



YOUR GUIDE TO NEWS AND SERVICES IN EAST CHICAGO, HAMMOND, HIGHLAND, MUNSTER AND WHITING • SPRING 2015

MEETING RIDER DEMAND

Demand for Dial-a-Ride doubled – and then nearly doubled again – in the last three years.

From 12,000 trips in 2011 to 46,000 trips last year, North Township Trustee Frank Mrvan said the numbers – and the stories of those who use the service – tell the story of a program that is highly valued and much needed.

For Amber Price, Dial-a-Ride is a critical link toward fulfilling her dream to a degree in human development and a career working with children with special needs.

“Because of Dial-a-Ride, I am able to get to my classes at Purdue Calumet four days a week. Without it, I wouldn’t be able to attend school at all. You see, I am blind,” she said. “I’ve been using the service for three years and the drivers couldn’t be nicer. I’m grateful for the opportunity the service provides.”

Hammond resident, Wayne Januszewski uses the service to get to doctor visits, physical therapy appointments and grocery shopping.

“If not for Dial-a-Ride, I’d be up a creek without a paddle,” said Januszewski, who hasn’t



Three new para-transit buses have been added to the North Township fleet. One will replace an obsolete bus while the other two will help meet the increasing need for on-demand transportation in the township.

been able to drive in more than three years. They do a lot for me and I am grateful.”

It is those stories that keep Mrvan hunting for funding. “We are applying for a two-year extension on our existing grant and searching for other programs that could help. We have done everything we can to make the service as efficient as possible. There is a growing need for transit we will continue to try to fill.” ▲

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

SALUTING OUR VETERANS

There will be a flag-raising at Oak Hill Cemetery May 23 – and you are invited.

Cemetery Manager Kelly Vicari said 563 veterans’ graves will be decorated that day.

“Putting flags at the resting places of these brave men and women is an honor,” Vicari said. “The Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts have volunteered to help and we are hoping to see many people from the community who would like to help us.”

WHEN: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 23

WHERE: Oak Hill Cemetery, 6445 Hohman Avenue, Hammond

INFO: Call Cemetery Manager Kelly Vicari at (219) 746-7668.

CEMETERY FUND-RAISER

North Township is planning a July fund-raiser for much-needed improvements at Oak Hill Cemetery in Hammond. The gateway to the grounds will need an investment of as much as \$50,000 to refurbish the entrance and keep the gates in working order.

WANT TO HELP? If you would like to assist in the effort, please call Cemetery Manager Kelly Vicari at (219) 746-7668.

MOBILE RESOURCE FAIR TO HELP INDIVIDUALS FIND BALANCE

North Township, Geminus Corporation and North Shore Health Centers are teaming up to help the community to become a little more Zen – and they are taking their mobile resource fair on the road.

The partners are planning events in April and May designed to showcase and assist in building a community better prepared to handle the rigors of life.

Martin Zunig, community outreach coordinator for North Shore, believes maintaining balance between eight core components –

from the spiritual, social and emotional, to the financial, physical, intellectual, environmental and occupational – makes for happier individuals and families.

“We are tapping a host of resources, from bankers and tax preparers to yoga instructors and college planners, to showcase the many free and low-cost options available,” said Albert Gay, North Township Community That Cares Coordinator for Geminus. “This is about each individual finding the perfect blend that brings homeostasis to their lives.” ▲

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The fairs will be held from noon to 6 p.m. April 9 at the Circle of Services and from 1 to 6 p.m. May 19 at Roxanna Community Center, 900 Shell Street, East Chicago.

INFO: Call (219) 803.0659



WE’RE HERE TO HELP YOU! FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT US AT NORTHTOWNSHIPTRUSTEE.COM.



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HESSVILLE CIRCLE OF SERVICES

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Hours: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday – Friday



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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND AT UPCOMING JOB FAIR

Plans are in the works to make North Township's 2015 Job Fair one for the record books.

The 2014 day-long employment opportunity attracted 25 employers and 400 individuals.

Resource Coordinator Cindy Rivera is already lining up employers, who will be hiring in the months to come.

