



# North Township NAVIGATOR

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

## NAVIGATING HEALTHCARE

Navigator specialists are on-site at both township offices on alternating days to assist those looking to obtain health insurance as part of the Affordable Care Act.

Lisa Adediran said most people who have come for help are confused as to what Affordable Care is going to mean for them.

Adediran, who works as a certified Indiana navigator through Community HealthNet, said she and her colleagues can help.

“We are able to assist individuals navigate the system and help them determine their eligibility to enter the marketplace for insurance. We can help with forms and offering insurance options that are available to Indiana residents,” she said. “From there, those who are eligible can make choices about insurance.” ▲

### SIGNING UP FOR INSURANCE

Health insurance specialists from Community HealthNet will be on-site at the North Township Trustee’s Hammond and East Chicago offices the first half of December to help residents sign up for health insurance. Here are the dates:

**HAMMOND:** Dec. 9, 11

**EAST CHICAGO:** Dec. 10, 12, 18, 21

### DRUG ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

North Township’s prescription drug assistance program is available to low income individuals and families who reside in East Chicago, Hammond, Highland, Munster and Whiting. Income requirements are listed online at [www.norhtownshiptrustee.com](http://www.norhtownshiptrustee.com). If you need assistance paying for prescription medications and believe you qualify, call the trustee’s office at (219) 932-2530.



### COAT DRIVE A SUCCESS!

More than 500 township residents will be warmer this winter thanks to an avalanche of donations to the annual Kusiak Cares Coat Drive. Held Nov. 16, the coat drive is organized by Kusiak Construction in partnership with North Township. In addition to donations of gently used winter wear, BP, NIPSCO, Ideations, the Salzeider Family Charity, Hammond Firefighters and Advantage Signs and Printing contributed to the fund while CW Price offered additional discounts on new coats.

## DISASTER RELIEF: WE’RE HERE TO HELP!

When tornado sirens blared in every North Township community and thousands were left without power following the late-season spate of severe weather in mid-November, Chief Deputy Jane Dudley was expecting a bevy of calls from those in need of disaster assistance.

Instead, her lone call over that weekend was to assist a family who suffered a house fire when they couldn’t afford their utility bills and were attempting to heat their home using an oven.

“We are always here to help,” Dudley said. “Sometimes it’s the tornados and severe storms. Other times, it’s flooding. Sometimes, it’s a family who need a place to stay when their house burns. Whatever it is, we just try to help.” ▲



### EMERGENCY RELIEF WEBSITE

The North Township emergency relief website – <https://norhtownship.recovers.org> – is a community-powered resource for East Chicago, Hammond, Whiting, Highland and Munster. Once registered, North Township residents can volunteer, donate or request aid. As additional government agencies and organizations come on board, we hope to cultivate the most rapid response team to help citizens when they need it most.

### DIAL-A-RIDE GROWING

With the demand for Dial-a-Ride transit on the rise, the Northwestern Indiana Region Planning Commission is looking for options to expedite a federal contract that will add three buses to the fleet.

Transportation Director Jerry Siska said NIRPC is going to try to piggyback the order for buses for North Township with a contract that will be submitted by the state of Minnesota, which could shave several months off the timetable. If that plan is a non-starter, Siska said the process will take six months or longer.

The township has six buses on the road Monday through Friday. Two of the new buses will expand the system while the third will replace the oldest bus in the fleet.

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



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



**NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?**

Send your suggestions to:  
 northtownship@theideafactory.us.com

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# \$3,000 ‘TAPS’ GRANT HONORS VETS AT OAK HILL, WICKER MEMORIAL PARK

Every evening at dusk, the 24 unmistakable notes of “Taps” can be heard throughout Oak Hill Cemetery in Hammond and at Wicker Memorial Park at Indianapolis Boulevard and Ridge Road, thanks to region philanthropist Bill Wellman and the Legacy Foundation.

The \$3,000 project was financed by a grant from the Lake County Community Fund at the Legacy Foundation.

“We viewed this project as an opportunity to support our veterans in Lake County,” said Leigh Morris, interim president of the organization that pools donations and other funding sources to make contributions throughout the area. “Legacy Foundation was created to help people do the

good works of charity and assist not-for-profit organizations in their mission of philanthropy. This was Bill’s idea and we were happy we were able to assist him in making it happen.”

The addition of “Taps” was one of several major improvements at Oak Hill Cemetery this year.

For Kyle Bergfor, 2013 marked the year he completed his Eagle Scout project, which included beautification of the area surrounding the cemetery’s flag pole. Bergfor, who’s relative is a Civil War soldier buried at Oak Hill, also built a box to store watering cans and bottles that are available for visitors. The project was dedicated by Congressman Peter J. Visclosky, who presented a flag that was flown over the U.S. Capitol.



