

# North Township NAVIGATOR

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

## DIAL-A-RIDE FLEET GROWS

Dial-a-Ride is expanding hours as North Township's fleet – and demand – continues to grow.

Transportation Director Jerry Siska said even before two new buses were put into service, the township had increased its daily hours of operation. Buses begin boarding riders every weekday at 7 a.m. and continue until 5 p.m.

"Our numbers are growing far more quickly than we even imagined they would," Siska said. "The Dial-a-Ride service provided a total of 2,448 trips in April, nearly three times more than the 908 we provided last April."

North Township Trustee Frank Mrvan said the growing number of riders is proof of just how valuable the service is for those who need transportation for such necessities as doctor visits, grocery shopping and getting to work.

"The numbers are bigger than anything the township has ever experienced," he said. "As fast as we are adding capacity, we are filling it. Anything beyond what our fleet can accommodate is being handled by Triple A Express in Highland."

By the end of the year, the township is expected to take ownership of an additional two buses, which will mean eight transit vehicles on the road Monday through Friday. ▲

### MEET OUR STAFF ...



**JERRY SISKA:** Jerry Siska is celebrating 17 years at North Township, the last 15 as Director of Transportation. Raised in Whiting, the married father of three makes his home in Highland.

Siska loves the interaction he has with township residents who rely on Dial-a-Ride to get them to doctor's appointments, shopping, even their jobs. "I like helping people who need help getting around." In his spare time, Siska coaches Little League and Biddy Basketball.



**JAMIE ROUSE:** With five months under his belt, Assistant Director of Transportation Jamie Rouse, is one of the newbies at North Township. Rouse, his wife and three active pre-school age children make their home in Highland.

"I spend most of my spare time outdoors with my boys and wife camping, even if it's sometimes campfires in the backyard," he said. "During my workday, I get to meet the folks who depend on us for transit. It's a great balance."

**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.

### FARMER'S MARKET

The North Township Farmer's Market begins June 1 and will continue through the growing season. Chief Deputy Jane Dudley said clients will be given vouchers redeemable at Scheeringa's Farms & Produce, 9436 Cline Ave., Highland. You may qualify based on your income/age.

The township will also distribute fruits and vegetables at various township offices. Dates will depend on the growing season.

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



### FAMILY COUNSELING

A new program for families with children ages 9 through 14 is being launched at the Circle of Services, 2835-165th Street in Hammond's Hessville neighborhood.

Project Coordinator Albert Gay said the program is about setting guidelines, discipline, empowering parents and helping children resist peer pressure.

Part of an ongoing partnership between North Township and Geminus, the classes for children and parents will be held simultaneously from 4 to 6:30 p.m. twice a week. A family meal is included.

**INFO:** Email [albert.gay@geminus.org](mailto:albert.gay@geminus.org).

## REGION UNITED • NATION DIVIDED • CIVIL WAR IN THE SOUTH SHORE

Times Investigative Editor Marc Chase was researching the local connection to the Civil War when he happened upon a cemetery in disrepair. Chase continued his work while reporting on the neglect of Oak Hill Cemetery and North Township Trustee Frank Mrvan's efforts to wrest ownership in order to give Civil War veterans and all others buried there a respectful resting place.

Today, work at the cemetery continues while an exhibit is under way at the South Shore

Convention and Visitors Authority detailing the lives of those local men who fought in the war. More than 4,000 visitors toured the exhibit in the first weeks following its debut in April.

"There are a number of veterans featured in the exhibit who are buried at Oak Hill," Chase said. "There are some – like Jethro Wood – whose colorful stories are being revived. Jethro was from the South but fought for the Union. After the war, he moved to Indiana and is buried at Oak Hill."

### ABOUT THE EXHIBIT

Photos, artifacts and reproductions of Northwest Indiana Civil War regimental battle flags tell the story of the Lake, Porter and LaPorte County men who fought to preserve the Union and end slavery.