"Employers sending representatives to the job fair include some of the region's largest industries as well as businesses of all sizes," she said. "We post on the North Township Trustee website what companies are coming so that people can be prepared. Our hope is that most people apply before the Job Fair and are able to treat the job fair as the interview for the position."

Rivera considers the LinkedIn seminar held earlier in the day as valuable as the job fair.

"That free seminar helps people learn how to network online," she said. "It helps individuals who may not have experience with social media build contacts and put themselves out there to potential employers." ▲

ABOUT THE 2015 JOB FAIR

WHEN: Thursday, May 14
LINKEDIN SEMINAR: 9:30 a.m.
JOB FAIR: 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
WHERE: Wicker Memorial Park Social Center,
 2215 Ridge Road, Highland
INFO: Call Cindy Rivera at (219) 803-0659.

NEW JOB COORDINATOR



Employment coordinator Dawn Stevens has been on the job for just two months but she is already making strides in finding out where local employers are hiring and helping her clients apply.

After assisting North Township residents through the grueling steps of creating a professional resume, she spends part of each workday combing through online job-finder websites.

"My job is helping people use the tools that will help them find gainful, rewarding employment," she said. "After the resumé is completed, I apply for jobs with them to take the fear out of the experience."

To reach Dawn, call (219) 932-2530 ext. 305.



LETTER FROM THE NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

Our latest partnership helps train individuals for local industrial technology jobs at Praxair

I have always believed partnerships have the ability to transform lives and communities in ways no single initiative can. It seems in North Township, the more we branch out and team up, the better the return.

I am reminded of this as I look around the region and see the partnerships we have forged, which include some of the largest and most established industries in the country.

Today, we are working with education stand-outs Purdue Calumet and Ivy Tech to provide top-of-the-line training for our residents, who want to find good-paying jobs, while serving the needs of Praxair, one of the largest providers of industrial gases in the world.

Resource Coordinator Cindy Rivera is working with the company, which has offices in East Chicago and Hammond, to train individuals in very specific areas of industrial technology.

Praxair managers are partnering with North Township and the two colleges to train would-be workers to meet their needs. While Purdue works through its Project AWAKE – a workforce training initiative – Ivy Tech has offered to house equipment donated by Praxair for hands-on training.

It's one of those wonderful collaborations where everyone wins. Our township residents get education that equips them for bright futures. Praxair solidifies its workforce with local people. Purdue Calumet and Ivy Tech fulfill their mission of workforce education.

It's the kind of community benefit that is amplified with each entity that comes to the table and we, at North Township, are pleased to be a catalyst in the effort. ▲

FRANK J. MRVAN
 North Township Trustee

SPRING IN THE PARK

SPRING ACTIVITIES

After a long, hard winter, Wicker Memorial Park is coming alive again. All the snow that fell in January is making for a lush spring.

GOLF COURSE

This 18-hole, par-72 course offers tree-lined fairways, a practice green and driving range. Spring rates start at \$27 to ride 18 holes on the weekend or \$23 for nine holes. Weekdays with cart are \$23 for 18 holes or \$17 for nine holes. For more info or to schedule a tee time, call the Pro Shop at (219) 838-9809

DOG RUN

Conveniently located along Indianapolis Boulevard, the Dog Run is open every day – dawn to dusk. This fenced in area gives your dog the freedom to run and play with other canine friends.

WALKING & BIKING

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 scenic tour of the park, volleyball courts and playground. All trails are paved and open from dawn to dusk.

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 call the Wicker Memorial Park office at (219) 838-3420

FOR MORE INFO

WICKER MEMORIAL PARK
8554 Indianapolis Boulevard
Highland, Indiana 46322
wickermemorialpark.com
(219) 838-3420



TENNIS CAMP RETURNS TO WICKER PARK COURTS

After a three-year hiatus, tennis camps are returning to the courts at Wicker Memorial Park with ace tennis instructor/player Donn Gobbie at the helm. Gobbie, who is U.S. Professional Tennis Association certified and has 23 years of coaching under his belt, owns a PI rating from the USPTA.