**LETTER FROM THE NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE**

## Money raised at Memorial Ride provides 52 televisions to Indiana Veterans Home

Helping people is what we do at North Township. Putting smiles on faces. Giving people hope. Looking for alternatives to make life better.

Working on behalf of the residents of North Township is never routine or even ordinary. My trip to West Lafayette in November will forever be a day that stands out.

Equipped with \$7,000 from this year’s Victory for Veterans Memorial Ride, my staff and I, along with representatives from local veteran’s group AMVRA, were able to deliver 52 flat-screen televisions for the Indiana Veterans Home. Some of these televisions will be placed in lounges and patient rooms while others will be used to help furnish apartments on the campus that are used by veterans who are able to live independently.

I am reminded and awed by the generosity of so many people, not just during the holidays, but every day of the year that make gifts like this possible. Thanks to h.h.gregg, who was eager to give us a deal on televisions that truly was too good to pass up and to our motorcycle-riding veterans, who have been raising funds for their fellow vets for 14 years for starters.



Indiana Veterans Home staff, from left, Mandy Balzer, Tammy Metzinger, Rob Clover, Jim Clouse and Denny Pettit, discuss veterans needs with North Township Trustee Frank Mrvan during a trip to West Lafayette. Money raised from the Victory for Veterans Memorial Ride helped provide flat-screen televisions for residents.

Our veterans in Northwest Indiana are the most dedicated group of individuals I have ever met. They are determined to do whatever they can to help those they served with – soldiers who returned with broken bodies and wounded hearts.

These are the folks who help me and who make me realize every day just how lucky we are to live in a community that cares. ▲

**FRANK J. MRVAN**  
 North Township Trustee

# WINTER IN THE PARK

A special kind of magic fills Wicker Park this time of year. Diehard walkers wrap their scarves a little tighter and quicken their paces when temperatures dip. Children take to the snowy landscape, building snowmen and enjoying the wintry escape. Come. See for yourself what makes Wicker Park a special place.

## WINTER SNOW TRAILS

The 2.5-mile trail that runs along the perimeter of the park is perfect for the avid walker and runner. The half-mile inner trail takes you on a scenic tour of the park and playground. All trails are open from dawn to dusk.

## GOLF COURSE OPEN YEAR ROUND!

If you're looking for a challenging and beautifully maintained 18-hole golf course year round, you've come to the right place! This par 72 course offers tree-lined fairways, a practice green and driving range. Winter rates start at \$15 to ride or \$10 to walk 18 holes. Cart covers are available for an additional \$10. For more information or to schedule a tee time, call the Pro Shop at (219) 838-9809.

## BANQUET FACILITIES

Looking for a place to host your holiday party, winter wedding, retirement party or meeting? Our banquet facilities are perfect for you. To make an appointment to view our spaces, call Bridget at (219) 923-3830. For rental fees and catering, visit our caterer's website at [www.diningsolutionswickerpark.com](http://www.diningsolutionswickerpark.com).





# Around the Township

## East Chicago

### PICTURES WITH SANTA

All North Township parents and guardians are invited to bring your little ones for a free photo with Santa!

**WHEN:** 1:30 to 3:30 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.

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

## Highland

### NEW YEAR'S FIREWORKS

Ring in the new year with fireworks at Main Square Park on New Year's Eve. Hot chocolate will be served.

**WHEN:** Midnight December 31  
**WHERE:** Main Square Park  
**INFO:** Call (219) 838-0114 .

## Munster

### HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

The best in arts and crafts will be showcased at this winter event, which features homemade arts and crafts.

**WHEN:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 7 and 8  
**WHERE:** Munster High School  
**INFO:** Call (219) 836-7275.

## Whiting

### CHRISTMAS PARADE

Whiting literally "sparkles" into the Holiday season each year with this wonderful hometown parade. .

**WHEN:** 7 p.m. December 6  
**WHERE:** 119th Street business district  
**INFO:** Call (219)659-0860.

## SENIOR HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

This special holiday luncheon features singing sensation Peter Oprisko, who will entertain the crowd with oldies and Christmas song. The menu features mixed green salad, baked ham with horseradish, green beans almandine, baked potato with butter, chives and sour cream, apple pie. Includes bread and butter, coffee or hot tea.

**WHEN:** Noon December 17. Doors open at 11 a.m.  
**WHERE:** Wicker Park Social Center, Highland  
**FEE:** Seniors enjoy great food, entertainment, guest speakers and door prizes for \$5.  
**RESERVATIONS:** For more information or to make reservations, call (219) 932-2530 and Press 2

## SWEETHEART'S DANCE

Join us for a heart-felt evening of food, fun, family and friends at the North Township Friends and Family Sweetheart's Dance. The event features dancing, food and entertainment, including games, prizes, crafts and face painting!

