



YOUR GUIDE TO NEWS AND SERVICES IN EAST CHICAGO, HAMMOND, HIGHLAND, MUNSTER AND WHITING • WINTER 2014

SENIOR OUTREACH PROGRAM

North Township Trustee Frank Mrvan is prepared for whatever this winter offers up.

With predictions for a colder and snowier winter than normal, Mrvan has the football teams from Clark, Morton and East Chicago Central ready to be mobilized to take care of emergency snow removal at the homes of individuals who cannot do it for themselves.

In addition, the Trustee's office will be making well-person checks via phone throughout the winter to ensure that seniors and those who are homebound are safe and secure.

"It's easy to sign up," Mrvan said. "When temperatures dip and the snow starts to fall, we'll be making calls to everyone on our list. If we can't contact people on our list, we will notify the appropriate officials in Whiting, Hammond, East Chicago, Highland or Munster." ▲



SIGN UP FOR OUR CALL LIST

If you are a senior or homebound individual and would like to be part of the township's seasonal well-being checks, the process is easy. Simply call Chief Deputy Jane Dudley at (219) 932-2530 ext. 313. There is no cost for the service.

LAST CHANCE TO SAVE ON ENERGY BILLS

If you haven't yet scheduled your free energy assessment through Energizing Indiana, you have only a few more weeks to take advantage of the opportunity to find ways you can save on your energy bills.

The program, which is scheduled to conclude Dec. 31 or whenever funding is exhausted, is a collaboration between the Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor and utilities around the state.

Energy saved since the program began in 2012 is sufficient to fully power more than 100,000 homes for a full year.

North Township Trustee Frank Mrvan will be sorry to see the program end.

WINTER ASSISTANCE

From shoveling and pet assistance to winterization kits and food/clothing help, the North Township Trustee's office is here to help. **Learn more on Page 5.**

"Many individuals in North Township took advantage of the opportunity and saw great savings on their energy bills. What that meant for the township was the ability to help stretch our assistance dollars," he said. "Everyone won. I have already been talking to NIPSCO to see what types of new programs may be implemented to continue what was started."

To schedule your free energy assessment, visit www.energizingindiana.com. ▲

DIAL-A-RIDE BOOMING

Transit ridership has quadrupled to a whopping 48,000 rides since 2012.

North Township Trustee Frank Mrvan said the new partnership with Prompt Ambulance's Highland dispatch center and a new system of bundling rides has allowed the township to keep pace with demand.

"The challenge now is to find a permanent source of funding for this vitally needed program," Mrvan said. "We have shown just how badly a unified transportation system is needed in our communities. We are looking to secure permanent funding through federal, state and local sources."

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

WICKER PARK ROCKS!

Wicker Memorial Park is a rock star thanks to ABC and its daytime talk show – Windy City Live. Turns out WCL's Producer David Plummer moved with his wife and two children to Highland to take advantage of all North Township has to offer. Plummer named Wicker Memorial Park as one of the features he loves most on his installment of a new segment titled, "My Hometown." Check it out at <http://windycitylive.com/episodes/My-Hometown-kicks-off-in-NW-Indiana/9544069>.

COAT DRIVE A SUCCESS

North Township's Seventh Annual Coat Drive arrived just in time for 445 individuals from more than 100 families who were desperately in need of warm winter coats, hats, scarves and mittens. Partners in the project were NIPSCO, BP, Salzeider Family Charity and Kusiak Cares. A huge thank you to everyone who donated gently used winter clothing items to the effort to keep North Township warm this winter!



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



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



JANE DUDLEY
 Chief Deputy
 (219) 932-2530 Ext. 313
 dudleyj@ntto.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
 aukselp@ntto.net

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



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A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS! An enthusiastic group from the Hammond High School ROTC join North Township Trustee Frank Mrvan Nov. 8 at Veterans Plaza in Harrison Park for the city's first Veterans Day parade.



LETTER FROM THE NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

From our memorial ride to a new parade, we proudly salute our brave veterans

I was honored to be part of the first Veterans Day parade in Hammond. A little more than a month after our Victory for Veterans Memorial Ride attracted nearly 3,000 participants and raised money to help rehab a home for a veteran in Hammond, this inaugural march was another perfect way to honor our soldiers. The parade was about patriotism and respect for our military.

I was heartened seeing people standing along Hohman Avenue to reflect and remember those who have served; in the big wars and the smaller skirmishes; protecting our borders and defending those around the globe who can't do the job for themselves.

The cloudy skies and cool temperatures were a great reminder of what we ask of America's bravest men and women. We ask them to sacrifice personal comfort, jobs and families back home in the worst possible conditions to protect and defend the freedoms we hold dear.

