



The Torch

The official newsletter for Indiana state employees



Registration now open for statewide 5K races

Day in and day out, employees come to work to keep state operations running smoothly. While that is greatly appreciated, it is time for you to do something for yourself, get outdoors and Run This State!

Starting in April, Invest In Your Health is hosting 5K walk/runs at various state parks in partnership with HumanVitality and the Department of Natural Resources. Employees and their dependents enrolled in HumanaVitality are invited to attend these morning events and spend the rest of the day enjoying the parks.

Each HumanaVitality member

participating in a 5K earns 250 Vitality Points. These points help you reach an Earned Status of Silver, thereby qualifying you for Upgrade 2017. Not a runner? No worries! Everyone is encouraged to participate at their own pace. Run, walk, or stroll your way to the finish line. Join fellow state employees who are making the commitment to get out and get moving together.

There is no cost to register for the 5K, but participants are required to pay \$7 per vehicle at the gate for park entrance. This fee allows admission for the entire day. After the 5K, hike

Continued on page 3

In this issue



Upgrade 2017

- 3** Registration now open for statewide 5K races
- 4** Schedule a Vitality Check for you and your adult dependents
- 5** Understand and update your non-tobacco use agreement at any time

- 2**
 - DNR employee went back to school easily
 - Social media contest offers scholarships
- 9**
 - New Hoosier State Train discount
 - 317 area code changes

The Torch is published monthly by the State Personnel Department and is available online at www.in.gov/spd

Got a story?

Submit your story ideas to: spdcommunications@spd.in.gov

DNR employee went back to school to set example for her kids

In February, Commission for Higher Education (CHE) launched the *You Can. Go Back.* Campaign. This initiative aims to help the 750,000+ Hoosier adults with some college but no degree finish what they started.

Brandy Lewis, who works for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), is one of those employees who wanted to pursue more education but did not want to sacrifice work and family responsibilities. She is currently a student in the Bachelor's in Business Administration, Healthcare Management program at WGU Indiana.



"I chose to go back to school to better myself and show my children how important college is and the difference it can make in our lives," said Lewis.

More than 30 different colleges offer special programs and incentives to get these adults back to school. WGU Indiana is on that list. Formed through a partnership with Western Governors University, WGU Indiana is open to all qualified Indiana residents.

WGU Indiana offers more than 50 online, competency-based degree programs in high-demand career fields including business, information technology, teacher education and health professions, including nursing. Each WGU

Indiana student is partnered with a mentor, who provides one-on-one coaching, guidance and support from enrollment through graduation. Tuition is a flat rate per six-month term, not per credit hour or semester. Students can take as many courses as they can complete during the term.

"WGU Indiana works for me because I have a full-time job, a part-time job, three children and a husband to take care of. I choose my own schedule at WGU and work at my own pace," said Lewis. "The classes I'm already familiar with only took a week or so to finish and I can spend more time learning the unfamiliar, new class materials. If life gets in the way, I start right back up where I left off. With this new degree, I know I can have the career I always wanted."

Interested students can visit indiana.wgu.edu or call (877) 214-7014 for more information about the university as well as the **five percent tuition discount** available to State of Indiana employees.



If you are interested in going back to school, CHE has developed an [interactive website](#) to help students identify schools that support their career interest and match their needs. For more information about the *You Can. Go Back.* visit learnmoreindiana.org/adults.

Social media contest offers up to \$5,000 in scholarships

Indiana high school, trade school and college students have a choice: Use their smartphones behind the wheel and make a tragic mistake, or engage their social media followers to "Drive Now. TXT L8R." and earn up to \$5,000 in scholarships.

The Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Criminal Justice Institute, Department of Labor, Department of Transportation and State Police are again partnering to award scholarships to students who post the most creative videos and images on social media.

Contest Rules

Students may read updated contest rules and register their Twitter accounts at txtl8r.in.gov. Photo and video entries must be public, use the hashtag #TXTL8RIN, and be cross-posted to the registered Twitter account in April during Distracted Driving Awareness Month.

Keeping one's hands on the wheel and eyes on the road is not just a safe driving practice – it's the law. Social media posts that are composed while driving will be disqualified.

Individual winners will receive \$5,000 and up to four team members will receive \$2,500 each deposited into their CollegeChoice 529 savings plans. For 2016, entries are judged in four categories:

1. High School: Most creative image
2. High School: Most creative video
3. Post-secondary: Most creative image
4. Post-secondary: Most creative video

View contest entries as they are posted during April at [@TXTL8R_IN](https://twitter.com/TXTL8R_IN).

Help & Resources

The State Personnel Department is dedicated to filling the Invest In Your Health website with a variety of resources, how to guides and more to assist with navigating HumanaVitality and qualifying for the 2017 Wellness CDHP.

Connect with InvestInYourHealth

Check the Invest In Your Health website for updates, blog posts, fitness center discounts and more. Visit InvestInYourHealthIndiana.com for more information.

Check out these recent blog posts:

- [Self-submit information for preventive exams](#)
- [Vitality Points earned for healthy guidelines carry over](#)
- [Complete the Health Assessment to earn 500 Vitality Points](#)

Information about the Upgrade 2017 initiative, including HumanaVitality and Wellness CDHP qualification, is available at InvestInYourHealthIndiana.com/Upgrade.

