ISSUE #11



ADAMS TOWNSHIP TEA

ADAMS TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE.

✦

November 2026

DENITA WASHINGTON, TRUSTEE

STRENGTH UNDER PRESSURE
Leading with Love, Serving with Purpose, and Restoring Dignity
By Denita Washington, Trustee

There is a difference between holding a position and understanding the responsibility that comes with it. As the elected Adams Township Trustee, I believe leadership is not measured by the title we carry or the office we occupy, but by the lives we touch, the hope we restore, and the dignity we extend to those we are entrusted to serve.

The theme "Strength Under Pressure" speaks directly to the heart of public service. As Township Trustees, we face difficult decisions, limited resources, growing community needs, and the responsibility of ensuring accountability. Yet, even under pressure, we must never lose sight of the people behind the paperwork. Every day, individuals and families walk through our doors facing some of life's most difficult challenges. Some are struggling to keep a roof over their heads, provide food for their families, or simply find hope in overwhelming circumstances. For many, asking for assistance requires courage. They may arrive feeling defeated, embarrassed, or uncertain about what tomorrow holds.
That is why, at Adams Township, our commitment is simple but powerful: WE LEAD WITH LOVE.
Leading with love is not a sign of weakness. It is a demonstration of strength. It does not mean compromising policies, overlooking accountability, or neglecting our responsibility to taxpayers. It means recognizing that compassion and accountability can coexist. We can enforce policies without humiliating people, make difficult decisions without disrespecting others, and provide honest answers while preserving human dignity.

My personal mission as Adams Township Trustee is to restore dignity and respect to those God has given me the opportunity and responsibility to serve. I believe every person who crosses our path deserves to be treated with kindness, fairness, patience, and understanding. Their circumstances may explain why they need assistance, but those circumstances should never define their worth.
The pressure of leadership is real. There will be days when resources are stretched, criticism is loud, and decisions weigh heavily on our hearts, but I refuse to allow the challenges of public service to harden my heart toward the very people I was elected to serve. Pressure should strengthen our purpose, not diminish our compassion.

As Township Trustees across Indiana, we share a responsibility greater than any one office. We are entrusted not only with public resources but also with public confidence. Our communities need leaders who are courageous enough to make difficult decisions, humble enough to listen, and compassionate enough to remember that every person has a story.
I want the legacy of my leadership to be more than the programs administered or the assistance provided. I want it reflected in how people felt when they walked through our doors. Did they feel welcomed? Did they feel heard? Did they feel respected? Did they leave knowing someone genuinely cared? Those are the questions that define meaningful service.

To my fellow Township Trustees, I encourage us all to remember that our purpose is greater than the pressure. Let us remain strong in our responsibilities, faithful to our calling, and intentional about leading with integrity and love. I pray that my greatest legacy will not be the title I held, but the lives I touched, the hope I helped restore, and the love I demonstrated along the way.

Because we were not elected simply to hold an office. We were elected to make a difference.
STRENGTH UNDER PRESSURE — WE LEAD WITH LOVE, WE SERVE WITH PURPOSE, AND WE RESTORE DIGNITY, ONE LIFE AT A TIME.

Committed To Community Through Service And Accountability

Adams Township Trustee Office

1125 Hartzell Street
New Haven, IN 46774

Monday-Thursday
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
(*Closed Daily 12-1)*

Fri-Sun: CLOSED

Phone: 260-749-4162
Fax: 260-749-6086

Email:
info@adamstownship.org

Check Out Our Website!

Visit Our Facebook Page!

Township Highlights

World Kindness Day

World Kindness Day is an international observance celebrated annually on November 13 to highlight good deeds, community compassion, and peaceful human connection. World Kindness Day was introduced in 1998 by the World Kindness Movement, a global coalition of non-governmental organizations formed during a 1997 Tokyo conference. It is observed across more than 28 countries, including the United States, Canada, Australia, Nigeria, Italy, India, Singapore, and the United Arab Emirates—independent of any political or religious affiliation. The mission is to bridge global divides, encourage intentional empathy, and establish kindness as a normal, everyday part of society.

November is nationally recognized as National Gratitude Month, anchored by the tradition of Thanksgiving and supported by psychological research showing that daily thankfulness improves mental and physical health.

Simple Ways to Practice Gratitude

- **Gratitude Journals:** Write down 1 to 3 specific things you are thankful for each day.
- **Gratitude Jars Or Trees:** Have family members drop written notes into a jar or add paper leaves to a decorative branch every day leading up to Thanksgiving.
- **The Gratitude Pumpkin:** Write daily blessings directly onto a foam or real pumpkin with a permanent marker.
- **Acts Of Kindness:** Send a surprise thank-you text, write a note to a veteran, or donate to a local food drive.
- **Table Sharing:** Go around the dinner table and have each person share one bright spot from their day.