Every day, there are about 500 brave young men and women who enlist in the Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard or Air Force.

Today, we have nearly 1.4 million Americans who are on active duty in the armed forces and another 851,000 who are attached to a reserve unit – more than 2 million Americans



WHAT A RIDE! The 2014 Victory for Veterans Memorial Ride was a huge success. Thank you to the 2,352 riders who helped raise more than \$13,000 for our veterans. This year, proceeds of the 15th annual ride were donated to Habitat for Humanity to rehabilitate a Hessville home for a veteran and his/her family.

who stand between us and harm's way. Fresh out of high school or college, they know they want to serve and are willing to sacrifice to do just that. They have great role models in the veterans who have served before them.

We can never thank them enough, but I feel better knowing we try. ▲

FRANK J. MRVAN
 North Township Trustee

WINTER IN THE PARK

Wicker Park is alive with activity throughout the winter season. Bundle up for a brisk walk or bring your binoculars and look skyward. Chances are you'll spy more than one of our feathered friends — blue jays, cardinals and woodpeckers are abundant throughout the park.

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.

DOG RUN

Located along Indianapolis Boulevard, the dog run is open every day — dawn to dusk. Give your pup the freedom to run while playing with other canines.

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 \$10. Course open weather permitting.

INFO: 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.

INFO: 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.



For more information

WICKER MEMORIAL PARK
8554 Indianapolis Boulevard
Highland, Indiana 46322

www.wickermemorialpark.com

Around the Township

Highland

NEW YEAR'S FIREWORKS

Ring in the new year with spectacular fireworks at Main Square Park. Delicious hot chocolate will be served to warm your heart and your toes!

WHEN: Midnight December 31

WHERE: Main Square Park

INFO: Call (219) 670-0764

or visit www.highland.in.gov.

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 18

WHERE: North Township Trustee's East Chicago office, 2105 Broadway

INFO: Call (219) 398-2435.

Munster

ROCK ALONG WITH SANTA

Children will enjoy food, songs and holiday stories with Santa Claus. Bring your camera and capture the fun!

WHEN: 5:30 to 8 p.m. December 11

WHERE: View Restaurant, Centennial Park, 900 N. Centennial Drive

COST: Resident couple \$35. Nonresident couple \$45. Additional child \$15.

INFO: Call (219) 836-6900.

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 4

WHERE: Indiana Welcome Museum, 7770 Corrine Drive, Hammond

INFO: Call (800) ALL-LAKE.

Whiting

CHRISTMAS PARADE

Whiting sparkles its way into the season with this hometown holiday parade.

WHEN: 7 p.m. December 5

WHERE: 119th Street business district

INFO: Call (219) 659-7700.

SENIOR DINNER-DANCE

Kick up your heels to the tunes of Dick Elliott during this Winter Wonderland Dinner-Dance after enjoying a delicious dinner of roast beef with dressing, mashed sweet potato, vegetable medley, mixed green salad and hot apple pie with ice cream.

WHEN: Doors open at 11:30 a.m. December 10.

Dinner is 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Music from 2 to 4 p.m.

WHERE: Wicker Park Social Center, Highland

COST: \$20 per person.



SENIOR HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

This special holiday luncheon features singing sensation Peter Oprisko, who will entertain the crowd with oldies and Christmas songs. The menu features mixed green salad, baked ham with horseradish, green beans almondine, 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

COST: Seniors enjoy great food, entertainment, guest speakers and door prizes for \$5.



SENIOR FEBRUARY 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 4. 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.



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 10. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. Dinner served at 12:30 p.m.

WHERE: Wicker Park Social Center, Highland
FEE: Reservations are \$20 per person and include a special Valentine's Day meal and entertainment.



RESERVATIONS: For more information on any of these senior events or to make reservations, please call Senior Event Coordinator Eleanor Uribe at (219) 313-3934 or email uribee@ntto.net.



WINTER ASSISTANCE

ENERGIZING INDIANA

In three short years, Energizing Indiana has resulted in vast reductions in energy consumption while saving homeowners and business owners 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: Schedule your assessment by visiting www.energizingindiana.com. Please note: the program is scheduled to conclude Dec. 31, 2014.

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 are snowed-in and need help 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.

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 you need help insulating this winter, call (219) 932-2530.

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.

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 Best 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 bestbuddiespetpantry@yahoo.com. Donations are also accepted at Petco in Highland and Munster Animal Hospital. For more info, visit bestbuddiespetpantry.org.





HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS!

CELEBRATE THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

11 AM TO 1 PM • DECEMBER 11

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 7

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.

