



NORTH TOWNSHIP ADVOCATE

YOUR NORTH TOWNSHIP GUIDE TO ASSISTANCE, SERVICES AND RECREATION
IN EAST CHICAGO, GRIFFITH, HAMMOND, HIGHLAND, MUNSTER AND WHITING

TRUSTEE TALK

ADRIAN A. SANTOS
NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

In two short years, our Vets & Friends Coffee Social has had the results we were hoping for – and then some.

We created the monthly event with a plan we hoped would spur veterans and their families to come together for fellowship and conversation to discuss issues that are uniquely theirs. They left the embrace of their communities to serve our country in far-flung locales. Many of them experiencing situations we could never imagine.

It is wonderful to reconnect with our local veterans each month and see how these interactions are helping them move forward.

We meet from 9-11 a.m. on the second Tuesday of the month at the Wicker Park Clubhouse. Our next social is **March 11**. Please join us!

LEARN MORE

Learn more about us at NorthTownshipTrustee.com.



Adrian A. Santos and his fellow trustees gathered at the state capitol in February to advocate for efficient and responsive local township government.

INDIANA TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATION PHOTOS



TRUSTEES ADVOCATE FOR TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT

Township government in Indiana has served the complex needs of individuals and families who need a leg up when circumstances outweigh resources.

Rent and mortgage assistance as well as vouchers to pay to heat their homes and pay medical bills. Along the way, the Indiana General Assembly tasked townships to take over the expenses of cemeteries that had become insolvent.

Today, the state is trying to dismantle the system that has been in place for more than 175 years.

In response, North Township Trustee Adrian A. Santos and his colleagues, charged with providing critical resources to the poor in Indiana's 1,008 townships spread across 92 counties, are fighting

for those who can't fight for themselves as state government aims to eliminate township government.

Santos said they are lobbying on behalf of the 716,580 households whose incomes fall below the federal poverty level and who need township assistance to get through the tough times.

"The state wants to make township resources the responsibility of Indiana's 92 counties," he said. "There are multiple problems with this plan, which never considered the hardships families face when they become part of the working poor."

INSIDE: Learn how we provide assistance to our township residents in need as well as our transportation program. **PAGE 5**

ADRIAN A. SANTOS

NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

(219) 932-2530 or info@ntto.net

HAMMOND OFFICE

5947 Hohman Ave.
Hammond, IN 46320

Phone: (219) 932-2530

Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. M-F
Please note this office is closed for lunch from noon-1 p.m.

EAST CHICAGO OFFICE

2100 Broadway
East Chicago, IN 46312

Phone: (219) 398-2435

Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. M-F
Please note this office is closed for lunch from noon-1 p.m.

WICKER MEMORIAL PARK

8554 Indianapolis Boulevard
Highland, IN 46322

Phone: (219) 838-3420

Hours: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. M-F
Please note the park office is closed for lunch from 2-3 p.m.

WickerMemorialPark.com

OAK HILL CEMETERY

6445 Hohman Avenue
Hammond, IN 46324

Phone: (219) 932-0206

Gate: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily

Office: 8 a.m.-4 p.m. M-F

OakHillHammond.com

NORTH TOWNSHIP BOARD

Peter Katic, Chairperson

Richard J. Novak, Secretary

Lisa Salinas-Matonovich, Member

RADIO SHOW

Join us at 7:30 a.m. the second and fourth Thursday of the month on WJOB Radio + JEDTV to learn about the latest North Township news and events!

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

The Advocate is mailed quarterly throughout the township on a rotating basis. Please note that you may not receive a newsletter each time it is published. Hard copies are available at our offices and online at NorthTownshipTrustee.com.

TOWNSHIP RESOURCE FAIR SHINES SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL ASSISTANCE

Whether it's home care, counseling assistance, learning how to tap into food resources available in Northwest Indiana or unmet needs from the Veterans Administration, North Township's Second Annual Resource Fair is here to help.