Free Meals For Veteran's Day

Veterans and active-duty military members with valid proof of service or military ID can get free meals at participating restaurants:

Applebee's: Free dine-in entree' from a special Veterans Day menu.
Bob Evans: Free meal from a select Veterans Day menu with drink purchase (dine-in only).
Golden Corral: Free "Thank You" buffet and beverage during Military Appreciation Night on November 11th from 4:00 PM to close (dine-in only).
Olive Garden: Free entree' from a special menu for dine-in guests.
Red Robin: Free Red's Big Tavern Burger with Bottomless Steak Fries (dine-in only).
Mission BBQ: Free sandwich on Veteran's Day. You can also join them at noon for the National Anthem LIVE.

Vets, don't miss out on getting your ***FREE THANK YOU*** meal!



Community Information

Thanksgiving Turkey & Basket Distribution



The season of giving is upon us, and we're excited to spread a little love and holiday cheer throughout our community! Beginning Thursday, November 5th, we will officially start accepting names for our Thanksgiving Turkey & Basket Distribution!

HOW TO SIGN UP:

Please call our office at 260-749-4162, option 1, and speak directly with a representative to have your name added to the list.

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

Please DO NOT leave a voicemail requesting to be placed on the list. You must speak with an office representative to complete your sign-up. Let's come together in the spirit of gratitude, generosity, and community. We look forward to helping make this Thanksgiving special for families in our community!

Christmas Party Sign-Up

The holiday season is here, and we are getting ready to celebrate! We can't wait to bring our families and community together for a day filled with holiday cheer, laughter, fun, and fellowship.

We will begin taking registrations for our Annual Christmas Bowling Party on Thursday, November 4th. Please call the office at 260-749-4162, option 1, and speak with a representative to get your family registered. The party will take place on Sunday, December 13, 2026 at 3:00 at MVP Lanes. SPACE IS LIMITED, SO DON'T WAIT! Be sure to register early to secure a spot for your family. Once spaces are filled, registration will close. You do not want to miss this!



Thank You

Thank you to all who donated to our Annual Fall Fest! We truly appreciate your generosity and willingness to support our community.

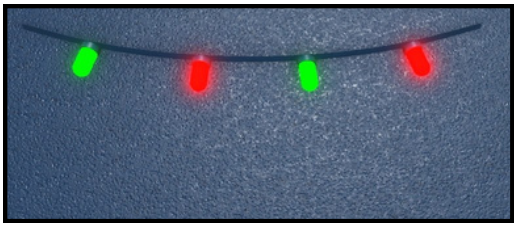
Rather you donated candy, food, tote bags filled with goodies, hats, gloves, or your time, your kindness helped us create a fun, memorable experience for the children and families we serve. We are grateful for your support and for helping us make this event a success!

Thank you for being a part of our vision and helping us make a difference in our community! #LeadWithLove



Unity Lighting

Celebrate the **UNITY OF COMMUNITY**! Join the City Of Fort Wayne and Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation on Monday, November 23rd from 5:45 PM - 6:30 PM at McKinnie Commons; McKinnie Ave. & S. Anthony Blvd. for an evening of fun. Enjoy FREE hot chocolate, watch live performances, hear from elected officials, and enjoy the lighting of the Unity Light Display. There will be a **Free Thanksgiving Meal Kit Giveaway** while supplies last. Parking will be available off Euclid Avenue. Bring your family, friends, and neighbors.



New Haven Happenings

Family Friendly Activities

Holiday Homecoming

When: Saturday, November 21, 2026, Time: TBD
Where: Downtown New Haven
Details: This is the annual Holiday Homecoming kick-off for the holiday season. The Saturday before Thanksgiving the city lights up downtown with Christmas lights and a Christmas tree. A free evnt, the city offers prize giveaways from local businesses, hot chocolate, and you can even tell Santa what you want under the tree! For more information, please call 260-748-7077 or visit the City Of New Haven's Facebook Page.

The H3: Homemade, Handmade Holiday Bazaar

When: Saturday, November 21, 2026, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Where: New Haven-Adams Township Parks & Recreation
Details: This is a festive indoor holiday market. Come out for a wonderful holiday shopping experience for everyone to enjoy! Come explore unique handmade crafts, homemade goodies, one-of-a-kind gifts, and special treasures perfect for the holiday season. Bring your family and friends, support local vendors, and get into the holiday spirit while finding something special for everyone on your list!

Senior Luncheon

When: Wednesday, November 18, 2026 at 11:30 AM
Where: Apple Orchard, New Haven Community Center
Details: Mark your calendars and invite your friends! Seniors age 55+ are invited for a carry in lunch. Local sponsors will take turns providing the main dish and the Parks and Recreation Department will furnish drinks. The request is that each person who participates brings a dish to share. Come on out for food and fellowship!

