

North Township NAVIGATOR

YOUR GUIDE TO NEWS AND SERVICES IN EAST CHICAGO, HAMMOND, HIGHLAND, MUNSTER AND WHITING · JUNE 2020



BLOOD DRIVES



COVID-19 TESTING



NORTH TOWNSHIP ASSISTS THOUSANDS DURING PANDEMIC

When the COVID-19 pandemic came into view, there was a momentary "What Now?" and then North Township residents mobilized to help.

From food deliveries to medical personnel and organizing free mental healthcare for those overwhelmed by circumstances beyond their control, the township and its residents stepped up in a big way.

Munster resident Angie Castellanos swallowed a 30-year fear of needles

to give blood for the very first time.

There were more than 100 just like the former teacher who braved the early days of shelter-in-place to ensure those with medical emergencies would have the blood products they needed.

Highland's John Salzeider answered North Township Trustee Frank J. Mrvan's call to help deliver groceries to the medically fragile. Since mid-March, Salzeider and his family have

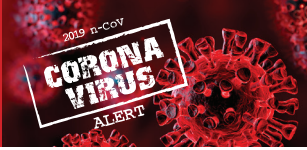
made it a weekly priority to help.

"As soon as I tell people there is a need, they ask how they can help," Mrvan said. "The heart of Northwest Indiana is on display every day through these acts of kindness.

"This virus may be strong, but we are stronger."

LEARN MORE: For more information on the Covid-19 crisis and township assistance, please see inside. >>





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BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY



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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



FOOD BANK OF NORTHWEST INDIANA

Thank you to the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana for supplying twice-monthly food boxes to township residents most at risk. The food bank also partnered with North Township to create pop-up markets for those who've lost their jobs or work as part of an industry that has been shuttered until the threat of the virus is past.



LETTER FROM THE NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

“Thank you to all our volunteers and partners who've gone above and beyond during this crisis”

Every day, I see the positive impact individuals and groups are having on those who are struggling with job losses, health issues, domestic violence and food insecurity. Here are a few:

United Steelworkers Local 7-1: The generous members of UAW 7-1 in Whiting sent \$10,000 to the township to use where it was needed most. We donated \$5,000 to the Northwest Indiana Food Bank and \$1,000 each to Haven House in Hammond, Fair Have in Highland, St. Jude House in Crown Point, Sojourner Truth House in Gary and The Caring Place in Valparaiso.

Clarity Clinic: This group of licensed mental health professionals are providing remote sessions free. This psychological first aid is assisting individuals in processing what they are experiencing and offering strategies to cope.

Strack & Van Til: The grocer gifted us with 100 bags of food we distributed to residents.

American Legion Post 369: Just in time for Easter, this generous group donated more than 75 hams, which we distributed to those in need.

This is just a sampling of the gifts the township has received to help others and I thank each and every one of you who has helped ease the suffering of another.

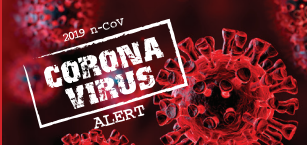
NO MORE SECRETS

A celebration of survivors of childhood sexual abuse, paused in April because of the COVID-19 pandemic, will be rescheduled later this summer or early fall.

A special reflection area is being created at Wicker Memorial Park in recognition of those who have overcome child sexual abuse and domestic violence.

The No More Secrets initiative began in 2016 to shine a light on the serious issue of child sexual abuse in Northwest Indiana and the ongoing impact that abuse has on an individual's life.

The program led Indiana lawmakers to pass SEA 355 and SEA 447 in 2017, which requires Indiana public schools to implement age-appropriate child sexual abuse education beginning in kindergarten and ongoing training for school personnel.



SUMMER IN THE PARK

Join us for a walk, bike ride or round of golf in one of the most beautiful parks in the township. Please continue to follow Covid-19 guidelines and practice social distancing while enjoying the park. Our summer concert series and other park activities have been canceled until further notice. Please check wickermemorialpark.com for the latest updates.

Wicker Memorial Park Golf

Our 18-hole, par-72 course offers tree-lined fairways, a practice green and driving range. Summer rates start at \$37 to ride 18 holes on the weekend or \$27 for nine holes. Senior discounts and evening twilight rates available. Questions? Call the Pro Shop at (219) 838-9809 or schedule your tee time online at wickermemorialpark.com.

Dog Park

Our dog park features pet fountains, benches for leash holders and plenty of space to run around. The annual fee is \$25 for township residents, \$60 for out-of-township and \$100 out-of-state. Register at the Wicker Memorial Park office.

Outdoor Fitness

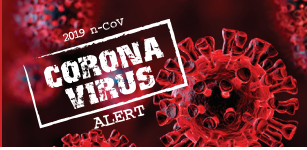
Take your workout to our outdoor fitness area. Open year-round, the handicapped-accessible exercise equipment includes an elliptical machine, leg press, rower bike, vertical press and pendulum.

Walking & Biking

The 2.5-mile trail along the perimeter of the park and the half-mile inner trail is perfect for walking, running, biking – or even roller skates! All our trails are paved and open from dawn to dusk.



**MAINTAIN
SOCIAL
DISTANCE**



North Township VETERAN OF THE YEAR

Jim Chancellor is an Army veteran of the Vietnam War, Purple Heart and Heroism Medal of Valor recipient and a survivor of post-traumatic stress disorder.

He is also North Township's 2020 Veteran of the Year.

Township Trustee Frank J. Mrvan said no one is more deserving.

"Jim Chancellor is my ideal of a public servant, a soldier who takes his experiences surviving the hell of war to help others," Mrvan said. "He puts himself out there to support veterans suffering through homelessness, broken families, addiction, PTSD – even this pandemic."

