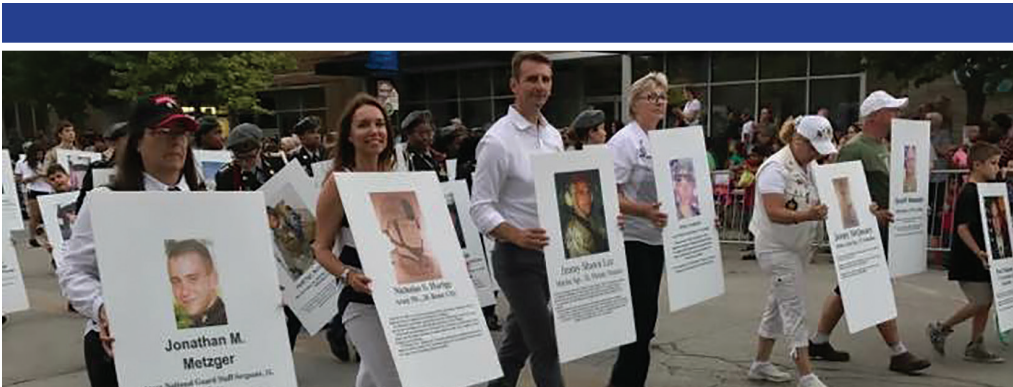


North Township NAVIGATOR

YOUR GUIDE TO NEWS AND SERVICES IN EAST CHICAGO, HAMMOND, HIGHLAND, MUNSTER AND WHITING • FALL 2017



The photographs and biographies of fallen heroes featured in the Highland parade will be on display Sept. 24 at this year's Victory for Veterans Memorial Ride at Wicker Memorial Park. [Township photo]

HONORING OUR VETERANS

Since an eternal flame was lit at Wicker Memorial Park nearly 25 years ago, it has served as a permanent reminder of the sacrifices of those who fought in U.S. wars abroad. Today, local veterans keep it growing ...



SPECIAL HOUSING

The East Chicago Housing Authority is preparing to welcome its first veteran in need of transitional housing yet this year. In all, four housing units are being readied for veterans.

East Chicago, North Township Trustee Frank J. Mrvan and local veterans groups have partnered to provide not only housing, but the wrap-around services necessary to help former soldiers on the road to self-sustainability.

WALL OF FAME

The Heroes Wall of Fame – a highlight of Highland's Twilight Parade – will be reprised at September's ride. It includes photos and biographies of more than 200 Hoosiers who died in service to their country.



MEMORIAL RIDE

The 18th Annual Victory for Veterans Memorial Ride steps off at 11:30 a.m. The event features a memorial wall, food vendors, 50/50 raffle and so much more.

When: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 24
Where: Wicker Memorial Park
Cost: \$25/person or \$40/couple.
Register: Pre-register online at victoryforveteranswickerpark.org
Info: (219) 932-2530, x 331

TOWNSHIP FACILITATES PATHWAY TO CITIZENSHIP

Trustee Frank J. Mrvan, Catholic Charities and the Hammond American Federation of Teachers are teaming up to lend a hand to those looking to become citizens.

There are an estimated 1,000 township residents who could benefit from the assistance. The situation is particularly acute for children, who are citizens, and have parents who are not.

"There is a need in our community to assist those who would like to become citizens," Mrvan said. "Our lawyer volunteers can help fill out the paperwork and guide individuals to classes for naturalization and legal citizenship."

CITIZENSHIP WORKSHOP

Lake County's lawyers are offering their assistance to undocumented immigrants and those who may be residents, but not yet citizens, during this free citizenship workshop.

When: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sept. 23
Where: Morton High School, 6915 Grand Ave., Hammond
Registration: Call Program Coordinator Mayra Rodriguez at (219) 932-2530, ext. 338.



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



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HAMMOND OFFICE

5947 Hohman Avenue
 Hammond, IN 46320
PHONE: (219) 932-2530
FAX: (219) 937-4412
HOURS: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday – Friday

EAST CHICAGO OFFICE

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday – Friday
 East Chicago, IN 46312
PHONE: (219) 398-2435
FAX: (219) 397-2190
HOURS: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday – Friday

HESSVILLE CIRCLE OF SERVICES

2835-165th Street
 Hammond, IN 46323
PHONE: (219) 803-0659
HOURS: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday – Friday



NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

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SENIOR AMBASSADORS PROGRAM CREATING DATABASE OF RESOURCES

North Township is creating a database of resources and experts to help residents with important life choices, such as senior care and assisted living.

A component of the township’s Senior Ambassador program, Trustee Frank Mrvan said the new service was created to meet a growing demand.

“There isn’t a week that goes by that we don’t get several calls from people who just don’t know where to turn,” Mrvan said. “We want to be that trusted resource where people can go for information. We are planning a program this fall for interested residents that will include presentations from experts who will be on hand to help.”