Join us for a **FREE TENNIS CLINIC** from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 10 on the park tennis courts. All ages and abilities welcome.

Programs starting June 15 ...

8 & UNDER TENNIS

10 to 11:30 a.m.
Mondays and Wednesdays
\$175 per child, 16 meetings

10 & UNDER TENNIS

10 to 11:30 a.m.
Tuesdays and Thursdays
\$175 per child, 16 meetings

11 TO 13 YEAR OLDS

2 to 4 p.m.
Mondays and Wednesdays
\$175 per child, 16 meetings

13 TO 18 YEAR OLDS

2 to 4 p.m.
Tuesdays and Thursdays
\$175 per child, 16 meetings

HIGH SCHOOL DRILL/PLAY

4 to 6 p.m.
Monday through Friday
\$60/week, \$200/4 weeks

USTA JR. TEAM TENNIS

6 p.m. Thursdays
14 under, 18 under
\$40 per player

ADULT START/RESTART LEVEL I

BEGINNER LEVEL
6 p.m. Mondays
\$85 for 8 meetings

ADULT START/RESTART LEVEL II

ADVANCED BEGINNER/INTERMEDIATE
6 p.m. Wednesdays
\$85 for 8 meetings

WORLD TEAM TENNIS

RECREATIONAL ADULT LEAGUE
6 p.m. Fridays
\$85 for 8 weeks

TO REGISTER OR MORE INFO

Visit www.tennis219.com or
www.wickermemorialpark.com.

GRANT HELPS REPLACE TREES LOST TO EMERALD ASH BORER

When the weather became too inclement for duffers, the grounds crews at Wicker Memorial Park got busy. Between November and February, the crews removed 108 mature trees dying from infestation by the emerald ash borer.

By May, those same crews will begin planting sapling replacements to bring back the shade canopy along holes 5, 6, 14 and 15.

Park Superintendent Brett Bierman said 72 new trees, including birch, oaks and tulips, will be planted thanks to a \$9,000 Indiana Department of Natural Resources grant.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Over the course of the next two years, crews will repeat the process, removing another 275 trees in fall and winter and planting replacements in the spring.

FOR MORE INFO

Call Wicker Park Superintendent Brett Bierman at (219) 838-3420.

Around the Township

Whiting

PARTY LIKE A PIRATE

A treasure map takes little pirates on a journey through Whiting in search of the ultimate pirate's booty. Along your way, kids will enjoy crafts, Jack the Pirate and the best pirate grub.

WHEN: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 25

WHERE: Downtown Whiting

INFO: Call (219) 659-0292.

East Chicago

STARS SUMMER CAMP

East Chicago Parks and Recreation kicks off registration for STARS Summer Camp on April 28.

REGISTRATION: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays, April 28 – May 30.

WHERE: Parks & Recreation office

INFO: Call (219) 391-8476.

Hammond

WOLF LAKE WATER SPORTS

Rent a canoe, kayak, paddle boat or paddle board at Wolf Lake for \$5 per hour. Price includes life vests and oars. Children 18 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

WHEN: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily, weather permitting.

WHERE: Wolf Lake Memorial Park

INFO: Call (219) 655-5212 for availability.

Munster

CASH FOR CLUTTER

Clear the clutter and earn quick cash by selling those things you don't have room for anymore. Each space is 9' x 16'. Early bird deadline is May 8.

WHEN: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 16

WHERE: Community Pool Parking Lot

FEE: Resident \$16.05, nonresident \$26.75.

INFO: Call (219) 836-PARK.

Highland

BUNNY BREAKFAST

Join the Easter Bunny and his furry friends for a continental breakfast. Sponsored by the Highland Chamber of Commerce, the event also features a bike drawing, basket raffles and photos with the bunny.

WHEN: Saturday, March 28

SEATINGS: 8:30 and 10 a.m.

WHERE: Highland High School cafeteria, 9135 Erie Street.

TICKETS: \$6 and must purchase in advance at Lincoln Center or the Highland Chamber office.

INFO: Call the Highland Chamber of Commerce at (219) 923-3666.

