



North Township NAVIGATOR

YOUR GUIDE TO NEWS AND SERVICES IN EAST CHICAGO, HAMMOND, HIGHLAND, MUNSTER AND WHITING • SPRING 2021



WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY

WINTER GIVEAWAY

FOOD DELIVERY PROGRAM

FOOD BANK OF NWI

WICKER PARK PICNIC, SHELTER RESERVATIONS RESUME IN APRIL

The shelters available as rentals for family gatherings at Wicker Memorial Park are being readied for a full summer season with one caveat: COVID-19 numbers need to stay where they are or get better.

The wildly popular destination for reunions and graduations began taking reservations April 1 for the May 1-September 30 season. Rentals for the breezeway and pavilion are available through October.

Park Manager Renee Ramos said they're eager to welcome regulars and newcomers back to the park.

"People can't wait. We are an important destination for families and friends and have been getting non-stop calls for reservations," Ramos said. "Once the governor announced an easing of restrictions, we felt comfortable moving forward with a full summer season."

Please note: Reservations for shelters and picnic areas will be taken by telephone only. There will be no online or in-person reservations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Wicker Memorial Park office is taking reservations via telephone only. Please call Park Manager Renee Ramos at (219) 838-3420 or email ramosr@ntto.net.

TOWNSHIP WELCOMES NEW TRUSTEE

From his first day on the job, North Township Trustee Adrian A. Santos has been welcomed by partner organizations eager to help strengthen the social safety net for those in need of employment opportunities, food assistance, psychological help and more.

"These agencies help us help others," Santos said. "Catholic Charities, the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana and Lake Area United Way are just a few of the organizations reaching out."

Victor Garcia, executive director of Food Bank of Northwest Indiana, said the transition to a new trustee has been seamless for those in need of food.

Following an onsite meeting at the food bank with Santos and his team, Garcia said there is already plans to expand the reach of food assistance throughout Whiting, East Chicago, Hammond, Highland and Munster for seniors through the Commodity Supplemental Food Program.

"After meeting with Trustee Santos, we are excited to hear his vision for working together to make meaningful change in our communities," he said.

"We were able to start building a plan to reduce food insecurity, which has been an issue in Northwest Indiana that only became more serious during the pandemic."

NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE



ADRIAN A. SANTOS

North Township Trustee
(219) 932-2530
santosa@ntto.net

HAMMOND OFFICE

5947 Hohman Ave.
Hammond, IN 46320
Phone: (219) 932-2530
Fax: (219) 937-4412
Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday

EAST CHICAGO OFFICE

2100 Broadway
East Chicago, IN 46312
Phone: (219) 398-2435
Fax: (219) 397-2190
Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday

HESSVILLE CIRCLE OF SERVICES

2835-165th Street
Hammond, IN 46323
Phone: (219) 803-0659
Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday

NORTH TOWNSHIP BOARD



PETER KATIC
Chairman



RICHARD J. NOVAK
Member



LISA SALINAS-MATONOVICH
Secretary

OAK HILL CEMETERY

6445 Hohman Avenue
Hammond, IN 46322
Phone: (219) 838-3420
Gate: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Daily
Office: 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday - Friday
www.OakHillHammond.com

WICKER MEMORIAL PARK

8554 Indianapolis Boulevard
Highland, IN 46322
Phone: (219) 838-3420
Hours: 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday
www.WickerMemorialPark.com

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WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY: North Township Trustee Adrian A. Santos sponsored the first annual World Down Syndrome Day celebration March 21 with a car parade through Wicker Memorial Park. Families from throughout the area gathered to hear the personal stories of guest speakers Jerame Hicks and Jacob Keifor, along with a prayer lead by Jabari Moore and a balloon release by Nataly Garcia to kick off the parade. The Lake County Sheriff's Department, Highland Police and Fire Departments led the way as the parade made its way through the park – with Batman, Batgirl, Deadpool and Captain America in tow! [North Township photos]



LETTER FROM THE NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

“Job opportunities abound as North Township and its partners seek full-time and seasonal workers”

I've been your township trustee for just three months and what an exciting introduction to North Township it's been.