Story Time & Crafts

When: Thursday, November 19, 2026 at 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Where: New Haven Community Center
Details: Children's Storytelling Workshop
A free interactive story and craft session for children from birth through preschool age.



"The more you practice the art of thankfulness, the more you have to be thankful for."

Community Information

National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week

Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week focuses on giving and caring the week before Thanksgiving. The observance serves as a reminder that hunger and homelessness don't stop for the holidays. They continue all year long.

As many gather with families, we take time to consider what they are thankful for. At the same time, many of us turn our thoughts to those in need.

Many Americans live paycheck to paycheck. The struggle to keep the basic needs fulfilled is a daily obstacle. It takes only one misstep - an illness, injury or temporary job loss - to place many of us on the path to poverty, hunger, even homelessness. In the United States, 43.1 million Americans live below the poverty level. Of those, 1 in 5 are children living in poverty. Just over a half-million have nowhere to sleep at night.

All year long, food pantries, shelters, and other service organizations need support. They provide food, secure places to sleep, and other aid to those who need it most. These organizations require financial and service donations. Whether they are providing meals, clean towels, socks, or a place to rest, they're vital to communities. Their services connect people to resources they may otherwise go without.

Supporting local organizations helps people find jobs, permanent homes, and treatment when needed.

HOW TO OBSERVE

Volunteer. Donate. Organize. All or any of these actions can help make a difference in a life. Spread the word about hunger and homelessness and how to help. Find out who and what your local organizations are. Use #HungerHomelessAwarenessWeek to share on social media.

Below are a couple of organizations who will be serving a Thanksgiving Meal.

The Rescue Mission
Date: Tuesday, November 24, 2026
Time: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Location: Downtowon Shelter, 404 E. Washington Boulevard, Fort Wayne, IN 46802
Details: Offers a free, sit-down meal served directly at tables rather than a cafeteria line. Open to community members, guests, and residents.

St. Mary's Catholic Church / St. Mary's Soup Kitchen
Date: Thursday, November 26, 2026
Time: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Location: 1101 S. Lafayette Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802
Details: Offers a complimentary, complete Thanksgiving dinner (sit-down or carry-out) open to all in need, with optional donations accepted to help cover meal costs.
NO SIGN-UP IS REQUIRED



Adams Township Trustee Fall Fest



























Community Information

Upcoming Office Closings

The Adams Township Trustee's Office will be closed in observance of the following holidays:
Veteran's Day: Wednesday, November 11th
Thanksgiving Holiday: Thursday, November 26th & Friday, November 27th

The office will reopen and we will be ready to serve clients on the following business day.



Food Distribution Locations

The Impact Center (WOW), Every 2nd Tuesday, 11-1, 3420 E. Paulding Rd, Fort Wayne, IN

First Baptist Church, Every Thursday, 1-4, 1716 Werling Rd, New Haven, IN

New Haven Food Bank, Every Tuesday, 9-11:45, 800 Green St, New Haven, IN

Wellspring Interfaith Social Services, Monday & Wednesday, 9-11, Tuesday 4-6, Thursday, 2-4, 1316 Broadway St, Fort Wayne, IN

New Haven Community Center (WOW), Every 4th Tuesday, 10-12, 7500 SR 930 East, New Haven, IN

The League (WOW), Every 4th Thursday, 10-12, 5821 S. Anthony Blvd, Fort Wayne, IN

CALL 211 TO LOCATE MORE FOOD BANKS AND PANTRIES



Assistance Resources



In As Much (Broadway Christian Church)
930 Broadway Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802 (Door #11)
Contact Info: 260.422.3498

Salvation Army
2901 N. Clinton Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46805
Contact Info: 260.744.2311

211 First Call For Help For More Resources

Mental Health Resources

Courageous Healing
260.255.3514

Women's Bureau
260.424.7977

Bowen Center
800.342.5653

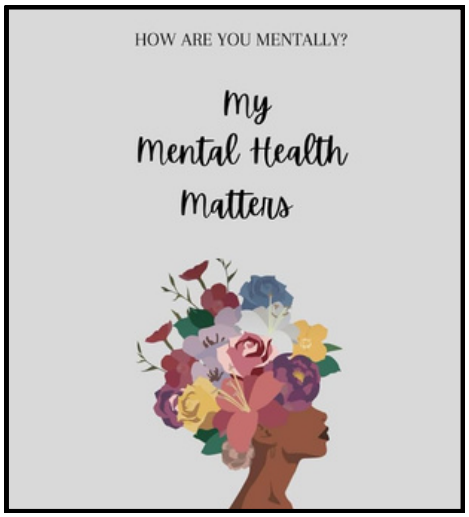
Parkview Behavioral Health
260.373.7500

Park Center, 260.481.2700

Mental Health America Of NE Indiana, 260.422.6441

Uniquely You Counseling & Wellness Center, 260.387.7445

Oaktree Guidance, 260.570.4515



Thank you for reading!