Need Help? Check out our [Help page](#) with resource guides, frequently asked questions and more.

Join the HumanaVitality Community

HumanaVitality also has a website specifically dedicated to frequently asked questions about the program, including how to submit information, syncing devices and much more! Check it out at community.humanavitality.com

Registration now open for statewide 5K races (continued from page 1)

trails with the family or invite your colleagues to a picnic in the park. All races begin at 8:30 a.m. local time. T-shirt pick up and race check-ins are from 7:15 – 8:15 a.m. the day of the race.



The race schedule is as follows and includes the type of route:

- **April 30 - Indiana Dunes State Park:** Paved race route that includes several turns and small hills.
- **May 7 - Patoka Lake:** Combined paved and trail race route features moderate elevation changes and possibly uneven ground.
- **May 14 - Fort Harrison State**

Park: Paved race route that includes moderate elevation changes.

- **June 11 - Chain O'Lakes State Park:**

Trail race route that may include some uneven ground with slight elevation changes.

- **July 9 - Charlestown State Park:** Cross-country trail race route that may include some uneven ground.

While you may register for more than one event, keep in mind that there are registration limits for each park. For more information and to register, [please visit this website](#). We can't wait to Run This State with you!

Let's beat Kentucky this May

Get your battle gear on and let the contest begin! Sign up in HumanaVitality starting on **April 15** for the Border Battle - a step challenge with only two teams: The State of



Indiana's Health Plan and The Kentucky Employees' Health Plan.

You can earn up to 100 Vitality Points just for joining and can also earn hundreds of Vitality Points throughout the challenge as you track steps. Plus, special prizes are awarded throughout the May challenge.

Beat Kentucky, again? Let's face it, even if you're not a fan of Indiana University

hoops, Kentucky is still reeling from the premature end to their basketball season. Let's add to the pain by taking the Border Battle Step Challenge too!

Details are coming soon to your inbox and online at InvestInYourHealthIndiana.com about the challenge. Let's plan on winning in May!

Steps to a successful challenge

- Step 1: Get and synchronize a fitness tracking device.
- Step 2: Join Indiana's team in HumanaVitality (sign up by April 30).
- Step 3: Get stepping beginning May 1.

Schedule your Vitality Check at a state sponsored clinic or partnered location today!

Ensure a Vitality Check is scheduled for you, a spouse and all dependents age 18 and older between now and July 31. A Vitality Check is a biometric screening that is similar to a yearly wellness exam. The information gathered during this check includes: height, weight, BMI, waist circumference, blood pressure, total cholesterol, HDL, LDL, triglycerides and fasting blood glucose.

Where can you get a Vitality Check? You can easily get a Vitality Check at a state-sponsored clinic or at a partnered clinic location.

State-sponsored clinics

State-sponsored Vitality Check Clinics are scheduled at state facilities throughout Indiana. At these clinics, there is **no charge** to employees, spouses and their covered dependents 18 and older, who carry a medical plan through the State Personnel Department. Your results are automatically send to HumanaVitality if you attend a state clinic. Sites are classified as "Open" or "Closed" on the event schedule:

Open: A site with Vitality Check clinics that accept **all** employees, spouses and dependents age of 18 and over. You must make an appointment online to attend one of these clinics. First, you create an account. Then follow the steps listed in the guide below to schedule your appointment. Bring your Humana ID or Humana ID number to the appointment. [How to schedule a Vitality Check online.](#)

Closed: A site with Vitality Check

clinics open only to employees who work at that location. Contact your human resources department for more information on how to set up an appointment.

[View the Vitality Check Clinic Schedule](#)

Other locations to get a Vitality Check

If you are unable to attend a state clinic or a clinic is not scheduled for your work location, a Vitality Check can also be completed at one of these locations:

- [Walgreens Healthcare Clinics](#) - find a [location here](#)
- [The Little Clinics](#) (within select Kroger's) - [Find a location.](#)
- [Your physician's office](#) – [Resource](#) (this visit is free if it's apart of your preventive appointment. A small fee may be involved to complete the form.)



Quest Diagnostics - Check out the [how to schedule an appointment resource.](#)

Bring the appropriate voucher/form along with your Humana ID card to one of the locations above You can also find the vouchers by logging into your HumanaVitality account, scroll over Get Healthy and click Vitality Check. Call ahead to make appointment or see if the location accepts walk-ins.

Request a copy of your results and save to submit to HumanaVitality for Vitality Points. [View this resource](#) for steps on how to complete this process. [Visit our website](#) to learn more about Vitality Checks and HumanaVitality.



Earn 250 Vitality Points for a 5K or marathon

Spring means 5Ks and other marathons are available in a variety of lengths and types. If plan on participating in one, you can earn Vitality Points! Once you've completed this activity, you must submit proof of participation in order to earn your Vitality Points. You can earn 250 for participating in this 5K.

