



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

We set the bar high going into 2024, challenging ourselves with developing additional resources to enhance our system of assistance for every North Township community.

We are proud of what we accomplished with the funding limitations imposed by the state at a time when our residents are struggling to pay more for housing, food and utilities.

I am proud of my staff, who consistently go above and beyond to provide expertise that helps guide individuals and families through the application process to successfully qualify for the assistance they need to pay for necessities, such as: food, rent, energy assistance, clothing and medical expenses, even disaster relief and burial assistance.

LEARN MORE
Learn more about us at NorthTownshipTrustee.com.



TOWNSHIP WELCOMES NEW CHIEF OF STAFF

Three months into her tenure as Chief of Staff at the North Township Trustee's office, Nicole Mika is thrilled she said yes to the opportunity of a lifetime.

"I love it all – township outreach, Dial-a-Ride, utility assistance, the hive of activity that is Wicker Memorial Park. It's like running six very different businesses at once," Mika said.

"What surprised me most was the management of the two cemeteries. I had no idea that Indiana law requires townships to manage abandoned cemeteries. What is closest to my heart

is the work we do under the umbrella of poor relief. We make a difference in the lives of people, many of whom have run out of other options to keep a roof over their heads and heat in their homes."

North Township Trustee Adrian A. Santos said his new administrator is making a world of difference.

"Nikki is a seasoned Human Resources professional and brings a wealth of government experience with her to this job," Santos said. "As importantly, she has a heart for helping others, which is vital to everything we do."

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.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

2835-165th Street
Hammond, IN 46323

Phone: (219) 803-0659

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

Please note this office is closed for lunch from 12:30-1:30 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 4 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

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

From local businesses that provide child care to those that provide assistance to veterans, health care providers, educational opportunities and more, this spring's North Township Resource Fair is being planned to showcase what's available close to home.

"Whether it is the young, the elderly or those in between, we have found that everyone needs assistance at some point in their lives," Community Development Coordinator Zaneda Jordan said.

"At North Township, we build bridges to connect those in need with those who can help," she said. "We are blessed with an abundance of organizations that provide the assistance our residents are seeking."

Jordan is inviting everyone to attend.

"We are hoping for great attendance at this first-ever event," she said. "Our goal is to provide options that fill gaps in care."

SAVE THE DATE!

North Township's inaugural resource fair is scheduled for **3-6 p.m. April 18** at Wicker Memorial Park Social Center. Social service vendors, food assistance, educational opportunities and local providers will be there. Join us to get your questions answered from local providers, such as:

- ♦ AARP
- ♦ Humana
- ♦ Ministry Heart,
- ♦ Food Bank of Northwest Indiana
- ♦ Veterans Affairs organizations
- ♦ SNAP representatives
- ♦ Salvation Army
- ♦ Catholic Charities

INFO: We will be updating the North Township website to reflect additional vendors and providers participating at the event. Learn more at northtownshiptrustee.com.

TOWNSHIP HOSTS SPRING JOB FAIR

Local titans of business and industry are ready to meet with prospective employees at North Township's Spring Job Fair.

This annual event draws a healthy crowd of job seekers eager to meet with employers representing the casino, health care, higher education, retail and corporate sectors.

The spring event is designed for new graduates as well as seasoned employees looking for a change.

North Township Trustee Adrian A. Santos is encouraging anyone looking to move up, move on or snag that all-important first job to mark their calendars.

"These employers are looking for local talent and they know they can find it here," Santos said. "My advice: get your resume polished. Come out to meet with these reps, who are looking to meet you."

MAY 16 OPPORTUNITIES

North Township is hosting a career fair from **3-6 p.m. May 16** at the Wicker Park Social Center. The following employers will be on hand to meet and interview potential candidates:

Ameristar Casino, Cabela's/Bass Pro, Calumet Breweries Inc., Evolution Training Academy, Flex-N-Gate Chicago, Hard Rock Casino, HealthLinc Community Health Center, Indiana State Police, Indiana Tech University, Indiana Wesleyan University, ISM Security, Lear, Menards, Ministering Hearts, Northwest Indiana Community, RESOLVE, Respite Care Services Inc, TRADEBE, U.S. Army, We Care From the Heart and Work One.

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, a practice green and driving range. Come enjoy great golf at some of the most competitive rates in the region. Reservations open **April 1** for the 2024 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 water fountains, 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.

ALL-INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND

Check out our new and all-inclusive playground equipment for individuals of all abilities. Mulch has been replaced to make the entirety of the playground ADA accessible.