Chancellor said it is an honor to be recognized.

"It is my greatest pleasure to work with North Township helping veterans in need," Chancellor said. "I am proud of what we have accomplished."



JIM CHANCELLOR

As a veteran's advocate, Jim Chancellor tackles homelessness one veteran at a time and works with North Township on its veteran wraparound services and housing program.

He is also the author of "Til Death Due Us Part."

To learn more, visit veteranscollection.com.

FALLEN HEROES MEMORIAL GARDEN RESERVES BRICKS FOR CLASS OF 2020

As work proceeds to complete the Fallen Heroes Memorial at Wicker Memorial Park, a section is being reserved to memorialize the members of the Class of 2020.

Whether it is a family celebrating their senior or a group of graduates who want to remember this moment through the purchase of a brick, there are options for any budget.

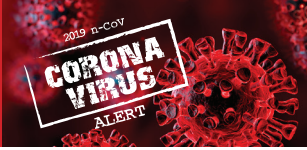
"With this year's senior classes forgoing so much because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we wanted to give families and individuals a way to honor these special graduates with a section dedicated to the Class of 2020," Memorial Coordinator Renee Ramos said. "At the same time, it will show their support for the first responders who made the ultimate sacrifice to keep us safe."



2020 MEMORIAL BRICKS

The memorial gardens will feature a bounty of green space surrounded by flowering bushes, gentle pathways and ample seating. Our engraved bricks are a perfect tribute to your loved ones. Commemorate the graduation of your favorite high schooler today!

INFO: Visit NTTfallenheroes.org for more information or to place your order. **Questions?** Call Memorial Coordinator Renee Ramos at (219) 838-3420.



TOWNSHIP ASSISTANCE >>

Case managers are remotely assisting North Township residents who need help paying their mortgage, rent, utilities and burials during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Residents will need to have a few documents handy for the telephone interview, including:

- Food Stamps/AFDC Program Verification
- Receipts or landlord statement that prove residency and its associated costs
- Last four pay stubs, strike verification, unemployment card, proof of child support, Social Security check or TANF/AFDC letter
- Proof of family size you are claiming
- Medical expense records
- Asset list
- Last month's expense sheet with credit cards, utilities, loans and cable listed.

"I encourage everyone who is requesting assistance to keep their family afloat during these difficult days to contact North Township's hardworking case managers first," North Township Trustee Frank J. Mrvan said. "These individuals are working every minute of their day helping North Township residents."

INFO: Residents of Hammond, Highland, Munster and Whiting should contact a case manager at the township's Hammond telephone number – (219) 932-2530 and follow the prompts. East Chicago residents should contact a case manager at the East Chicago number – (219) 398-2435.

MENTAL HEALTH ASSISTANCE >>

North Township Trustee Frank J. Mrvan is partnering with local mental health professionals to provide free assistance during these incredibly trying times.

Mrvan said the township is finding an ever increasing number of individuals in need of mental health services as residents in Northwest Indiana reach out for help.

"Some in our community are grappling with fear, anxiety and isolation as they struggle to pay bills, work through home issues or simply stress over daily life in the time of the COVID-19 national health crisis," he said. "The launch of North Township Mental Health Wellness Hotline offers services people need — at no cost — to get us through the challenges we face now."

INFO: Call our 24-hour hotline at (800) 706-2751 and a licensed professional will answer your call, get pertinent information about the issues at hand, assess the struggle and create a connection with a mental health provider from Munster-based Clarity Clinic. Sessions will be conducted via telephone or Zoom.

TOWNSHIP BLOOD DRIVES >>

When the American Red Cross and North Township put out an urgent call for blood donors, 208 local residents responded. Donned in protective gear and practicing safe social distancing these residents took the opportunity to give to others in the time of COVID-19.

Their generosity provided the gift of life to 624 patients. North Township Trustee Frank J. Mrvan said they aren't done yet.

"We held four blood drives at Wicker Memorial Park between March 18 and May 3," Mrvan said. "With just a few hours – or sometimes a few days – notice, people turned out to donate something only they could give. What I saw on their faces was the uncertainty in the time we are living and a determination to give to their fellow man, woman or child."

INFO: North Township will host its annual Battle of the Blood drive from **1 to 7 p.m. June 25** at Wicker Park Social Center. Register at redcrossblood.org to receive a time that will allow for safe distancing between donors.



FOOD FOR SENIORS >>

North Township Trustee Frank J. Mrvan is partnering with the local Catholic Charities Food Pantry to deliver food to seniors and the disabled community in East Chicago, Highland, Hammond, Munster and Whiting.

Elizabeth Acevedo, Catholic Charities Food Pantry Manager in East Chicago, said they are happy to help.

"Our country is in a crisis. Our partnership with North Township is an example of what happens when agencies dedicated to helping others come together," Acevedo said. "We are proud to help."

"At North Township, we pride ourselves on being there for our residents," Mrvan said. "We will be working overtime to help our North Township residents get through this crisis – safely."

INFO: If you are a senior or disabled resident of North Township and need food delivered to your home, please call (219) 306-1344.



In time of crisis ...

**WE'RE HERE
TO SERVE
YOU!**

Frank J. Mrvan



NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE
BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY

Frank J. Mrvan



NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE
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5947 HOHMAN AVENUE
HAMMOND, INDIANA 46320

WICKER PARK

8554 INDIANAPOLIS BLVD
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18-HOLE, PAR-72 COURSE

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COMPETITIVE RATES IN THE REGION!**

**QUESTIONS? CALL THE PRO SHOP AT
(219) 838-9809 OR SCHEDULE YOUR TEE TIME
ONLINE AT WICKERMEMORIALPARK.COM.**