Follow these steps to submit your 5K proof to HumanaVitality quickly and easily through the mobile app. Follow these steps to do so:

1. Log onto the HumanaVitality mobile app
2. Click on "Activities"
3. Click on "Athletic Event"
4. Complete the activity information boxes
 - - Type: Running / Walking
 - - Distance: 3k-9k
 - - Date: August 29, 2015
5. Click "Submit picture proof"
 - - Proof can be your race bib
 - - A picture of you crossing the finish line
6. Click "Submit"

Your non-tobacco use agreement can be changed at any time throughout the year

During Open Enrollment, employees electing medical benefits were offered the 2016 Non-Tobacco Use Agreement. This incentive is offered to employees enrolling in medical benefits and can be accepted or declined. If



accepted, this agreement is a year-long contract with the State in which employees abstain from the use of any tobacco products in exchange for a \$35 reduction in their bi-weekly medical premium. If you accepted this agreement and continue to use tobacco products, your job is at risk.

Every employee who accepts the Non-Tobacco Use Agreement agrees to random tobacco testing and can be selected at any point throughout the year. Testing dates and locations are not disclosed in advance and any employee who tests positive could be terminated.

Tobacco and nicotine products are addictive and the habit is difficult to give up. If you have tried to quit, but continue to use tobacco products, you must immediately revoke your agreement in PeopleSoft. To access the revocation request page, login to PeopleSoft and click Self Service > Benefits > Revoke Non-Tobacco Use Agreement. Then follow the prompts to submit the request to revoke your agreement. Once your revocation request has been submitted, there is no option to cancel. If you need assistance revoking your Non-Tobacco

Use Agreement, please contact the State Personnel Department Benefits Division at (317) 232-1167 or toll-free at (877) 248-0007.

Once your request to revoke the agreement is submitted and

approved, an increase of \$35 is applied to your bi-weekly medical insurance premiums. Also, any previously discounted premiums in which you received the \$35 incentive are collected, but your employment is secure.

For assistance in becoming tobacco-free, try one of the following resources:

- Indiana Tobacco Quitline at 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669).
- HumanaVitality offers an online self-management tool to help you quit smoking. Access Humana Vitality and click Get Healthy > Healthy Living > Courses > Living Free: Quitting Smoking. Vitality Points for any course are awarded only if it is associated with one of your active goals.
- State employees can access the Anthem Employee Assistance Program (EAP). To access this service, employees can call 800-223-7723 and identify themselves as a member State of Indiana or visit anthemEAP.com and use log-in **State of Indiana**.

Four months still remain to upgrade your health

You still have four months to achieve eligibility for the 2017 Wellness CDHP by reaching an Earned Status of Silver in HumanaVitality by August 31, 2016. While we encourage all employees to abstain from tobacco products, the Non-Tobacco Use Agreement (NTUA) is not required for Wellness CDHP eligibility in 2017.

Please remember that all points must be processed and posted to your HumanaVitality account by the August 31 deadline. Don't wait until the last minute to submit information as processing activities can take up to 45 days to be reflected in your account.

Learn more about HIP Link at free sessions

This free series provides an overview of the new "HIP Link" program. HIP Link may provide assistance to eligible state employees to help with the cost of premiums and out-of-pocket expenses for the state's Anthem health plans. Two sessions are scheduled:

- Wednesday, **April 6** from Noon—12:45 p.m. in IGC-S Conference Room 17.
- Tuesday, **April 26** from Noon—12:45 p.m., IGC-S Conference Room 18. If you are unable to attend on site, register to attend the webcast. [Please click here to register.](#)

For questions or more information, contact [Sara Hall](#) or call 317-234-8030.

Anthem launches online cost estimator tool for dental policy holders

A recent Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield survey found many people knowingly neglect their dental health. Only half or 50 percent of those surveyed visit their dentist as often as recommended.

A fear of surprise costs might be the reason – 40 percent did not know that insurance would cover preventive visits, and many worry that they are going to get an unexpected bill at the end of their appointment or that the dentist will find an expensive problem.

In response to these consumer concerns, for the first time ever, consumers with an Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield dental plan can get information about costs before they ever walk into the dentist’s office.

Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield has launched

- **Dental Care Cost Estimator**, a web-based tool that provides estimates for common dental procedures and treatments, and
- **Dental Health Assessment**, which helps members better understand their oral health and predict their risk of developing tooth decay, gum disease, tooth wear and oral cancer.

“At Anthem, we know consumers are concerned about their dental health and what it will cost, which is why we’ve created Dental Care Cost Estimator and Dental Health



member’s dentist and other doctors. For example, a dental checkup may reveal signs of a serious disease such as diabetes. This information is accessible by the member’s other doctors. Only Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield offers this integrated approach which results in better, more comprehensive care for the member.

More information on dental insurance and integrated benefits is available at anthem.com.

Assessment, to go along with one of the largest dental networks in the nation,” said Mike Malouf, president of Anthem’s dental business. Those who use Anthem networks save, on average, 30-32 percent on their covered dental services. And now for the first time members can go to www.anthem.com/mydentalvision to estimate their costs in advance and comparison shop to find the best value. We are simplifying health care so that our members can focus on their health.”

Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield is making it easier for consumers to stay on top of their health. Ninety percent of diseases show signs and symptoms in the mouth (Source: Academy of General Dentistry Know Your Teeth. com, January 2012). Getting a regular checkup might reveal an underlying health problem that can be more easily treated because of early detection.

Anthem Whole Health ConnectionSM connects the dots between oral health and overall health and increases communication between the Anthem

Genealogy For Night Owls

From 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. on April 20, come to the Indiana State Library for a free event featuring extra hours of research and Library orientation tours.