The database, which will be available online and in printed form, will also include options for people who need assistance but want to remain at home.

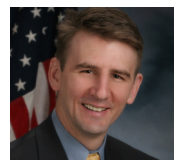
SENIOR SYMPOSIUM

The North Township Trustee’s office will host an information symposium about the availability of local resources for seniors and their caregivers.

When: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. November 8
Where: Wicker Park Social Center
Info: (219) 932-2530

“We want every person who needs assistance to be able to make choices based on accurate information,” he said. “These decisions are some of the most difficult. Most people we hear from would like to remain at home. Some know that isn’t an option.

“Our resources are being developed to empower individuals to make the best decision for themselves or their loved ones,” Mrvan said.



LETTER FROM THE NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

“We remain hard at work securing funding for North Township Dial-A-Ride transit service”

We are heartened to hear how Dial-a-Ride has enhanced your quality of life.

Please know, we remain hard at work securing permanent funding for the service so many of you rely on for trips to your doctor and grocery shopping.

This is a vital service in North Township and the growing number of trips we provide each month is witness to the need for Dial-a-Ride to continue and grow.

In the meantime, we have been assured by Prompt Ambulance that their dispatch center in Highland, which serves as our logistical hub for scheduling trips, will continue as owners Gary and Shar Miller seek a buyer for the service.

DIAL-A-RIDE RESERVATIONS

Dial-a-Ride operates Monday through Friday except holidays. Email dial-a-ride@ntto.net or call (219) 932-2530 and follow the prompts to select #4.

The Millers have been a great friend to the township. Their logistics team helped us create capacity allowing us to provide more trips without increasing our costs – and we are grateful.

We look forward to helping you get around this autumn! See you at the park!

FRANK J. MRVAN
 North Township Trustee

AUTUMN IN THE PARK

There are wonders in every season at Wicker Memorial Park, but there is something extraordinary about autumn. Stop by for a walk through the colorful fall leaves, reserve a tee time on our tree-lined fairways or join us at our family-friendly fall events like the Halloween Spooktacular or annual coat drive!

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, volleyball courts and playground. All our trails are paved and open from dawn to dusk.

OUTDOOR FITNESS

Get your groove on at our outdoor fitness area. Open year-round, the handicapped-accessible equipment includes an elliptical machine, leg press, rower bike, vertical press and pendulum.

PLAYGROUND

Come visit our state-of-the-art, well-maintained playground. Located on the west side of the park, the playground features swings, slides and climbing features for all levels of adventures.



DOG PARK

Our fenced-in dog park features pet fountains, benches and plenty of space to run around. The annual fee is \$25 for township residents, \$60 for out-of-township and \$100 out-of-state. Register your dog at the Wicker Memorial Park picnic office. **INFO:** Download forms on our website at wickermemorialpark.com/dogpark.

FALL GOLF RATES

This 18-hole, par-72 course offers tree-lined fairways, a practice green and driving range. Fall rates are \$27 to ride 18 holes or \$23 for 9 holes on the weekend. Weekdays with cart are \$23 for 18 holes and \$17 for 9 holes. **INFO:** Book your tee times online at WickerMemorialPark.com or call the Pro Shop at (219) 838-9809 for more information.

BANQUET FACILITIES

Looking for a place to host your wedding, retirement party or meeting? Wicker Memorial Park banquet facilities are perfect for any occasion. **INFO:** To make an appointment to see our facilities, call Bridget at (219) 923-3830. For rental fees and catering, visit diningsolutionswickerpark.com.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit our website to reserve tee times, take a virtual tour of the park, check out the latest events, download applications and registration forms and so much more at WickerMemorialPark.com.





CELEBRATE MEXICO

Celebrate Mexican Independence Day with Together, a 12-member band featuring pop, Latin rock, blues and big band. Cash bar and food concessions are available. No coolers allowed.

WHEN: 7:30-10:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 7
DOORS OPEN: at 6:30 p.m.
WHERE: Wicker Park Social Center
ADMISSION: \$7, age 21 and older
INFO: (219) 932-2530, ext. 331

CEMETERY TOUR

Join us for the 2017 Suzanne G. Long Annual Cemetery Tour at Oak Hill Cemetery honoring veterans and their families. Participants will learn about the lives and experiences of local historical figures who are buried there.

WHEN: 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 1
WHERE: Oak Hill Cemetery, corner of Hohman and 165th Street
ADMISSION: \$5, under 12 free
WANT TO VOLUNTEER: Email Ruth Mores at ruthmores@ymail.com.

HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR

Little ghouls and goblins – ages 3-12 – are invited to join us for an afternoon of trick-or-treating, hay rides and costume contest. Bring a decorated pumpkin for a chance to win a prize!

WHEN: 2 to 5 p.m. Oct. 28
WHERE: Wicker Park Pavilion
INFO: (219) 932-2530, ext. 331

BEARS TAILGATE

Join us as the Bears take on the Vikings. Picnic tables available or bring your own chair to watch the game on our outdoor big screen while enjoying \$2 drafts, \$2 hot dog and brats or \$3 burgers. Cash bar available. No coolers allowed.