Community Development Coordinator Zaneda Jordan said an estimated 30 vendors representing companies from throughout the region will be on site to help residents discover local resources.

"Life is always changing. We are here to help by providing expert resources designed to help folks adapt," Jordan said. "Sometimes that means home care. Other times, it might mean help finding locations that provide meals for those without the funds to afford them.

"This is a great opportunity for our North Township community to see what's available close to home."



SPRING RESOURCE FAIR

North Township's spring resource fair is scheduled for **1-4 p.m. March 27** at Wicker Memorial Park Social Center. Social service vendors, food assistance, educational opportunities and local providers will be there. Learn more about AARP, CoAction, Ministering Hearts, Food Bank of Northwest Indiana, Veterans Affairs and many healthcare organizations, including Franciscan Health, HealthLinc, Powers Health and so much more.

INFO: northtownshiptrustee.com

SPRING CAREER FAIR OFFERS LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR JOB SEEKERS

North Township is gathering company leaders throughout the region to talk to residents looking to head up the corporate ladder or aiming their sights at landing a position in a new company.

"The representatives who attend this annual event are here to talk about what they have to offer in terms of employment, salaries and benefits and learn more about the job seekers from Northwest Indiana," North Township Community Development Coordinator Zaneda Jordan said. "Their goal is to fill their company's needs today and looking forward."

Jordan's best advice: Come with a polished resume; practice talking yourself up in front of a mirror, friends or family; dress appropriately and wear a smile.



SPRING CAREER FAIR

North Township is hosting a career fair from **3-6 p.m. May 15** at the Wicker Park Social Center. Local employers will be on hand to meet and interview potential job candidates.

INFO: Check the township website – northtownshiptrustee.com – for participating employer updates.

Wicker Memorial Park

Tree-lined Fairways

Our 18-hole, par-72 course offers beautiful tree-lined fairways, practice greens and a driving range. Enjoy great golf at some of the most competitive rates in the region. **Reservations open April 1 for the 2025 season. INFO:** Call our Pro Shop at (219) 838-9809 for more info, rates or to schedule your tee time.

Scenic Trails

The 2.5-mile trail 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, shelters and playground. Open from dawn to dusk.

Delightful Dog Park

Our fenced-in dog park features benches and plenty of space to run around. Annual fee is \$25 for township residents, \$60 out-of-township and \$100 out-of-state. **INFO:** Download forms online at wickermemorialpark.com.

Shelter & Picnic Rentals

Reservations requests begin **March 3** for the 2025 season (May 1-Sept 30). Reservations must be made in person only. **The North Township 2025 rates are:**

	WEEKEND Friday-Sunday	WEEKDAY Monday-Thursday
PICNIC AREA	\$150	\$100
PAVILION	\$600	\$450
STANDS	\$275	\$200
SHELTERS	\$225	\$150
BREEZEWAY	\$400	\$250

Reservations are available for out-of-township and out-of-state residents at a higher cost. Discounts are available for nonprofit organizations, veterans, police officers and firefighters who are township residents.

INFO: Call (219) 838-3420 or visit us online to view our facilities and a complete rental fee schedule.





**SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED.
FIRST COME. FIRST SERVED.**

10:30 AM - NOON APRIL 12

North Township Trustee Adrian A. Santos invites township children – ages 1 through 10 – to hunt for Easter eggs at Wicker Memorial Park.

The Easter Bunny and his mascot friends are all part of the fun!
Admission is free.



FOUR WINDS CASINO

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

WHEN: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. **March 18, April 15 and May 20.**

Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m.

WHERE: Four Winds Casino

FEE: \$30 township residents, \$35 non-township residents includes transportation to/from Wicker Park. You'll receive a \$15 slot credit and a \$10 food credit.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:
(219) 313-3934

EASTER BINGO

Grab a friend and head to Wicker Park for an afternoon of fun. Winners receive a gift card. Township seniors ages 55 and older. Valid ID required.

WHEN: Noon-3 p.m. **April 10**

WHERE: Wicker Memorial Park Social Center

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:
Call (219) 932-2530, ext. 2.