Sessions are available with experts from the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Indiana Chapter of Palatines to America, professional genealogist Betty Warren, the Genealogical Society of Marion County, the Indiana African American Genealogy Group, and the Central Indiana DNA Interest Group.

Registration is required by April 19, 2016. Register online at www.in.gov/library/events.htm

Better understand the costs for your dental care.

You can make better decisions about your dental care when you have a better understanding of your treatment options and costs. That's why Anthem's Dental Care Cost Estimator is such a valuable tool.

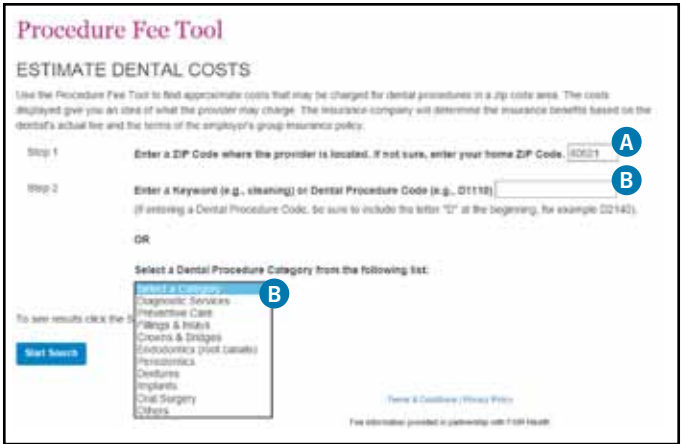
Understand your costs ahead of time

This user-friendly, web-based tool provides estimates for common dental procedures and treatments, giving Anthem members even more opportunities to understand their dental care costs prior to receiving their care.

How it works

It takes only 3 steps to get cost estimates for specific dental treatments.

1. Log in to the Anthem Dental Member Services portal at anthem.com/mydentalvision for our Dental Prime, Dental Complete and Smart Access plans.
2. Select "Dental Care Cost Estimator" from the menu.
3. Begin your search.
 - A** Enter your dentists' ZIP code
 - B** Enter either a keyword (e.g. cleaning), a dental procedure code or select a dental procedure category



Procedure Fee Tool
ESTIMATE DENTAL COSTS

Use the Procedure Fee Tool to find approximate costs that may be charged for dental procedures in a ZIP code area. The costs displayed give you an idea of what the provider may charge. The insurance company will determine the insurance benefits based on the dentist's actual fee and the terms of the employer's group insurance policy.

Step 1: Enter a ZIP Code where the provider is located. If not sure, enter your home ZIP Code. **A**

Step 2: Enter a Keyword (e.g., cleaning) or Dental Procedure Code (e.g., D1110). **B**

OR

Select a Dental Procedure Category from the following list: **B**

- Diagnostic Services
- Preventive Care
- Fillings & Inlays
- Crowns & Bridges
- Endodontics (root canals)
- Periodontics
- Dentures
- Implants
- Oral Surgery
- Others

Next Search

Home & Continue (My Visit Price)

Fee information provided in partnership with F100 Health.

Your search results will display 2 cost estimates.

- 1 "Fee Range" – This is a range of fees that dentists in the ZIP code provided charge for a procedure.
- 2 "In-Network Fee" – The specific cost for the procedure charged by participating Dental Prime, Dental Complete and Smart Access network dentists in that ZIP code.

Procedure Code ¹ (CPT #)	Category	Description	Fee Range ²	In-Network Fee
D1110	Preventive	Teeth cleaning, adult	\$37 - \$37	\$39
D1120	Preventive	Teeth cleaning, child	\$34 - \$35	\$41
D1330	Preventive	Oral hygiene instruction	\$40 - \$40	\$23
D1351	Preventive	PE & Fluoride varnish	\$36 - \$46	\$21
D1510	Restorative	Space maintainer, fixed, unilateral	\$139 - \$139	\$203
D1515	Restorative	Space maintainer, fixed, bilateral	\$485 - \$548	\$348
D1520	Preventive	Space maintainer, removable, unilateral	"	\$237
D1525	Preventive	Space maintainer, removable, bilateral	\$490 - \$554	\$353
D1550	Preventive	Space maintainer reconstruction	\$71 - \$94	\$48
D1555	Preventive	Removal of fixed space maintainer	\$66 - \$73	\$45
D1206	Restorative	Fluoride application - seal to high risk	\$16 - \$16	\$13
D1310	Preventive	Hard tissue covering to control dental disease	\$23 - \$23	\$23

Get the final details from your dentist

Your Anthem dental benefits may pay a portion of treatment cost, and you may also be required to pay a portion of the cost yourself. As always, talk with your dentist and have them provide detailed costs for your treatment including how much is covered by insurance and how much you will need to pay.

Log in to the Anthem Dental Member Services portal at anthem.com/mydentalvision to use the Dental Care Cost Estimator.

Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield is the trade name of: In Colorado: Rocky Mountain Hospital and Medical Service, Inc. HMO products underwritten by HMO Colorado, Inc. In Connecticut: Anthem Health Plans, Inc. In Indiana: Anthem Insurance Companies, Inc. In Kentucky: Anthem Health Plans of Kentucky, Inc. In Maine: Anthem Health Plans of Maine, Inc. In Missouri (excluding 30 counties in the Kansas City area): RightCHOICE® Managed Care, Inc. (RIT), Healthy Alliance® Life Insurance Company (HALIC), and HMO Missouri, Inc. RIT and certain affiliates administer non-HMO benefits underwritten by HALIC and HMO benefits underwritten by HMO Missouri, Inc. RIT and certain affiliates only provide administrative services for self-funded plans and do not underwrite benefits. In Nevada: Rocky Mountain Hospital and Medical Service, Inc. HMO products underwritten by HMO Colorado, Inc. dba HMO Nevada. In New Hampshire: Anthem Health Plans of New Hampshire, Inc. HMO plans are administered by Anthem Health Plans of New Hampshire, Inc. and underwritten by Matthew Thornton Health Plan, Inc. In Ohio: Community Insurance Company. In Virginia: Anthem Health Plans of Virginia, Inc. trades as Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Virginia, and its service area is all of Virginia except for the City of Fairfax, the Town of Vienna, and the area east of State Route 123. In Wisconsin: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wisconsin (BCBSWI), which underwrites or administers the PPO and indemnity policies; Compare Health Services Insurance Corporation (Compare), which underwrites or administers the HMO policies; and Compare and BCBSWI collectively, which underwrite or administer the PDS policies. Independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. ANTHEM is a registered trademark of Anthem Insurance Companies, Inc. The Blue Cross and Blue Shield names and symbols are registered marks of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

ASTHMA ACTION MONTH

About asthma

Asthma is a chronic disease that inflames and narrows airways in the lungs, causing **wheezing, chest tightness and coughing.**¹



242 million people are estimated to have asthma worldwide.² It causes around **250,000** deaths annually.³

What is an asthma attack?

An asthma attack, or exacerbation, is a sudden worsening of symptoms, and can be **unpredictable**

“My worst attack – lying on the floor, hoping you can push out another breath. And it’s only hope. Because there is nothing inside you.”



Not all asthma is the same, and severe asthma can have a number of underlying causes.⁵

Who is affected?

Asthma affects people of all ages but most frequently begins in **childhood.**⁴



Key risk factors include **smoke**, and **allergens** such as **dust mites** and **pets.**¹

How is it diagnosed?

Two common tests are used to help diagnose asthma:^{1,4}

- 1) **Spirometry** measures the speed and volume at which air can move in and out of the lungs.
- 2) A **peak expiratory flow rate test** measures how fast a person can blow air out of their lungs in one breath.



Funding for this conference was made possible (in part) by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The views expressed in written conference materials or publications and by speakers and moderators do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Department of Health and Human Services, nor does the mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

LUNCH AND LEARN

Asthma carries a significant burden in Indiana, and it is important to be well informed on the issue. **Do you want to learn more about asthma?** The Indiana State Department of Health Asthma Program is hosting a **free** lunch and learn. State Health Commissioner **Dr. Jerome M. Adams** will introduce **Vicky Hicks**, IU Health Bloomington Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Therapist & Asthma Educator. Vicky will discuss what asthma is, how to treat it and how to prevent complications. Come expand your knowledge of asthma!

- **When:** May 4, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- **Where:** Rice Auditorium (*basement of ISDH*)
- **Bring your lunch!** (*Lunch is not included*)

Please RSVP to:
Kara Sandy, MPH
317.234.7631
ksandy1@isdh.in.gov



Indiana State
Department of Health

10-digit dialing underway in Indiana's 317 area code

To ensure a continuing supply of telephone numbers, a new 463 telephone area code will be added later this year to the 317 region covering Indianapolis and most of its suburbs. The new 463 area code will be “overlaid” or superimposed over the same geographic area as the 317 area code.

Beginning on Sept. 17, 2016,

all local calls made within the 317 area will have to be placed

using the 10-digit telephone number (area code + seven-digit telephone number). Calls that are currently local will continue to be local, even though 10-digit dialing will be required.



To give consumers adequate time to adjust to the changes, a six-month grace period began on March 19. During this period, local calls can be made with either seven or 10 digits. However, all consumers, including state agencies, in the 317 area code are encouraged to use 10 digits to make local calls. This will help consumers ease into the transition to mandatory 10-digit dialing for local calls within the 317 area code.

Timeline for the 317/463 Area Code Overlay

- **Now**—You should use 10 digits whenever you place a local call from the 317 area code (dialing 317 followed by the number's remaining digits). If you forget and dial seven digits (through Sept. 16, 2016), your call will still be completed.
- **Sept. 17, 2016**—You must use

The Torch

10-digit dialing for all local phone calls. After this date, if you do not use the new dialing procedures, your call will not be completed and a recording will instruct you to hang up and dial again.

- **Oct. 17, 2016**—Numbers assigned for new telephone lines or services in the 317 region may have the new 463 area code.

Here are some important points to remember:

- Your telephone number, including its current area code, does not change.
- Dial area code + telephone number (a total of 10 digits) for all local calls in the 317 area.
- Continue to dial 1 + area code + telephone number (a total of 11 digits) for all long-distance calls.
- The overlay does not change the price of a call, your coverage area, or other rates and services.
- Dial three digits to reach 911, along with other universal three-digit numbers (211, 411, 711, and 811).
- If you have a mobile phone, ensure your contacts list phone numbers include the 317 area code.
- If you're in charge of maintaining your agency's internal contact lists, such as phone trees included in continuation of operations plans, make sure the phone numbers include the 317 area code.