EASTER HAM BINGO

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

WHEN: 1 to 3 p.m. Monday, April 1. Doors open at noon.

WHERE: Wicker Park Social Center, Highland

NOTE: North Township residents only

QUESTIONS? 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.

MARCH TRIP

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, March 31.

APRIL TRIP

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, April 27

MAY TRIP

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, May 28

WHERE: Four Winds Casino, New Buffalo, MI

FEE: \$26 per person includes round-trip transportation to/from Wicker Memorial Park. Upon arrival at the casino, you'll receive a \$15 slot credit and a \$10 food credit.

RESERVATIONS: Seats are limited. Call Eleanor at (219) 313-3934 to reserve yours today!



SENIOR MOTHER'S DAY DANCE

Join us as we celebrate mothers everywhere with a special lunch followed by an afternoon of dancing to the tunes of Peter Oprisko. Menu includes tossed salad, roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, buttered corn, homemade bread, tea and coffee.

WHEN: 12:30 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, May 6

WHERE: Wicker Park Social Center, Highland

FEE: \$20 per person includes a delightful luncheon, gifts and entertainment.

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. Lunch begins at noon.

MARCH 11: Mixed green salad, spaghetti, garlic bread and peppermint ice cream, bread and butter, hot tea and coffee.

APRIL 15: Mixed green salad, chicken ala king on rice and orange sherbet, bread and butter, hot tea and coffee.

MAY 13: Mixed green salad, pork loin, roasted potatoes, applesauce, peas & carrots and peach cobbler, bread and butter, hot tea and coffee.

RESERVATIONS: Call (219) 932-2530, ext. 301.



EASTER EGG ETIQUETTE

While snow was still on the ground, some of the Easter Bunny's favorite helpers were getting busy filling a whopping 15,000 brightly colored eggs in preparation for North Township's annual Easter Egg hunt.

The Easter Bunny knows just how excited children – and their parents – get when it comes to hunting for eggs and has some friendly advice when it comes to making the day the best one ever.

Because there are so many children who participate each year, the township limits each child to filling their basket with six eggs.

As a parent, it's tempting to want to step in. Please don't. This egg hunt is planned to be a fun and memorable event for your child. Let them take their time and have fun.

Please talk to your child before the hunt and remind them to have fun and be kind.

The township recycles plastic eggs to be used for next year's hunt. After you take the prizes out of the egg, look for bins strategically placed at the park just for Easter eggs.

9TH ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

North Township children – ages 1 through 10 – are invited to hunt for filled eggs.

DJ music, a bouncy house and a visit from the Easter Bunny are all part of the day's festivities. Admission is free.

WHEN: 9 a.m. – noon March 28

WHEN: Wicker Park Pavilion, 8554 Indianapolis, Highland

INFO: Call Kelly Bridges at (219) 932-2530, ext. 331.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY DANCE

Get your groove on as the Heavy Titus Rodes Band and DJ Dominguez join us for St. Patrick's Day. Dance includes cash bar and green beer, corned beef and cabbage.

WHEN: 8 p.m. Saturday, March 14.

Doors open at 7 p.m.

WHERE: Wicker Memorial Park Social Center, 2215 Ridge Road, Highland

TICKETS: \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Call Louie at (219) 308-5655, Rico at (219) 688-2189, Chuck at (219) 613-3308 or Hall at (219) 923-3830.

MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

Join us for a Mother's Day Champagne Brunch with live music and delicious food.

WHEN: Sunday, May 10

WHERE: Wicker Memorial Park Social Center, 2215 Ridge Road, Highland

INFO: Call (219) 923-3830.

TOWNSHIP FOOD PANTRY

Circle of Services is planning a food pantry. All you have to do is bring bags and an ID.

WHEN: 4 to 6 p.m. May 20

WHERE: Circle of Services, 2835-165th St., Hammond.

INFO: Call (219) 803-0659.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Community Garden that produced a bumper crop of tomatoes, zucchini and peppers will stage a repeat performance.

The raised beds at the Circle of Services in Hessville will be planted in May.

