

# North Township NAVIGATOR

YOUR GUIDE TO NEWS AND SERVICES IN EAST CHICAGO, HAMMOND, HIGHLAND, MUNSTER AND WHITING • FALL 2013

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

When Indiana's founders were crafting the ideal mix of government services, they included townships. Since the mid-1800s, townships have been fashioned and re-tooled while retaining their primary goal to serve as the ultimate safety net for those whose need for services outstrips their ability to pay.

It was a desire to provide assistance that prompted North Township Trustee Frank Mrvan to seek the office, which he has held since 2005. It's what keeps him excited as he looks ahead.

"We are always on the look-out for new opportunities that can help our North Township residents," Mrvan said. "In addition to assistance for food, utilities and school clothing, we are proud of the partnerships we are developing to provide inroads into jobs that enable participants to become self-sufficient."

### UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS



North Township is overseen by an elected trustee and a three-member elected board, which oversees the township's finances and is responsible for passing a budget allocating tax dollars and other sources of revenue. They also approve the annual report. Board meetings are open to the public and usually held the second Tuesday of the month.

Computer classes, as well as targeted education, allow participants to acquire skills that prepare them for jobs above minimum wage and are key to changing the status quo.

"As trustee, our goal is always to provide assistance," Mrvan said. "It is deeply satisfying to know that the educational partnerships are helping our residents find a life better than they ever dreamed they could have." ▲

### ASSISTANCE BY THE NUMBERS

It takes thousands of dollars to help those in need. This year, 4,407 households requested assistance. Here's a snapshot of how the budget is allocated:

|                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Burials           | \$67,596.00  |
| Clothing          | \$44,312.47  |
| Dental            | \$3,780.00   |
| Emergency Housing | \$18,906.68  |
| Food              | \$131,045.73 |
| General           | \$16,037.24  |
| Household         | \$36,784.28  |
| Medical           | \$986.00     |
| Mortgage/Rent     | \$48,037.04  |
| Optical /RX       | \$8,339.10   |
| Nipsco            | \$83,297.49  |

SOURCE: NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

## VICTORY FOR VETERANS MEMORIAL RIDE

### WICKER PARK ETERNAL FLAME SHINING BRIGHT

Cooler autumn temperatures and a couple thousand of his favorite people make the Victory for Veterans Memorial Ride one of Paul Day's favorite activities of the year.

The 27-mile ride begins and ends at Wicker Memorial Park with ceremony before the ride and food and entertainment when it concludes.

All proceeds from the ride are used to fund improvements to the southeast corner of the park, which memorializes all veterans.

"If it's nice weather, we'll have 1,700 motorcycles and as many as 5,000 people participate," said Day, who hails from Robertsdale and favors a Harley over any other mode of two-wheel transit. "We continue to attract new riders and keep the memory alive of all of those who died fighting for our freedom."

The ride is coordinated between North Township Trustee Frank Mrvan and the American Veteran Motorcycle Riders Association but Day said the trustee's office does most of the work.

"We pass out flyers at other motorcycle rallies and contract for a band but Frank's office does all the heavy lifting," he said. "They consider it a labor of love on behalf of our veterans."

Because of the memorial ride, Day said the group is able to pay for maintenance and upgrades at Indianapolis Boulevard and Ridge Road.

"Anyone who goes by that corner can see improvements that are being made because of the ride," he said. "We have great food and a cash bar and we welcome people, even if they don't ride to come out and support the effort." ▲



### ABOUT THE EVENT

The 14th Annual Victory for Veterans Memorial Ride features a procession-style motorcycle ride, live entertainment, a beer garden, 50/50 drawing, concessions and vendor booths.

**WHEN:** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. September 29. Event registration is at 9 a.m. Ride begins at 11:30 a.m.

**WHERE:** Wicker Memorial Park

**FEE:** \$20 individuals, \$30 couples

**INFO:** Call (219) 932-2530, ext. 331.



WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOU! FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT US AT [NORTHTOWNSHIPTRUSTEE.COM](http://NORTHTOWNSHIPTRUSTEE.COM).



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2105 Broadway, East Chicago, IN 46312  
**Phone:** (219) 398-2435 **Fax:** (219) 397-2190  
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**HESSVILLE CIRCLE OF SERVICES**

2835-165th St., Hammond, IN 46323  
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# LOCAL FAMILIES STEP UP TO THE PLATE TO HELP TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

When Lisa and Dave Kusiak begin collecting new and gently used winterwear for the North Township Trustee and Kusiak Care’s coat drive, they know the Salzeiders will have their back.

What began as a way for John and Robin Salzeider to teach their young daughter the value of helping others has morphed into a full-fledged charity that has been granted its own 501(c)3 designation. Their daughter is now a college student.