WHEN: 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 9
WHERE: Wicker Park Pro Shop
INFO: (219) 932-2530, ext. 331

ANNUAL COAT DRIVE

Hundreds of winter items will be available for residents during the North Township and Kusiak Care's 10th annual coat drive.

WHEN: 9-11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 18
WHERE: Wicker Park Pavilion
INFO: (219) 932-2530, ext. 331

DROP-OFF LOCATIONS: Wicker Park Social Center; Wicker Park Pro Shop; Kusiak Construction, 8338 Kennedy Ave., Highland; and Ridge United Methodist Church, 8706 Columbia Ave., Munster.



DEAN MARTIN DINNER

Peter Oprisko will entertain seniors with a centennial tribute to Dean Martin. Menu includes salad, chicken marsala, buttered mash potatoes, vegetable medley, homemade bread, tea, coffee, chocolate cake with strawberries.

WHEN: noon to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 10
WHERE: Wicker Park Social Center
FEE: \$30 includes dinner and show
RESERVATIONS: (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 trip to New Buffalo, Michigan.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. September 27, October 24 and November 7
WHERE: Four Winds Casino
FEE: \$26 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.
RESERVATIONS: (219) 313-3934

HOLIDAY TURKEY BINGO

Grab a friend and trot on over to Wicker Park for an afternoon of fun. Every winner – one per family – gets a gift card good for a free turkey at a local grocer! Open to North Township residents only.

WHEN: noon - 3p.m. November 14
WHERE: Wicker Park Social Center
RESERVATIONS: (219) 313-3934

SENIOR LUNCHEONS

Enjoy great food, entertainment, guest speakers and door prizes for only \$5 at the monthly luncheon at Wicker Park Social Center in Highland. Doors open at 11 a.m. Lunch begins at noon. View menus at northtownshiptrustee.com.

RESERVATIONS: Call the township at (219) 932-2530, ext. 2.

MRVAN CARES

CONNECTIONS • ADVOCACY • RESOURCES • EDUCATION • SERVICES

Six short months after beginning the No More Secrets initiative, 73 children have stepped forward detailing horrific tales of abuse. Program directors estimate the level of abuse in North Township is still vastly underreported. "It is gratifying to see these young victims receive assistance," Trustee Frank Mrvan said. "The sooner the abused individual receives help, the more likely they are to be able to get on with their lives in healthy and productive ways."

IN THE SCHOOLS ...

No More Secrets is broadening its reach throughout the township.

Over the summer, Prevent Child Abuse Indiana trained social workers, teachers and counselors in East Chicago, Hammond, Munster and Whiting schools how to identify child abuse and take steps to assist abused children. Highland school leaders were trained prior to the No More Secrets initiative.

"We learned how to help survivors of abuse," Program Coordinator Mayra Rodriguez said. "We believe every child deserves a safe and nurturing environment to reach their highest potential."

IN THE COMMUNITY ...

As a companion to the school-based No More Secrets campaign, North Township created a program for adult survivors of abuse.

This group of individuals has been shown to disproportionately suffer from health and social issues.

Known as Mrvan CARES (Connections, Advocacy, Resources, Education, Services), the program includes one-on-one assistance and monthly seminars to overcome negative feelings and behaviors.

"We believe every adult deserves prosperity and peace," Program Director Isha Haley said.

SEMINARS

Mrvan CARES free seminars help adult survivors of childhood abuse deal with life's hurdles.

MANAGING TOXIC STRESS

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. September 30

- ◆ Money matters – budgeting
- ◆ Cognitive behavioral therapy

Register: Online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/managing-toxic-stress-a-frank-mrvan-cares-workshop-tickets-37099096396>

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. October 21

- ◆ Successful couponing
- ◆ Family team building

Register: Online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/family-engagement-workshop-brought-to-you-by-frank-mrvan-cares-tickets-37099362191>

HEALTH & HAPPINESS

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. November 18

- ◆ Successful couponing
- ◆ Yoga and laughter

Register: Online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/be-healthy-be-happy-a-frank-mrvan-cares-workshop-tickets-37099557776>

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To register by phone or for more information about our upcoming seminars, please call Program Coordinator Mayra Rodriguez at (219) 932-2530 ext. 338.



COVERED BRIDGE FESTIVAL



Join us **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19** on this day-long bus trip to visit central Indiana's fabled covered bridges while enjoying the festivities, food and artisan shops set up for the annual fall festival. Cost is \$40 per person for round-trip transportation from Wicker Park. Covered Bridge tickets extra.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED: Please call Eleanor at (219) 313-3934.

Frank J. Mrvan



NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE
BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY

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WICKER MEMORIAL PARK

SEPTEMBER 9

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:
CALL (219) 932-2530, EXT 331

