welcome Valentine's Day – North Township style. Enjoy a special Valentine's meal that includes mixed green salad, baked ham with au jus, mashed potatoes, buttered corn, homemade bread, cherry pie and coffee. Gifts will be distributed from 1 to 1:30 p.m. and the Ron Smolen Combo will perform from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

WHEN: Doors open from 11 a.m. to noon Feb. 9. Dinner will be served from noon to 1 p.m.
WHERE: Wicker Park Social Center, Highland
FEE: Reservations are \$20 per person and include a special Valentine's Day meal and entertainment.
INFO: Call Senior Event Coordinator Eleanor Uribe at (219) 313-3934 or email uribee@ntto.net.



TOWNSHIP SPOTLIGHT: EAST CHICAGO



Trustee Frank Mrvan, left, with North Township residents Shaquida Douglas and Tayai Wilder and members of the North Township East Chicago staff: Assistant Chief Deputy Virginia Carter, Catherine Thomas and Gilda Orange.

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY: Tayai Wilder and Shaquida Douglas spied the Little Free Library, softly opening the glass door to peruse the titles of nearly 100 books, free-for-the-taking from North Township's East Chicago client center. The two settled on borrowing a copy of "Mexican Whiteboy," after being told they could take as long as they need to finish the novel. At the Little Free Library, there are no lending cards to be filled out. All of the books are loaned on the honor system. Assistant Chief Deputy Virginia Carter said township clients began using the library as soon as it was put in place in October. Filled with a variety of books, North Township Trustee Frank Mrvan is happy it is becoming a popular addition to the township. The East Chicago library is one of more than 32,000 locations that dot the globe.

PARENTS AS TEACHERS

Parents as Teachers gives children a head start on success in school.

Devoted to strengthening parent-child relationships, Parents as Teachers encourages language development as well as social and motor skill improvement through free activities from credentialed parent educators.

Every participating family receives:

- ⇒ Personal home visits
- ⇒ Resource networking
- ⇒ Group connections
- ⇒ Developmental screening

INFO: To enroll or for more information, call (219) 228-2581 or visit ELPNwi.org.



DRESS FOR SUCCESS! LaFawn Johnson found her favorite job at North Township's East Chicago office. Part of the Senior Community Service Employee Program operated by Indianapolis-based National Able, Johnson began work cleaning the township office in February. It wasn't long before the 42-year resident of East Chicago took on the responsibility of organizing donated clothing for clients in need. "I was a client when the township helped me with this position," she said. "I look forward to coming to work every day. This is my last job and my best job. It's great when things work out like that!"

LOCATION & HOURS

2105 Broadway, East Chicago

Phone: (219) 398-2435

Fax: (219) 397-2190

Hours: 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday – Friday

CHRISTMAS DONATIONS

North Township is looking for donations of gift items for women and children who struggle all year to make ends meet. East Chicago office manager Virginia Carter suggested items, such as gloves, lotions and toys. "These are people who struggle all year," she said. "We just want to make their holidays a little brighter."

INFO: Call Assistant Chief Deputy Virginia Carter at (219) 398-2435.

MOMS TAKING CHARGE

This program helps East Chicago single moms with young children and women who are pregnant. Specialists assist with Medicaid, food stamps, healthcare, housing, education, child care and more.

WHERE: Health East Chicago Center, 100 W. Chicago Ave.

INFO: Call (219) 354-8089

LANDLORD WORKSHOPS

East Chicago rental property owners are invited to attend a workshop on code compliance. Topics include rental registration, public nuisance, permit/licensing requirements, removal of weeds, garbage/debris, animals and more.

WHEN: 5:30 p.m. December 16

WHERE: East Chicago City Hall, 4525 Indianapolis Blvd.

INFO: Call (219) 391-8294.





CHICAGO WOLVES
HUNGRY FOR MORE



Allstate | arena

7 PM FEBRUARY 20
5 PM COACH BUS FROM WICKER PARK
RESERVATIONS MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE

\$30 INCLUDES GAME TICKET + TRANSPORTATION • RSVP 219.932.2530 X 331

Frank J. Mrvan



NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE
BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY

5947 HOHMAN AVENUE
HAMMOND, INDIANA 46320

Sweetheart's Dance

4 - 6 PM • FEBRUARY 6

WICKER PARK SOCIAL CENTER • HIGHLAND

**DANCING • DJ • GAMES
PRIZES • CRAFTS • FOOD**

WHO CAN ATTEND? Children – ages 4 through 12 – accompanied by an adult.

ADMISSION: \$5 per couple, \$3 each additional child.

Admission paid at the door and includes food.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED: PLEASE CALL (219) 932-2530, EXT 331.