I have been working on developing additional resources to make this very good system of assistance even better.

On my agenda: Explore every partnership option to provide new job opportunities for those who were hit hard by the economic downturn, resources to assist families who need help with food, utilities and housing while they get back on their feet and options at Wicker Memorial Park that provide low-cost or no-cost recreation to help rebuild our mental health as we emerge from the pandemic.

Check out this issue of the North Township Navigator as well as our websites to keep tabs on the latest opportunities for you and your family to live, work and play.

TOWNSHIP JOBS

While we are looking at a new logistics training and an on-the-job partnership between Ivy Tech, Lake Area United Way and Food Bank of Northwest Indiana, I want to let you know about job opportunities at Wicker Memorial Park and Oak

Hill Cemetery. We are looking for seasonal workers to assist Wicker Memorial Park Superintendent Melinda Buchler as she preps the park for the season and develops a vision for its future. We are thrilled to welcome Melinda, who comes to us after bringing exciting changes to Lowell as that town's Superintendent of Parks.

On the horizon: We'll be hosting a job fair May 3 at the Wicker Park Social Center. Follow us on social media or check out our websites for the latest details.

LOGISTICS COURSE

With warehousing facilities in need of qualified individuals popping up around the region, a logistics training partnership is a perfect opportunity at an ideal time as we look to prepare our residents for a recovering economy. The first class of 10 began in early April. The success of that course is expected to be followed by enrollment for upcoming sessions. Opportunities will be posted on the township website at northtownshiptrustee.com.

ADRIAN A. SANTOS
North Township Trustee

Spring in the Park



There are wonders in every season at Wicker Memorial Park, but there is something extraordinary about springtime. Join us for a walk, a bike ride or a round of golf this season in one of the most beautiful parks in the township.



❁ SPRING GOLF ❁

Our 18-hole, par-72 course offers tree-lined fairways, a practice green and driving range. Spring rates start at \$37 to ride 18 holes on the weekend or \$27 for nine holes. Senior discounts and evening twilight rates available. Call the Pro Shop at (219) 838-9809 to learn more about our memberships 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 your dog at the Wicker Memorial Park picnic office.

❁ FOR MORE INFORMATION ❁

Visit wickermemorialpark.com to get the latest updates on events, download forms, applications, maps and so much more!

❁ 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.





NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

North Township Trustee Adrian A. Santos welcomes all comers to the National Day of Prayer commemoration. The non-denominational program includes pastors and religious leaders from around the North Township and region. Any pastors or religious leaders interested in participating should contact the North Township Trustee's Office.

WHEN: 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, **MAY 6**

WHERE: Wicker Memorial Park

INFO: (219) 932-2530

VETERANS FLAG CEREMONY

Oak Hill Cemetery will honor the memories of more than 500 veterans at a flag-raising ceremony Memorial Day weekend.

"Putting flags at the graves of these brave men and women is an honor," Cemetery Manager Patricia Wolfe said. "Local scouts have volunteered and we hope to see many from the community, too."

Oak Hill also has an Adopt-A-Vet program. "We have a number of veterans laid to rest here," Wolfe said. "Unfortunately, many have no living relatives to care for their final resting place." Anyone can adopt a veteran's grave for \$25 a year. "The funds go to maintaining the grounds, so the brave men and women who fought for our country have the beautiful memorial they deserve."

All members of the community are welcome!
Masks and safe, social distancing are requested of attendees.

WHEN: 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, **MAY 29**

WHERE: Oak Hill Cemetery, 6445 Hohman, Hammond

INFO: Call Oak Hill Cemetery Manager Patricia Wolfe at (219) 932-0206 or email wolfep@ntto.net.