“We were planning on throwing a Christmas Party in 2001 when John read that Haven House needed Teddy Bears,” Robin said. “We decided to ask people we invited to bring a Teddy Bear or donate a few dollars to help us buy one.”

The family, which has grown to include two young sons, moved forward with a singular goal – that every dollar raised would be donated.

The Highland residents host a series of fundraisers each year – including a Cubs rooftop event and a golf outing at Wicker Memorial Park – to raise donations and awareness that helps

**6TH ANNUAL COAT DRIVE**

After collecting gently used coats/jackets and buying new ones with donated funds, North Township Trustee and Kusiak Care’s 6th annual coat drive will distribute hundreds of winter items to township residents.

**WHEN:** 9 a.m. to noon Nov. 16

**WHERE:** Wicker Memorial Park

**INFO:** Call the trustee’s office at (219) 932-2530, ext. 331.

others, including generous contributions to the township coat drive, which provided 900 coats to residents of all ages last year.

The family has been amazed at their success – and the generosity of others.

“At our first Cubs rooftop event, we were hoping to sell 40 tickets,” Robin said. “It has grown. We sold 350 tickets to the event last year.”

The family says their greatest joy is in helping others. “We could never do this without the generosity of others,” John said. “The people of Highland have a real sense of community and are always so generous in giving to help others.” ▲



**LETTER FROM THE NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE**

## We are blessed to have so many partners offering resources to township residents

North Township is always looking for new ways to create opportunities for individuals who want to better themselves.

Our programs work better when we involve higher education, government, social service agencies and faith-based organizations. Our safety net is much stronger with all of those dedicated individuals and organizations on board.

We are blessed to have so many partners stepping forward, offering resources to work with us to help guarantee our citizens will succeed when given the chance.

I’d like to tell you about our most recent initiative, which is providing 15 individuals the education they need to become patient access specialists – a vital new position for healthcare providers as they transition to the Affordable Care Act.

We had 72 people who arrived, hoping to get a spot in the classes that are being held at Ivy Tech. Work One – the state agency involved with all facets of unemployment – offered to pay the tuition. Catholic Charities, the Salvation Army, Geminus and the International Intercommunity Alliance are working with us to provide childcare services and other day-to-day necessities.

It takes all of us working together to help lift folks out of poverty. In two short months, these individuals will make a living wage. In the short term, they will be able to pay their own way in the world and support their families. In the longer term, they will be the renters who will purchase homes and help build even stronger communities.

**FRANK J. MRVAN**  
 North Township Trustee

# AUTUMN IN THE PARK

When Trevor Parsley and his two young daughters decided to join the first-ever Wicker Park family camp out, they staked out a space that felt far removed from their Highland home located just a few short blocks away.

The park provided an ideal backdrop for an overnight under the stars.

“Chelsea, my 6-year-old, was in heaven and her 11-year-old sister, Jillian, got a thrill out of it too,” Parsley said. “This was a really neat concept. The park staff did a great job. We had a bonfire. The kids had a scavenger hunt and were given coloring sheets. They even had a craft activity. We totally enjoyed ourselves.”

The first event was so well received another overnight camp out has been scheduled for October.

Parsley said he was surprised at everything that went into planning the event, which included overnight police

## OVERNIGHT CAMP OUT

Grab the family, your tents and head to the park for an overnight camp out. Activities include a scavenger hunt, games, campfire songs and a movie.

**WHEN:** Oct. 18. Registration 5 to 7 p.m. Camp 7 to 11 p.m. Lights out 11 p.m.

**WHERE:** Wicker Park Breezeway, 2215 Ridge Road, Highland

**FEE:** \$5 per tent - bring your own

**REGISTRATION:** Forms available online at [www.northtownshiptrustee.com](http://www.northtownshiptrustee.com).

protection and easy access to restrooms,

“This event provides a great adventure in a controlled setting close to home,” said Parsley, who brought his fifth-wheel camper to the park for event.

“This is the kind of family activity I would love to see grow. They have a great strategy and structure to give families a fun night away.”

## AT THE PARK ...

There’s nothing quite like a fall day at Wicker Memorial Park. Enjoy our 18-hole golf course, 3 miles of scenic trails, our one-of-a-kind dog run, playground and banquet facilities amid autumn’s colorful splendor.

**SCENIC TRAILS:** The 2.5-mile trail that runs along the perimeter of the park is perfect for the avid walker, runner or bicyclist. The half-mile inner trail takes you on a tour of the park. All trails are paved and open from dawn to dusk.

**DOG RUN:** Located along Indianapolis Boulevard, the Dog Run is open every day dawn to dusk.

**GOLF COURSE:** This par-72 course offers tree-lined fairways, a practice green and driving range. To schedule a tee time, call the Pro Shop at (219) 838-9809.