"Having helped grow fresh produce that found its way to our community's tables was rewarding," Resource Coordinator Cindy Rivera said. "We're hoping to attract even more volunteers this year."

WANT TO HELP? Call (219) 803-0659.

BRIDGES OF CARE EAGER TO MOVE ORGANIZATION FORWARD IN 2015

Lake Area United Way has joined East Chicago Bridges of Care, a collaboration that began as a means to address critical challenges in East Chicago, including community and family support, economic opportunity, education, health and public safety.

Convened under the umbrella of Calumet College of St. Joseph and anchored by organizations, such as North Township

and Legacy Foundation, Angie Williams, director of community impact for United Way, said the short-term goal is to empower Bridges of Care work teams to move the organization forward.

"In 2015, stakeholders and work teams are coming together to develop priorities and set measurable goals to help propel the East Chicago community forward," Williams

said. "We are working to create a uniform process every team can follow and investing in helping team leaders gain the necessary skills to position their groups for success."

The Foundations of East Chicago started Bridges of Care in 2007 as a core group dedicated to improving the social fabric of the community through partnerships both inside and outside the city. ▲



CHICAGO ODYSSEY LUNCHEON CRUISE



Let North Township whisk you away for a day of fun in Chicago. Set sail aboard the Odyssey for a skyline luncheon cruise like no other.

When: 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. June 23 • Navy Pier, Chicago

Fee: \$85 includes round-trip coach from Wicker Park, lunch and cruise.

Reservations: Call Eleanor at (219) 313-3934. Deadline is April 23.

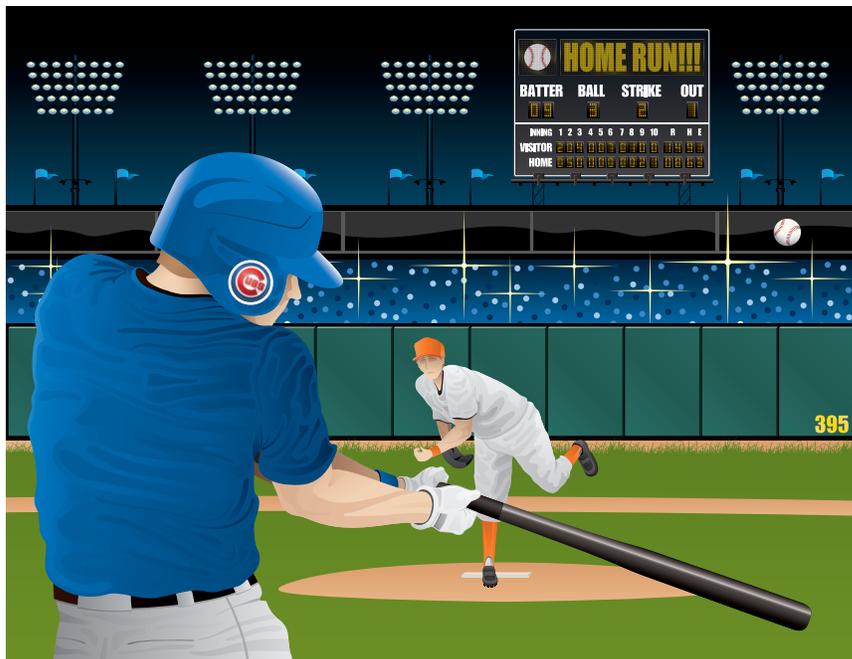
Frank J. Mrvan



NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY

5947 HOHMAN AVENUE
HAMMOND, INDIANA 46320



CUBS VS. METS

Senior bus trip to Wrigley Field

1:20 PM GAME • MAY 14

HISTORIC WRIGLEY FIELD • CHICAGO

**\$28 PER PERSON • NONREFUNDABLE • INCLUDES
TICKET AND ROUND-TRIP TRANSPORTATION**

**BUS LEAVES WICKER MEMORIAL PARK
@ 10:30 AM AND RETURNS @ 5:30 PM**

**RESERVATIONS: PLEASE CALL ELEANOR
AT (219) 313-3934. DEADLINE IS MARCH 15.**