**WHEN:** 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. through June 30

**WHERE:** Indiana Welcome Center, Hammond

**ADMISSION:** Free

**INFO:** Call the South Shore CVA at (219) 989-7770 or visit [www.southshorecva.com](http://www.southshorecva.com).



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



**FRANK MRVAN**  
 North Township Trustee  
 (219) 932-2530  
 fjmrvan@comcast.net



**LORI POLGAR**  
 Director of Operations  
 (219) 932-2530, ext. 324  
 polgarl@ntto.net



**RICHARD J. NOVAK**  
 Board Chairman  
 novakr@ntto.net



**RALPH FLORES JR.**  
 Board member  
 floresr@ntto.net



**PETE AUKSEL**  
 Board secretary  
 auksel@ntto.net

#### EAST CHICAGO OFFICE

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

#### HAMMOND OFFICE

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

#### HESSVILLE OFFICE

Circle of Services, 2835-165th St.  
 Hammond, IN 46323  
**Phone:** (219) 803.0659  
**Office Hours:** 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
 Monday through Friday

#### NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

Send your suggestions to:  
[northtownship@theideafactory.us.com](mailto:northtownship@theideafactory.us.com)

The Navigator is produced by:  
**The Idea Factory** • (219) 779.9041  
[www.theideafactory.us.com](http://www.theideafactory.us.com)

Printed by Miss Print  
 8244 Calumet Avenue  
 Munster, IN 46321



## EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS PREP RESIDENTS FOR BETTER PAYING JOBS

When it comes to lending folks a helping hand, North Township Trustee Frank Mrvan knows there is no substitute for ongoing education.

Mrvan and his staff are pulling out all the stops to create partnerships with local organizations and agencies to provide opportunities for education that lead to better paying jobs.

Ezekiel Battles, the first student in a transportation partnership between North Township, Ivy Tech, Driveco, Schneider National and the Holistic Community Coalition, is nearly ready to graduate. This unique partnership is looking for additional candidates interested in a new career.

If you don't envision a career in truck-driving, the township also offers introductory computer classes, which could help you advance in your present job or land new employment.

"The real key to making a difference is in helping our clients get the skills they need to advance in their careers and their lives," Mrvan said. "We are always looking for these types of opportunities to partner in ways that provide advancement." ▲

#### TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Our training initiative provides education and hands-on skills to help North Township residents secure gainful employment. Contact our Resource Coordinator to learn about opportunities for you!

**INFO:** Call Cindy Rivera at (219) 803-0659 or email [riverac@ntto.net](mailto:riverac@ntto.net).

#### COMPUTER CLASSES

Being computer savvy is more than a fun way to find friends on Facebook. Those skills can help make you highly valued in the business world. Introductory computer classes are now available free-of-charge through North Township.

**WHEN:** 2 to 3 p.m. Thursdays

**JUNE:** Classes will be held at the North Township Trustee's Hammond location, 5947 Hohman Ave.

**JULY:** Classes will be held at the North Township Trustee's East Chicago location, 2105 Broadway.

**AUGUST:** Classes will be held at the Circle of Services Hessville location, 2835-165th St.

**INFO:** Call Ricardo Garcia at (219) 932-2530, ext. 305 or email [garciar@ntto.net](mailto:garciar@ntto.net).



#### LETTER FROM THE NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

### Devastating tornado brings to light local resources for disaster preparedness, relief

As all of us prepare to begin our summers, my thoughts and prayers go out to those in Oklahoma who are rebuilding their lives after a devastating tornado struck just days before the Memorial Day holiday.

Natural disasters hit with an uncanny frequency. At North Township, we respond to whatever nature dishes out – whether that is floods, fires, tornadoes even ice storms. Here are just a few examples:

- **Flood relief:** We helped residents secure FEMA and other assistance following flood damage in 2006, 2007 and 2008.
- **Tornado relief:** A tornado knocked out hundreds of trees and destroyed property throughout the township in 2008.
- **Water boil:** We provided bottled water when City of East Chicago lost water service because of a water main break.

It was these types of disasters that prompted us to create an innovative partnership designed to collect donations, provide faster response times and coordinate relief efforts.

Our mission at North Township is to be vigilant in preparing for what we can never plan for and coordinate with other agencies to relieve suffering during such tragic times.

Today, we have in place a website dedicated to disaster relief. North Township Recovers – [www.northtownship.recovers.org](http://www.northtownship.recovers.org) – is a community-powered resource where 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.

**FRANK J. MRVAN**  
 North Township Trustee

# SUMMER IN THE PARK

Wicker Memorial Park features an 18-hole golf course, 3 miles of scenic trails, volleyball/tennis courts, a dog run, playground, picnic areas, shelters, banquet facilities and a one-of-a-kind Splash Pad for summer family fun.

## BIKE RENTALS

Our bikes are a great way to get around the park or enjoy the scenic trails. Rentals are available at the Splash Pad in a variety of styles and sizes for adults and children. The cost is \$7 for one hour or \$10 for two hours. A valid driver's license is required to rent a bike.