You can learn more from the Indiana [Office of Consumer Counselor's \(OUCC's\) website](#) at or the [Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission's \(IURC's\) website](#).

Ride the Hoosier State train for a discount

Instead of losing time behind the wheel, why not gain the pleasure of getting lost in a book, or connecting with friends or even finishing up a presentation?



The Hoosier State Train is taking service to the next level when it comes to train travel. Reliable service, friendly faces and personal touches are what the Golden Age of rail travel was all about and that is what we are bringing to modern travelers. Not to mention upgrades like complimentary WiFi and hot meal service.

Comfortable coaches and spacious dome cars with unbeatable views are available to travelers between Indianapolis and Chicago on the Hoosier State Train.

Use the discount code **V323** and get **20 percent** off the regular full adult rail fare. Make your reservation online at hoosierstatetrain.com.

Advance reservations are required a minimum of three (3) days prior to travel. Up to two (2) children ages two to 12 may accompany each adult at half the regular full adult rail fare. This offer is valid for travel on the Hoosier State Train. Seating is limited and may not be available on all days. Fares are subject to availability. This offer is not combinable with any other discount offer.

Awards banquet honors IVH Superintendent as a 'Salute to Women' winner

On March 1, eight women were honored by the YMCA for outstanding achievements in their volunteer or professional roles in the West Lafayette community. The Salute to Women is an event that honors empowered women who model a variety of ways to lead, to add value to our community and to improve the lives of others.

One of the recipients is Indiana Veterans' Home Superintendent **Linda Sharp**. For Sharp, serving others has always been a part of her life. In an [interview with local media, News 18](#), Sharp details her background and servant leadership.

"I started out in 1982 as a combat medic and served three years in the military," Sharp explained. "I deployed to Korea a couple of times."

Sharp then earned a degree in nursing and continued her mission to serve. "I got my commission, became a registered nurse and joined the 801st Combat Support Hospital," Sharp said.

From there, Sharp's story as a nurse would continue. This time though, a new chapter would begin for her at the Indiana Veterans' Home.

"I started out working night shift as a nurse. I worked that job for about a year, and then I became a unit manager over in Lincoln and did that for about a year," Sharp said. "Then the position for the director of nursing became available and I ended up becoming the director of nursing."

In January 2014, Sharp was hired as superintendent of the Indiana



Linda Sharp (shown above) has led the Indiana Veteran's Home as the Superintendent since 2014.

Veterans' Home. "Long-term care has always been a passion of mine," Sharp said. "And being able to serve in this capacity is a dream job."

A dream job that allows her to serve the men and women, who she said have given so much.

"It's a great feeling to know that one of my co-workers nominated me for the award," Sharp said. "I try and work hard and make a difference for everyone and so it was very humbling to hear."

Sharp also recently retired from the military as a captain.

Salute to Women was started by the Lafayette Women's Political Caucus. The Purdue Women's Caucus joined as a sponsor. Since the event began in 1974, almost 300 women have been honored. Several other organizations participated during the next two decades before the YWCA became the sole sponsoring organization in 2000.

- [Click here to read more about all the award recipients.](#)



Work the polls on both election days

Did you know it takes 30,000 poll workers to run Indiana's 5,000 precincts?

Our democracy depends on Hoosiers taking the initiative to play an active role in the freedoms of democracy. The State of Indiana is calling on civic-minded employees to work the polls on both Election Days, May 3 and November 8.

Workers join fellow Hoosiers in setting up the polling place and checking in voters.

Poll workers earn up to \$150 for their service, depending on the county. In some counties, poll workers can share the day between two friends, colleagues or family members, instead of working the full day.

You must be a registered voter and a resident of the county in which you wish to work.

To sign-up, please contact your County Election Administrator or your local party representative (Democrat or Republican).

The state of Indiana also offers the Donate for Democracy program, where you can assist your fellow Hoosiers at the polls on Election Day and earn at least \$75 for your favorite charity or nonprofit organization.

**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**



Call 811, visit website two days before a digging project to be safe when you dig

Governor Pence has issued a proclamation designating April as “Indiana Safe Digging Month” in honor of the national safe digging efforts through the Common Ground Alliance, in conjunction with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission.

Spring has arrived in Indiana and many Hoosiers are planning outdoor projects. Whether that’s planting trees, installing a new fence, updating a septic system, or any other project that involves moving dirt, both homeowners and professional excavators need to call 811 first.

In Indiana, it’s the law to call 811 or visit www.811now.com at least two full working days before any digging project. The call is free and can be made any time of the day or night--seven days a week.

Once a call to 811 has been placed, utility locaters will visit your property and identify your buried utility lines with colored flags and paint, indicating which types of facilities are nearby. When you’re ready to begin your digging project, make sure to always safely dig

around the utility marks, not directly on them--remember, some utility lines may not be very deep!

Why do you need to be careful when digging, driving, or working in the dirt? Damaging a buried utility could be anything from an inconvenience, like cutting your cable line, to an emergency, like cutting a fiber optic cable that carries your town’s 911 service. It could even result in serious injury or death if you were to damage a power line or a natural gas pipeline.