SHELTER & PICNIC RENTALS

Reservations requests begin **April 1** for the 2024 season (May 1-Sept 30). Reservations can be made by phone or in person. The North Township rates are:

	WEEKEND Friday-Sunday	WEEKDAY Monday-Thursday
PICNIC AREA	\$125	\$75
PAVILION	\$575	\$325
STANDS	\$250	\$175
SHELTERS	\$200	\$125
BREEZEWAY	\$300	\$225

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.

LEARN MORE: WickerMemorialPark.com.
Questions? Call (219) 838-3420.



NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE
ADRIAN A. SANTOS PRESENTS ...

EASTER EGG HUNT

10:30 AM

**UNTIL THE LAST
EGG IS FOUND**

MARCH 23

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

WICKER PARK PAVILION

2215 RIDGE ROAD | HIGHLAND

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

DJ music, a visit from the Easter Bunny and his mascot friends – are all part of the fun. Admission is free.

INFORMATION: CALL (219) 313-3934.

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. to 4 p.m. **March 19, April 16 and May 21.** Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m.

WHERE: Four Winds Casino

FEE: \$28 per person includes round-trip transportation to/from Wicker Park. Upon arrival at the casino, you'll receive a \$15 slot credit and a \$10 food credit. Cost for ride is \$3.

INFO: (219) 313-3934

EASTER BINGO

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

WHEN: Noon-3 p.m. **March 21.** Doors open at noon. Game times is 1-3 p.m.

WHERE: Wicker Memorial Park Social Center

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED: Call (219) 313-3934.

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 Sundays prior.

VICTORY FOR VETERANS RIDE CELEBRATES 25 YEARS WITH NEW FEATURES, EXHIBITS

As a Lake Central History Teacher, Tom Clark brought the Vietnam War to life when he assigned his students the task of researching the five young men from Lake Central who died in the war.

Clark said the effort blossomed when his students asked to do more and to learn more about those who served. "They talked to families and read letters home sent by the 261 Lake County soldiers who died in battle," he said. "Through the eyes of those family members and histories provided in the letters themselves, we created the Vietnam Veterans Museum at Tri-Town Safety Village."

Memories and memorabilia from the museum will be on display when North Township and the American Veterans Motorcycle Riders Association host the 25th Annual Victory for Veterans Ride Sept. 29.

The ride is dedicated to the lives of thousands of local service personnel who died in the line of duty and celebrate the lives of those who came home after serving their country.

The daylong event will feature multiple areas of exhibits and vendors as well as food and fellowship along with the highly anticipated return of the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall.

TOWNSHIP JOINS GOVERNOR'S CHALLENGE TO PREVENT SUICIDE AMONG VETERANS

At the March Vets & Friends Coffee Social, North Township Trustee Adrian A. Santos hosted a presentation by Disabled American Veterans Charitable Trust to increase the number of not-for-profit organizations that can assist in efforts to reduce veteran suicide.

"The numbers are jarring – and profoundly sad," Santos said.

"Statistics show that, on average, 18 veterans take their own lives – every day. That sobering statistic is a call to action for all of us, who can make a difference. I am proud to support the Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans and their Families."

The challenge is a partnership

formed in 2023 between the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs.

North Township Veterans Liaison Xavier Garcia said there is great hope that multiple agencies focusing on the issue will make a difference.

"We are working to build bridges to veterans who live in Lake County," Garcia said. "Many veterans aren't aware they are eligible for services they are entitled to – and all that the VA is doing – from traditional health care to alternative healing and pain management."

INFO: Call the Lake County Veterans Service Office at (219) 755-3285 for info on eligibility and assistance.

SAVE THE DATE!

V4V MEMORIAL RIDE

This year marks the 25th Annual Victory for Veterans Memorial Ride at Wicker Memorial Park. Sponsored by North Township Trustee Adrian A. Santos and the American Veterans Motorcycle Riders Association, the day features veterans exhibits, food vendors, a 50/50 raffle and live entertainment. Proceeds from the ride benefit local veterans programs and services throughout North Township.

WHEN: September 29

WHERE: Wicker Memorial Park

INFO: Call (219) 313-3934.

★★★★★

VETS & FRIENDS COFFEE SOCIALS

Vets & Friends takes place on the second Tuesday of each month at the Wicker Park Clubhouse and is open to veterans, family members and supporters – both in and outside the township.

WHEN: 9-11 a.m. April 9 and May 14.

WHERE: Wicker Memorial Park Clubhouse

INFO: Call (219) 313-3934.

★★★★★

VETERANS ROUNDTABLES

Under the leadership of North Township Trustee Adrian A. Santos, veteran organization leaders meet on the first Wednesday of the month to discuss and collaborate on issues facing today's veterans.

WHEN: 4:30-6 p.m. April 3 and May 1.

WHERE: Wicker Memorial Park Social Center

INFO: Call (219) 932-2530.