## 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 Splash Pad, volleyball courts and playground. All trails are paved and open from dawn to dusk.

## DOG RUN

Conveniently located along Indianapolis Boulevard, the Dog Run is open every day dawn to dusk. Let your dog enjoy the freedom of being a dog, while playing with other canines and pet enthusiasts.

## TENNIS AND VOLLEYBALL COURTS

The park features five tennis courts and three volleyball courts for the community to enjoy. In need of a tennis lesson? Call our park office at (219) 838-3420 to sign up or receive information on our tennis camps.

## GOLF COURSE

If you're looking for a challenging and beautifully maintained 18-hole golf course, you've come to the right place! This par 72 course offers tree-lined fairways, a practice green and driving range. For summer rates or to schedule a tee time, call the Pro Shop at (219) 838-9809.

## SPLASH PAD

Are you looking for a cool place on a hot summer's day? Then come enjoy Wicker Memorial Park's Splash Pad. This 8,500-square-foot water playground will entertain your children for hours. With more than 30 spray features, the Splash Pad has become one of the region's most popular water attractions. The Splash Pad is open seven days a week during the summer. For hours and admission, please visit [wickermemorialpark.com](http://wickermemorialpark.com) or call at (219) 838-3420.

## PICNIC AREAS AND SHELTERS

Picnic areas, shelters and the pavilion are available for rent from Memorial day through Labor Day. For a reservation or to request more information, please contact the Wicker Memorial Park office at (219) 838-3420.

## BANQUET FACILITIES

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



# SOUNDS OF SUMMER

## WICKER MEMORIAL PARK CONCERT SERIES

**WHEN:** Doors open 7 p.m. Showtime is 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Wicker Park Social Center Gazebo, 2215 Ridge Road, Highland

**TICKETS:** \$5 per person – ages 21 and over

**MORE INFO:** For more information or to reserve a table, please call (219) 932-2530, ext. 327 or visit [www.NORTHTOWNSHIPTRUSTEE.com](http://www.NORTHTOWNSHIPTRUSTEE.com).

### JUNE 20

#### FINAL SAY

Kick off summer with the greatest hits from the '80s, '90s and today! You've got the final say!

**INFO:** [www.finalsay.com](http://www.finalsay.com)

### JUNE 27

#### GONE 2 PARADISE

The summer party continues with the ultimate Jimmy Buffett experience and a dazzling fireworks display.

**INFO:** [www.gone2paradise.net](http://www.gone2paradise.net)

### JULY 11

#### FRANK PAUL BAND

Nashville recording artist Frank Paul and his band perform the hottest country music on the charts!

**INFO:** [frankpaulentertainment.com](http://frankpaulentertainment.com)

### JULY 18

#### RAZOR X

This '80s tribute band gets the party started with cutting-edge rock from Bon Jovi and Motley Crue to Sammy Hagar and Van Halen.

#### DASHBOARD LIGHTS

Join us for the ultimate Meat Loaf concert experience. Dubbed the "mini Trans-Siberian Orchestra," Dashboard Lights' dazzles with spectacular lasers and special effects.

**INFO:** [www.dashboardlights.net](http://www.dashboardlights.net)

### JULY 25

#### DICK DIAMOND & THE DUSTERS

Get your groove on with Dick and his backup band of eccentric and over-the-top '70s characters.

**INFO:** [www.dickdiamond.net](http://www.dickdiamond.net)

### AUGUST 1

#### KASHMIR

This Led Zeppelin experience comes alive with authentic stage gear, costumes, special effects and the incredible sounds of Zeppelin!

**INFO:** [www.kashmirchicago.com](http://www.kashmirchicago.com)

### AUGUST 8

#### MR. FUNNYMAN

Mr. Funnyman plays your favorite covers from Pink Floyd, The Stones, Crosby, Fleetwood Mac and more.

**INFO:** [www.mrfunnyman.net](http://www.mrfunnyman.net)

### AUGUST 15

#### OSCAR AND THE MAJESTICS

These original '60s and '70s region rockers and world travelers are the legendary garage rock heroes.

**INFO:** [www.oscarandthemajestics.com](http://www.oscarandthemajestics.com)

### SEPTEMBER 12

#### VISIONS OF SANTANA

Celebrate Mexican Independence Day with Afro-Latin-blues-rock fusion to the modern sounds of Santana.