Finally, if you plan to do your work in a public right-of-way, contact the appropriate state or local agency to obtain a permit prior to starting your project.

Remember, each time you plan a project that requires you to move dirt, call 811 two full working days before you begin. It’s free, it’s the law, and it will keep you, your family, and your neighborhood safe. With a little planning and a call to 811, it’s easy to incorporate safe digging into your springtime projects!

Taxes are due April 18 so file yours with INfreefile today!

The **April 18** deadline to file your individual income tax return is just around the corner! No need to panic if you waited to file your taxes this year. The Department of Revenue (DOR) continues to offer a free tax-filing service called Indiana freefile (INfreefile).



INfreefile allows eligible taxpayers to file their state and federal taxes online for free. If your adjusted gross income is \$62,000 or less you may qualify to use the same trusted vendor software many pay to use for free. [Click here](#) to learn more about the participating vendors and see if you qualify.

Filing online offers many benefits:

- **Faster refunds** - Electronically-filed returns are processed in 12 to 14 days, whereas a paper-filed return can take up to 12 weeks.
- **More secure** - fewer people see your personal information.
- **Get more or pay less** - E-filing software may suggest credits and deductions about which you might not have known.
- **Better accuracy** - electronically-filed returns have a two percent error rate versus 20 percent for paper returns.

If you have any questions about your return, contact DOR at (317) 232-2240. Keep up to date with other important information by following DOR on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Indiana Bicentennial Torch Relay route travels 3,200 miles and pass through all 92 counties

Lt. Governor Eric Holcomb joined the Indiana Office of Tourism Development (IOTD) to unveil the statewide route the Indiana Bicentennial Torch Relay will travel this fall. The Indiana Bicentennial Torch Relay travels more than 3,200 miles as nearly 2,000 torchbearers carry the torch through each of Indiana's 92 counties. The route showcases locations of natural beauty, local interest and historic significance to the state.



A map and schedule of the statewide torch relay are now available on the [Bicentennial Torch Relay website](#).

The Indiana Bicentennial Torch Relay route touches:

- 260 cities and towns.
- 17 state and national parks, including Indiana Dunes, Turkey Run, Falls of the Ohio and Abraham Lincoln's Boyhood Home.
- Nine lakes and rivers, including the Ohio and Wabash Rivers.
- 27 national, state and local sites of historic significance including the Levi Coffin House, Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site and Lanier Mansion.
- 22 colleges and universities.
- Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum, Bridgeton Mill, Conner Prairie, Evansville Museum of Arts, History & Science, French Lick Resort, Holiday World, Indiana High School Basketball Hall of Fame, Indiana State Soldiers and Sailors Monument, Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Lew Wallace Study and Museum, NSA Crane and many additional landmarks and destinations.

a taskforce of representatives from multiple state agencies and the private sector; including the departments of transportation, natural resources, state police, tourism, community and rural affairs and archives. Local organizing committees in each county finalized their county-specific routes. While the route is considered final, it is subject to alterations as conditions on the ground during the relay may warrant.

The Indiana Bicentennial Torch Relay begins **Sept. 9** in Corydon, Indiana's first state capital, and culminate with a celebration **Oct. 15** on the grounds of the statehouse in Indianapolis. Accompanying the torch is a high-tech mobile experience—an interactive museum that highlights important milestones during Indiana's first 200 years and looks ahead to the future of the state. State Police are providing

logistical support and escort of the torch caravan over the course of the relay.

"From the Lake Michigan shoreline to the rolling hills along the Ohio River, Indiana is full of special people and places. The Indiana Bicentennial Torch Relay allows us to show off both our state and civic pride as we honor our past while symbolically 'passing the torch' to future generations of Hoosiers," said Mark Newman, Director of Tourism.

Developed by IOTD, the relay is designed to connect Hoosiers across the state and nation with their home state during the bicentennial year. The torch itself was designed by engineering faculty and students at Purdue University. The torch will be primarily transported by people, passing the flame from torch bearer to torch bearer. The relay will also employ other modes of conveyance that are symbolic of the history and heritage of Indiana, including watercraft, farm equipment, a racecar, horse and wagon, antique automobile and others.

Torchbearers were nominated by the public and nominations are currently being vetted at the local level by county torch relay coordinating committees. Torchbearers are Hoosiers who demonstrate exceptional public service, excellence in their profession, acts of heroism or volunteer service to their neighborhood, community, region or state.

To follow the Indiana Bicentennial Torch Relay on social media, visit INTorchRelay on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

The torch relay route was charted by

Renew your vehicle registration in the IGC beginning April 8

State employees who work in the Government Center and surrounding area will soon have an easier way to renew and print their vehicle registration renewal stickers. On Friday, April 8 the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) is opening a 24-hour self-service terminal (SST) in the Indiana Government Center-North (IGC-N).



This new SST machine allows customers to renew up to 10 vehicle registrations and print their sticker(s) in real time instead of sending it through the mail or renewing online. The SST is available 24 hours a day, seven days a

week and is going to be located near the ATMs outside of the IGC-N cafeteria.