**WHEN:** 4 to 6 p.m. February 8  
**WHERE:** Wicker Park Social Center, Highland  
**FEE:** \$5 per couple, \$3 each additional child.  
Admission is paid at the door and includes entertainment and food – two slices of pizza, one drink and one cupcake per person.  
**RESERVATIONS:** For more information or to make reservations, call (219) 932-2530, ext. 331

## FEBRUARY SENIOR 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 February 12. Doors open at 11 a.m.  
**WHERE:** Wicker Park Social Center, Highland  
**FEE:** Seniors enjoy great food, entertainment, guest speakers and door prizes for \$5.  
**RESERVATIONS:** For more information or to make reservations, call (219) 932-2530 and Press 2

## SENIOR VALENTINE'S DANCE

Peter Oprisko wows audiences across the country and for an afternoon, he's all ours. Listen to this Whiting native's take on treasured pop and jazz as we welcome Valentine's Day – North Township style. After a special senior Valentine's meal, gifts will be distributed from 1:30 to 2 p.m. and Oprisko will perform from 2 to 4 p.m.

**WHEN:** 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. February 11. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. Dinners served at 12:30 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Wicker Park Social Center, Highland  
**FEE:** Reservations include a special Valentine's Day meal and entertainment. The menu and cost will be announced after January 1.  
**RESERVATIONS:** For more information or to make reservations, please call Senior Event Coordinator Eleanor Uribe at (219) 313-3934 or email [uribee@ntto.net](mailto:uribee@ntto.net).



# WINTER ASSISTANCE

## ENERGIZING INDIANA

In two short years, Energizing Indiana has helped thousands of homeowners and businesses become more efficient while saving millions of dollars.

The program provides home energy assessments to find long-term energy savings. Advisers assess heating, ventilation and air-conditioning as well as air duct seals and insulation levels to determine a home's energy consumption and efficiency.

The assessment may include replacing traditional light bulbs, installing low-flow faucet aerators/shower heads as well as water heater insulation.

- ✧ Every assessment generates a comprehensive report detailing savings opportunities.
- ✧ Eligible dwellings must be 10 years or older and have not been assessed in the last three years.
- ✧ Weatherization services are available for income-qualified homeowners.

**REGISTRATION:** Call (219) 932-2530.

## WINTERIZATION KITS

The North Township Trustee's office is offering vouchers to keep out winter's chill. Eligible residents can use one \$40 voucher per month – December through February – to purchase items at Menard's stores that conserve energy and heat. Most popular are window insulation kits and draft stoppers.

**INFO:** Eligibility is based on income, but if need help insulating this winter, call (219) 932-2530.

## SHOVELING ASSISTANCE

North Township wants to match seniors, who need help digging out, with volunteers, who have a shovel or snowblower. During periods of heavy snow, the township implements an automated call system to help those who need to get out of their homes.

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

## FOOD & CLOTHING HELP

The North Township Service Providers Directory features organizations, churches and departments within local government that provide low- or no-cost assistance for food, clothing, emergency shelter, prescriptions, child care and gas vouchers. Copies are available at the Trustee's Hammond and East Chicago offices and online at [www.northtownshiptrustee.com](http://www.northtownshiptrustee.com).

## PET ASSISTANCE

North Township is continuing to work with Buddies Pet Pantry to provide pet food, pet supplies and toys for those who cannot afford it. About 1,200 pounds of pet food is distributed to township residents each month.

"Our mission is to keep families and their pets together," said Cheryl Plomann, founder of Buddies Pet Pantry. "North Township is one of our biggest clients and we are happy to help." The food is available to North Township residents who meet income criteria.

**INFO:** To find out if you qualify, call a case manager at (219) 932-2530. If you would like to donate cash, pet food or toys, call (219) 728-1401 or email [buddiespetpantry@yahoo.com](mailto:buddiespetpantry@yahoo.com). Donations are also accepted at Petco in Highland and Munster Animal Hospital.





# HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS!

CELEBRATE THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

**11 AM TO 1 PM • DECEMBER 12**

WICKER PARK SOCIAL CENTER • 2215 RIDGE ROAD • HIGHLAND

Preschool-aged children and their parent/guardian are invited to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Each child should bring canned goods or paper products to donate to the Old Firehouse Community Center.

**The event features activities, pizza and beverages — all free!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL TYA AT (219) 923-9410.

Frank J. Mrvan



**NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE**

BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY

5947 HOHMAN AVENUE  
HAMMOND, INDIANA 46320

## *Sweetheart's Dance*

**4 - 6 PM • FEBRUARY 8**

WICKER MEMORIAL PARK CLUBHOUSE • HIGHLAND

**DANCING • FOOD • GAMES • DJ**

**PRIZES • CRAFTS • FACE PAINTING**

**WHO CAN ATTEND?** North Township 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.

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