### CELEBRATE MEXICO!

Celebrate Mexican Independence Day with Visions of Santana, a group that covers the music of Carlos Santana like no other. Cash bar and concessions are available. You must be at least 21 years of age with valid ID to attend.

**WHEN:** 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Sept. 12.

Doors open at 7 p.m.

**WHERE:** Wicker Park Social Center

**ADMISSION:** \$5 - rain or shine!

**INFO:** Call (219) 932-2530, ext. 327 or visit [www.wickermemorialpark.com](http://www.wickermemorialpark.com).

### NIGHT GOLF OUTING

Night golf returns to Wicker Memorial Park! If you're looking for a challenging and beautifully maintained golf course year round, you've come to the right place! Grab your clubs and those lucky balls and head over to the park for an exciting three days of summer in the dark.

**WHEN:** 9 a.m. to 1 a.m. Sept. 12-14

**WHERE:** Wicker Memorial Park

**FEE:** \$30 includes 9-hole green's fee, cart and two beverage tickets.

**INFO:** To schedule a tee time, please call the pro shop at (219) 838-9809.

**INFO:** Call (219) 932-2530, ext. 331 or visit [www.northtownshiptrustee.com](http://www.northtownshiptrustee.com).

### CEMETERY TOUR

The Hammond Historical Society will host its 15th annual cemetery tour at Oak Hill Cemetery. Participants will learn about the lives and experiences of a select group of Civil War soldiers.

**WHEN:** 1 to 4 p.m. Oct. 6

**WHERE:** Oak Hill Cemetery, corner of Hohman Avenue and 165th Street

**ADMISSION:** \$5, children under 12 free

**INFO:** Call Richard Lytle at (219) 931-5100, ext. 307 or email [lytler@hammond.lib.in.us](mailto:lytler@hammond.lib.in.us).

### FARMER'S MARKET

North Township will host its final farmer's market of the season at the Hessville Circle of Services. Scheeringa Farms will bring its bounty of fresh produce – from ripe, juicy tomatoes and fresh cucumbers to sweet watermelons and cantaloupe. Township clients may redeem vouchers in exchange for fruits and vegetables. You may qualify based on income/age.

**WHEN:** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 19

**WHERE:** Circle of Services, 2835-165th Street, Hammond

**INFO:** Call (219) 932-2530, ext. 313.

### COVERED BRIDGE FESTIVAL

Join us on this day-long bus trip to visit central Indiana's fabled covered bridges while enjoying the festivities and artisan shops set up for the occasion

**WHEN:** 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 17

**WHERE:** Rockville, Indiana

**FEE:** \$35 per person. Deadline is Oct. 10

### SENIOR AUTUMN DANCE

Grab your boots for a walk down memory lane as we dance to the songs of Patsy Cline. A Touch of Class – a Patsy Cline tribute performance by Marvina – promises authentic costume changes, from cowboy outfits to glamorous gowns, as well as sing-alongs.

**WHEN:** 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 24. Doors open at noon. Dinner is served from 1 to 2 p.m. Tribute show follows from 2 to 4 p.m.

**WHERE:** Wicker Park Social Center, Highland

**FEE:** \$20 per person

**RESERVATIONS:** Call Eleanor at (219) 313-3934.

### LEGACY GIRLS DINNER-SHOW

Close your eyes and let these upstarts take you back to swing and the boogie-woogie songs made famous by the Andrews Sisters.

**WHEN:** 1 to 4 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 7

**WHERE:** Wicker Park Social Center, Highland

**FEE:** \$20 includes dinner and show

**RESERVATIONS:** Call Eleanor at (219) 313-3934.

### TURKEY BINGO

Grab a friend and trot on over to Wicker Park for an afternoon of fun. Every winner gets a gift card good for a turkey at a local grocer!

**WHEN:** Noon to 3 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 21

**WHERE:** Wicker Park Social Center, Highland

**FEE:** Free

**RESERVATIONS:** Call Eleanor at (219) 313-3934.

### SENIOR LUNCHEONS

Seniors enjoy great food, entertainment, guest speakers and door prizes for only \$5 at the monthly luncheon at Wicker Park Social Center in Highland. Doors open at 11 a.m.

**SEPT. 18 PICNIC:** Oven-fried chicken, coleslaw, corn on the cob, dinner roll, and watermelon. Picnic includes entertainment by the Right-of-Way John Trimmel band, door prizes, beer and beverages.

**OCT. 9 MENU:** Mixed green salad, beef stew with vegetables over noodles and chocolate cake.

**NOV. 20 MENU:** Chicken noodle soup, roasted turkey breast, stuffing, mashed potatoes, corn, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie with whipped cream.

**RESERVATIONS:** Please call (219) 932-2530 and Press 301 to reserve your seat today!



# BACK TO SCHOOL

Back-to-school is supposed to send shivers of excitement through children and parents alike.