The SST machine is operated completely by touch-screen. Throughout each transaction, a help button and exit options are available. Users need their driver's license number, Social Security number and zip code to complete the process. After the required information is entered, the SST will list all vehicles eligible for renewal and customers can check a box next to each one that they would like to renew. After the selections have

been made, payment is accepted at the machine and then the new registration sticker(s) are printed along with an optional receipt.

If you ever experience a technical issue while operating the SST machine, please contact the phone number on the machine at 866-955-5285.

Other 24-hour SST machines can be found in BMV license branches across the state including Terre Haute, Lafayette, Bloomington, Fort Wayne—Pine Valley, Noblesville, Mishawaka, Indianapolis—Beech Grove and Indianapolis—Midtown. For a complete list of branch locations and hours, visit myBMV.com.

Download a copy of the 2017 holidays

The following is a list of the 2017 state holidays and the dates on which they are observed:

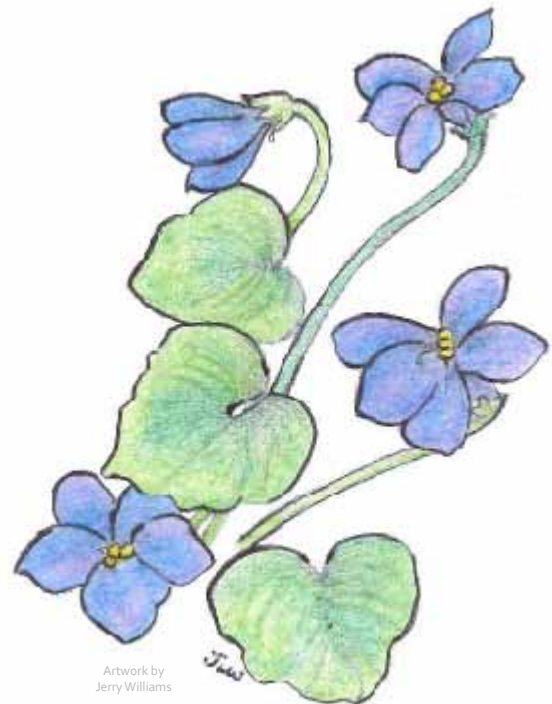
Please note: there are no election days in 2017 as it is a year that follows a presidential election.

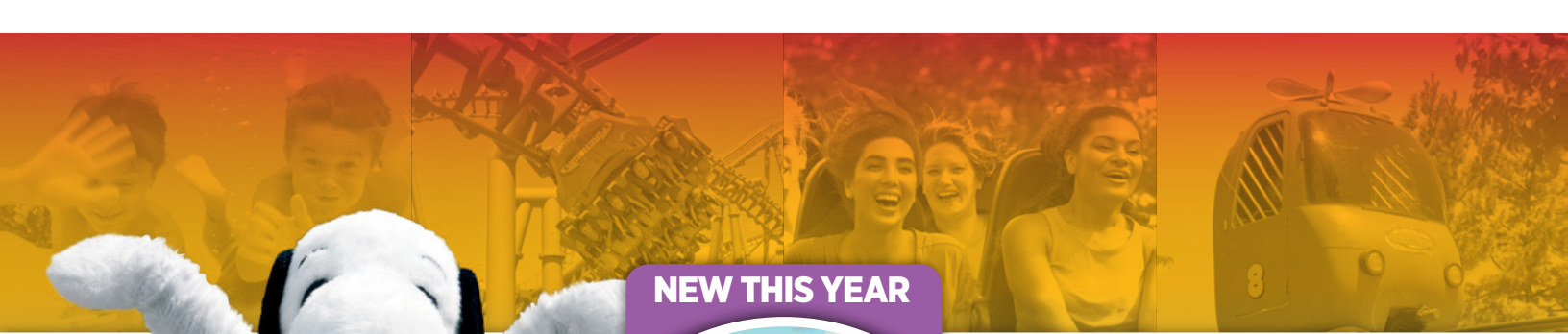
New Year's Day,	Sunday	January 1, 2017**
New Year's Day	Monday	January 2, 2017*
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Monday	January 16, 2017
Good Friday	Friday	April 14, 2017
Memorial Day	Monday	May 29, 2017
Independence Day	Tuesday	July 4, 2017
Labor Day	Monday	September 4, 2017
Columbus Day	Monday	October 9, 2017
Veterans Day	Friday	November 10, 2017*
Veterans Day	Saturday	November 11, 2017**
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday	November 23, 2017
Lincoln's Birthday	Friday	November 24, 2017
Christmas Day	Monday	December 25, 2017
Washington's Birthday	Tuesday	December 26, 2017

* Operations regularly scheduled Monday – Friday.

** Operations regularly scheduled on Saturday/Sunday.

- [Download 2017 holiday schedule](#)





NEW THIS YEAR



Tropical
PLUNGE



Kings Island

State of Indiana Employees Good-Any-Day Tickets

TICKETS ONLY

\$37.00

per Adult

\$33.00
per Jr/Sr

\$63.00
per Two Day

Plus Processing Fee

Log online to
visitkingsisland.com/save

User Name: **kiinstateemployees**

Password: **INemployeekings**

Opening Day is April 16. The Good-Any-Day tickets will be available prior to Opening Day for purchase.

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Soak City & Tropical Plunge are open on select operational days May 28 – September 5.
Go to visitkingsisland.com for operational dates and hours prior to visit.