**WE ARE
HIRING**

BARTENDERS & BEER CART TENDERS

Wicker Memorial Park

Our Pro Shop is seeking licensed bartenders and beer cart tenders for the 2021 golf season. Responsibilities include verifying the identification and age of customers, preparing and serving alcoholic beverages, accept payment from customers, clean glasses and bar utensils as well as balance cash receipts to record sales. Applicants must be able to drive a golf cart, as well as prepare hot dogs, work a pizza oven and serve minimal snacks.

HOURS: Weekdays and weekends

PAY: Minimum wage plus tips

PARK GROUNDSKEEPERS

Wicker Memorial Park

We're looking for groundskeepers to maintain the park grounds. Qualified individuals must have a valid driver's license, the ability to lift 50 pounds and the physical stamina to work outdoors.

HOURS: Weekdays and weekends

PAY: Minimum wage

CEMETERY GROUNDSKEEPERS

Oak Hill Cemetery

Help maintain Oak Hill Cemetery. Candidates must have experience using industrial weed trimmers and blowers as well as the physical ability to work outdoors.

HOURS: Weekdays and weekends

PAY: Minimum wage

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Check out our online job portal at northtownshiptrustee.com/home/job-opportunities for a complete list of job openings, requirements and how to apply.



Veteran organization leaders welcome North Township Trustee Adrian A. Santos to their Commanders Roundtable to talk about resources and assistance available to local veterans. [North Township photo]

TRUSTEE, COMMANDERS DISCUSS SUICIDE PREVENTION

When the North Township Commanders Roundtable met in February, one of the key topics was strategies to thwart suicide among veterans.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs estimates 20 military veterans commit suicide every day.

It is just one of the topics that brings the leaders of veterans organizations – Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans and Team Red White and Blue – to break bread on a regular basis at Wicker Park Social Center. Their goal: to talk resources and assistance programs to help those who have served.

DAV Chapter 17 Bob Carnagey said the roundtable is making strides. “This started a few years ago with a goal to focus on issues vital to veterans, including our organizations themselves.”

Trustee Adrian A. Santos is looking forward to the township taking a leading role in veteran assistance.

“We know how severe mental health issues have become for the general public. For many of our veterans, it is even worse,” Santos said. “We are fortunate to be only the second area in the country targeted by the Veterans Administration for an initiative aimed at zero suicides.”

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

Whether it’s living in isolation, struggling to pay bills, working through home issues or simply the stress of living in the time of COVID-19, our mental health professionals are here to help.

INFO: Call our 24-hour hotline at (800) 706-2751. A licensed professional will gather information, assess the struggle and connect you with a mental health provider.



FOOD ASSISTANCE

North Township Trustee Adrian A. Santos and the local Catholic Charities Food Pantry are working to provide food deliveries to seniors and the disabled community in East Chicago, Highland, Hammond, Munster and Whiting. “Our partnership with Catholic Charities guarantees we will be able to make deliveries to those in need at no cost – for either the delivery or the food.”

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



WICKER PARK

8554 INDIANAPOLIS BLVD
HIGHLAND | INDIANA

GOLF

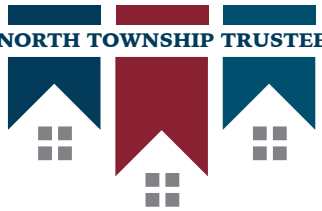
18-HOLE, PAR-72 COURSE

WE OFFER SOME OF THE LOWEST, MOST
COMPETITIVE RATES IN THE REGION!

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

ADRIAN A. SANTOS

NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE



5947 HOHMAN AVENUE
HAMMOND, INDIANA 46320



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North Township
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OUR DUTY IS TO REMEMBER.

Name/Company: _____

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- YES, I WANT AN ENGRAVED 4" X 8" BRICK FOR \$50
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Please engrave my 4" x 8" brick as follows:

3 lines | 16 characters each (includes spaces, punctuation)

TOTAL ENCLOSED = \$ _____

Please make contributions payable and mail to:

Wicker Park Memorial Fund
8554 Indianapolis Boulevard, Highland, IN 46322

For more info: Call the park office at (219) 838-3420.