**BARTENDERS &
BEER CART TENDERS**

Wicker Memorial Park

Our Pro Shop is seeking licensed bartenders and beer cart tenders for the 2024 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

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 physical stamina to work outdoors.

HOURS: Weekdays and weekends

PAY: Minimum wage

SPLASH PAD ATTENDANT

Wicker Memorial Park

We're looking for individuals with excellent customer service skills who can greet visitors as well as enforce splash pad and park rules.

HOURS: Weekdays and weekends

PAY: Minimum wage

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.

HOURS: Weekdays and weekends

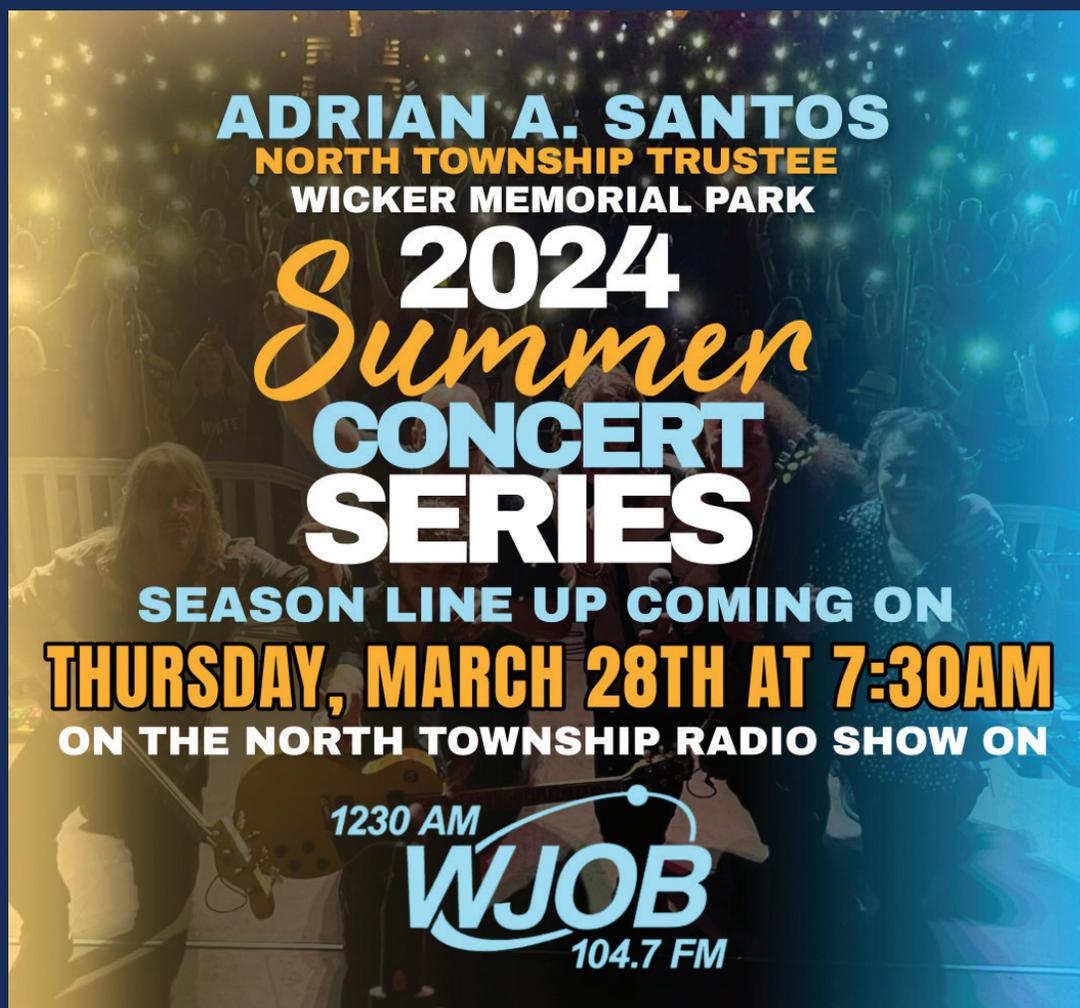
PAY: Minimum wage

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.

**ADRIAN A. SANTOS
NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE**

5947 HOHMAN AVENUE
HAMMOND, INDIANA 46320



ADRIAN A. SANTOS
NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE
WICKER MEMORIAL PARK

2024
Summer
CONCERT
SERIES

SEASON LINE UP COMING ON
THURSDAY, MARCH 28TH AT 7:30AM
ON THE NORTH TOWNSHIP RADIO SHOW ON

1230 AM
WJOB
104.7 FM



**NORTH TOWNSHIP
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!