North Township Chief Deputy Jane Dudley said too often, the feeling parents and children get as the first day of school approaches is one of dread.

“Imagine being a child who has grown and can no longer fit in last year’s school clothes knowing that mom can barely make ends meet,” Dudley said. “Imagine being the parent who doesn’t have the money for school clothes and shoes but knows just how important those items are to their children.

“It’s the same situation when it comes to school supplies. The schools require very specific items that can become costly all-too quickly, an expense many families cannot afford. We have many, many families in North Township for whom that is the case.”

The trustee’s office has established a school clothing fund for just such cases.

Dudley said this year promises to be even busier than normal.

“We’ve already given out \$64,000 in clothing vouchers and it’s not even the end of August,” she said. “Our program continues through Sept. 30.”

## SCHOOL UNIFORMS

For children in East Chicago, Hammond and Whiting where school uniforms are required, the trustee’s school clothing fund will cover the cost of uniforms at one of several uniform stores, as well as shoes.

For school-age children in Highland and Munster, which don’t require uniforms, the clothing allowance may be used to buy suitable retail clothing and shoes.

There are income guidelines to qualify for the school clothing fund but you may qualify even if you don’t receive other township assistance.

“We have a number of families, who are able to make it month-to-month but find they just can’t handle the additional costs associated with back-to-school,” said Jane Dudley, the township’s chief deputy.

**INFO:** To find out if you qualify, call Jane Dudley at (219) 932-2530, ext. 313.

## SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Although the trustee’s office does not have a line item to fund crayons, pens, paper, calculators and the like, North Township Chief Deputy Jane Dudley said the trustee’s office does have a referral list of churches and social service agencies that may have necessities, such as backpacks, glue and markers.

**INFO:** For a list of providers in your neighborhood, please call Jane Dudley at (219) 932-2530, ext. 313.

## JOB PARTNERSHIP

Fifteen lucky individuals will be starting school in September for an 11-week curriculum to become patient access specialists in the local healthcare industry. Those who successfully complete the course of study at Ivy Tech in East Chicago will be all but guaranteed a job and starting pay of \$10 to \$15 per hour.

This educational opportunity is made possible by an innovative collaboration of government, education and social service agencies which are working together to provide participants the greatest opportunity for academic success by eliminating obstacles, such as child care and transportation. The brainchild of the North Township Trustee’s office, Ivy Tech and WorkOne are providing education and funding while agencies, such as the Salvation Army, Catholic Charity Services, Geminus and the International Intercommunity Alliance, are working to provide support services.

**INFO:** For info on the next training opportunity, call Cindy Rivera at (219) 803-0659 or email [riverac@ntto.net](mailto:riverac@ntto.net).

## DIAL-A-RIDE BOOMING

The township’s on-demand transit service continues to see its monthly ridership grow to levels never before seen in the program.

Transportation Director Jerry Siska said there are plans to increase the size of the township’s fleet. Until that happens, Dial-a-Ride is contracting with Triple A Express in Highland to handle the overflow.

**RESERVATIONS:** Dial-a-Ride operates Monday through Friday except holidays. For reservations, email [dial-a-ride@ntto.net](mailto:dial-a-ride@ntto.net) or call (219) 932-2530. Follow the prompts and select #4.

## COMPUTER CLASSES

With a goal to increase the marketability of residents looking to get into the workforce or improve their job skills, North Township is offering weekly computer training classes, such as Microsoft Word.

“I sit down with people one-on-one to help them learn skills that are required in order to get many of the jobs that are out there,” Resource Coordinator Cindy Rivera said. There are plans to expand the computer training to include Excel, which is also a popular Microsoft computer program that is often used for office functions.

**INFO:** For a list of classes, please call Cindy Rivera at (219) 803-0659.



# Halloween Spooktacular



TRICK-OR-TREATING • HAY RIDES  
GAMES • PRIZES • BOUNCY HOUSE  
PUMPKIN DECORATING • DJ

**2 PM - 5 PM • OCTOBER 27**

WICKER PARK PAVILION • 2215 RIDGE ROAD • HIGHLAND

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (219) 932-2530, EXT 331.



Frank J. Mrvan



**NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE**  
BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY

5947 HOHMAN AVENUE  
HAMMOND, INDIANA 46320

**SUMMER  
IN THE DARK**

**NIGHT GOLF RETURNS  
TO WICKER PARK**



**9 P.M. – 1 A.M.  
SEPTEMBER 12-14**

**\$30 INCLUDES 9-HOLE GREENS FEE,  
CART AND 2 BEVERAGE TICKETS.**

**FOR MORE INFO OR TO SCHEDULE A TEE TIME,  
CALL THE PRO SHOP AT (219) 838-9809.**