**INFO:** [facebook.com/visionsofsantana](https://facebook.com/visionsofsantana)

FOOD • DRINKS • LIVE ENTERTAINMENT **UNDER THE STARS**

# Summer Spectacular

## SUMMER DAY CAMP

This summer day camp combines fun, learning and exercise in a structured environment for children ages 6 to 14. Price includes two snacks per day, access to our splash pad, weekly field trips and all craft materials.

**SESSION 1:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 10-28

**SESSION 2:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. July 8-26

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

**FEE:** \$250 per 3-week session or \$450 for the entire summer.

## OVERNIGHT CAMPOUT

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

**WHEN:** 7 p.m. July 24 to 9 a.m. July 25

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

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

**REGISTRATION:** Deadline is July 22. Forms available online.

**INFO:** For more information on these park activities, please call Activities Director Anna Wineinger at (219) 932-2530, ext. 331 or visit [www.northtownshiptrustee.com](http://www.northtownshiptrustee.com).

## MOVIES IN THE PARK

Join us for an evening in the park. Sit back, relax and watch cinema on the big screen. Participants are encouraged to bring a blanket or lawn chair for comfortable seating.

**JUNE 14**

Hotel Transylvania

**JULY 19**

The Lorax

**AUGUST 16 - DATE NIGHT**

Silver Linings Playbook: Rated R and intended for adults 18 and over.

**WHEN:** Starting at dusk

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

## SPECIAL NEEDS DAY

Take a break from the summer heat at our Splash Pad - reserved for those with special needs and abilities.

**WHEN:** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

June 11, July 16 and August 13

**WHERE:** Wicker Memorial Park Splash Pad, 2215 Ridge Road, Highland

## STRING OF PEARLS SHOW

Join us for a sentimental journey featuring the songs of the Big Band era. Indiana's very own vocals trio will entertain during our summer dinner-show.

**WHEN:** noon to 4 p.m. Thursday, June 13

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

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

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

## FOUR WINDS CASINO TRIP

Roll the dice and let Lady Luck guide you to fame, fortune or at least a rollicking good time on this trip to New Buffalo, Michigan.

**JUNE TRIP:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, June 26. Deadline to register is June 10.

**JULY TRIP:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, July 26. Deadline to register is July 15.

**AUGUST TRIP:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, August 19. Deadline to register is August 5.

**WHERE:** Four Winds Casino, New Buffalo, MI

**FEE:** \$26 per person. Upon arrival at the casino, you will receive a \$15 slot credit and a \$10 food credit.

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

## RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Donate blood to the American Red Cross and receive free admission to tonight's summer concert series!

**WHEN:** 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. June 27

**WHERE:** Wicker Park Clubhouse, Highland

## FABULOUS '40s -'50s DANCE

It's time to bop, stroll and swing to the delightful tunes of the '40s and '50s. We'll top off your day with Coca Cola and root beer floats.

**WHEN:** 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 23

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

**FEE:** \$ 8 per person includes soda fountain treats and entertainment by Steve Lydell. Deadline to register is July 17.

**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.

**JUNE 20 MENU:** Chicken salad, cottage cheese, tomato, beets and Hawaiian rolls and fresh strawberries.

**JULY 18 MENU:** Mixed green salad, pot roast with boiled potatoes and carrots, apple pie and ice cream.

**AUGUST 15 MENU:** Taco salad / beef, lettuce, tomato, cheese and sour cream, nacho chips and salsa and lime Jell-o.

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



ENTRY INCLUDES FREE ADMISSION TO AUGUST 15 SUMMER CONCERT!

*First Annual*  
**CLASSIC CARS**  
**IN THE PARK**



**4 - 8 PM • AUGUST 15\***

**WICKER MEMORIAL PARK**

FOR MORE INFO, CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AT ...  
[www.NORTHTOWNSHIPTRUSTEE.com](http://www.NORTHTOWNSHIPTRUSTEE.com)

\* RESCHEDULED FROM MAY 12



**Frank J. Mrvan**



**NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE**  
BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY

5947 HOHMAN AVENUE  
HAMMOND, INDIANA 46320

☆☆ *American Cancer Society Fund-raiser* ☆☆

**RUN 4 FREEDOM**

**WICKER PARK PAVILION**

2215 RIDGE ROAD • HIGHLAND

**JUNE 27**

*Registration begins at 4:30*

**5-MILE RACE STARTS 6 PM**

*Early registration: \$20 Race day: \$25*

[www.NORTHTOWNSHIPTRUSTEE.com](http://www.NORTHTOWNSHIPTRUSTEE.com)