SENIOR LUNCHEONS

North Township seniors enjoy great food, entertainment, guest speakers and door prizes for only \$7 at our luncheons on the second Wednesday of the month through December at Wicker Memorial Park Social Center. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. Lunch at noon. Meals include bread, butter, hot tea and coffee.

RESERVATIONS: Please call our office at (219) 932-2530, ext. 2. Please note: Reservations close two Mondays prior.



NORTH TOWNSHIP ASSISTANCE



CHIEF DEPUTY HELPING LOCAL RESIDENTS GET TOWNSHIP ASSISTANCE FOR NEARLY 40 YEARS

Virginia Carter was looking for employment when she found the career of a lifetime at the North Township Trustee's Office.

"I started in intake and moved up to being a caseworker," she said. "I had no idea then how invaluable township assistance could be for families that had fallen on hard times. "We were the last place that would offer mortgage and rental assistance that allowed people to keep a roof over their heads. Today, we work with CoAction, an organization that coordinates an energy assistance program as well as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Carter, now chief deputy, is celebrating her 39th year at North

Township this year.

"I can't think of a better job for me. Every day, we work to provide a hand up to the people who need it most," she said. "Trustee Adrian A. Santos has one goal: to do everything in our power to provide the services each client needs. We do just that from our Hammond and East Chicago township trustee offices."

"We squeeze every penny, but there are always more needs than there are dollars," she said. "It's what we do and I'm grateful we are here."

INFO: We're here to help! Please contact our township offices at (219) 932-2530 or (219) 398-2435 to see if you qualify for assistance.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

From rent, utilities and clothing to transportation, employment and food, North Township provides assistance for those who need a helping hand.

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

- Food, household and personal items
- Emergency Disaster Relief (fire/flood)
- Rental and mortgage assistance
- Utilities (NIPSCO/Water)
- Clothing
- Funeral, burial and cremation assistance
- Senior farmers market vouchers

DIAL-A-RIDE

North Township provides a free curb-to-curb bus service for residents needing transportation to and from medical appointments and grocery shopping within North Township boundaries only.

Rides are available from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday on a first-come, first-served basis. Service is not available on holidays.

For more info or to schedule a ride, call (219) 932-2530, press 5 and stay on the line.

Visit northtownshiptrustee.com for a complete list of our services and how we can help.

WE'RE HIRING

BARTENDERS

Wicker Memorial Park

Our Pro Shop is seeking licensed bartenders for the 2025 season. Responsibilities include verifying customer ID, preparing/serving alcoholic beverages, accepting payment, cleaning glasses/bar utensils and balancing receipts. Applicants must be able to drive a golf cart as well as prepare hot dogs, pizza and snacks.

HOURS: Weekdays and weekends

GOLF PRO SHOP WORKERS

Wicker Memorial Park

Looking for seasonal work surrounded by some of the nicest golfers in the region? We're looking for you: Staff the counter at the pro shop or serve as a golf course ranger. We're also looking for volunteers for our driving range.

HOURS: Weekdays and weekends

SPLASH PAD ATTENDANT

Wicker Memorial Park

We're looking for individuals with excellent customer service skills who can greet visitors, accept payment, balance receipts as well as enforce pad and park rules.

HOURS: Weekdays and weekends

PARK GROUNDSKEEPERS

Wicker Memorial Park

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

HOURS: Weekdays and weekends

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Check out our online job portal at wickermemorialpark.com for a complete list of job openings, requirements and how to apply.

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5947 HOHMAN AVENUE
HAMMOND, INDIANA 46320

NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE ADRIAN A. SANTOS
AND THE DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION NWI PRESENTS ...



SATURDAY | MARCH 22



CRAZY SOCK AND CAR DECORATING CONTESTS
MUSIC @ 2 PM | PARADE @ 3:21 PM

WICKER MEMORIAL PARK PAVILION
2215 RIDGE ROAD | HIGHLAND