

North Township NAVIGATOR

YOUR GUIDE TO NEWS AND SERVICES IN EAST CHICAGO, HAMMOND, HIGHLAND, MUNSTER AND WHITING • SPRING 2018



Ending Child Sexual Abuse in Northwest Indiana

North Township Trustee Frank J. Mrvan welcomes the public to the second “No More Secrets” symposium as the discussion to protect children from sexual abuse advances.

Mrvan is partnering with the Purdue Northwest School of Education, Counseling and Nursing to continue the discussion that began last year.

In 2017, Mrvan and a team of experts traveled school-to-school to raise awareness about child sexual abuse and provide assistance to the 74 children who came forward with horrific tales of abuse. This year’s symposium will provide:

- ✓ Information on the impact Senate Bill 355 will have on schools
- ✓ “Stewards of Children” training
- ✓ Data showing how faith and education can restore lives after trauma and abuse.

CONTINUING EDUCATION: Credits are available for counselors, social workers and qualifying professions. Questions? Email Isha Haley at Ishalhaley@gmail.com.

SYMPOSIUM

This free event will engage local stakeholders about child sexual abuse in Lake County and provide qualifying professions with continuing education credit.

WHEN: 4 to 7 p.m.
Monday, March 19

WHERE:
Purdue University
Northwest,
Alumni Hall

REGISTER ONLINE:
[nomoresecretsnwi.
eventbrite.com](http://nomoresecretsnwi.eventbrite.com)

NORTH TOWNSHIP WORKING TO CREATE AGE-APPROPRIATE OPIOID EDUCATION

North Township is stepping in to help with the drug crisis.

At the same time, the number of Lake County deaths attributed to opioids nearly doubled in 12 short months – from 117 in 2016 to more than 200 in 2017.

Trustee Frank J. Mrvan said the township is working to bring drug education programs to North Township schools and partnering with police to establish drop-off locations for safe disposal of drugs.

“We are bringing programs that have a great success rate in drug deterrence,” Mrvan said. “Our goal is to give our kids education that helps them steer clear of drugs – whether that is a prescription that is not intended for them or drugs that are obtained on the street.”

DRUG DROP-OFF DAY

North Township is partnering with Hammond Police and Franciscan Health Hammond for National Drug Drop-off Day April 28. Stay tuned for more details.

NEXT LEVEL RECOVERY

Find certified addiction treatment providers at in.gov/recovery – where you can search by location, treatment options and more.



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



FRANK J. MRVAN

North Township Trustee
 (219) 932-2530
 fjmrvan@comcast.net



LORI POLGAR

Director of Operations
 (219) 932-2530, ext. 324
 polgarl@ntto.net



RICHARD J. NOVAK

Board Chairman



RALPH FLORES JR.

Board Member



LISA SALINAS-MATONOVICH

Board Secretary

HAMMOND OFFICE

5947 Hohman Ave.
 Hammond, IN 46320
Phone: (219) 932-2530
Fax: (219) 937-4412
Hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday – Friday

EAST CHICAGO OFFICE

2100 Broadway
 East Chicago, IN 46312
Phone: (219) 398-2435
Fax: (219) 397-2190
Hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday – Friday

HESSVILLE CIRCLE OF SERVICES

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



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

Send your suggestions to:
northtownship@theideafactory.us.com

The Navigator is produced by:
 The Idea Factory • (219) 779-9041
www.theideafactory.us.com

Printed by Miss Print
 8244 Calumet Avenue
 Munster, IN 46321



NORTH TOWNSHIP DIAL-A-RIDE SERVICE LOGS 42,582 ON-DEMAND TRIPS IN 2017

Even as the search continues to find permanent financing for Dial-a-Ride, North Township Trustee Frank J. Mrvan has secured funding for on-demand transit through December.

That is great news for individuals who rely on the service, which provided 42,582 trips in 2017.

“Thousands of North Township residents need Dial-a-Ride to get to the doctor, dialysis, grocery shopping, even college and jobs,” Mrvan said. “The service is highly valued and we continue to search for permanent funding.”

A three-year Congestion Mitigation Air Quality grant was followed by two-year gap financing by the Regional Development Authority. Both contingencies

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.

have been maxed out.

Mrvan said he is leaving no stone unturned in looking for new, permanent sources of funding.

“I’m talking to city and town leaders about the long-term funding needs of Dial-A-Ride and asking for their assistance,” he said. “This service is a lifeline for our seniors and disabled community. “We have to keep it going.”



LETTER FROM THE NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

“Spring brings celebrations and learning as well as hope and healing for our township residents”

North Township is on the move.

NEW SENIOR COORDINATORS ...

Deena Schriks and Renee Ramos are busy planning events and outings for our active seniors.

GOVERNMENT IN THE SCHOOLS ...

We’re bringing real-life information about local government and our laws to our high school government classes. Kudos to the members of the North Township Advisory Board, who happily agreed to take our board meetings to the students, and to the high school principals and teachers, who welcomed us. I have found these students to be interested in township government and engaged in the process. There is much work yet to be done to educate our children beyond textbooks – about our government and why it is important.

NO MORE SECRETS ... Our second No More Secrets symposium is scheduled for March. The initiative, which assists victims of childhood sexual abuse, is entering its next phase. Research shows the quicker children are able to access intervention, the quicker they heal. With that in mind, we are offering training for those who work with children to better identify those at-risk and guide them to professionals who can help. We have already trained more than 500 individuals and are working with the Catholic Diocese of Gary to train those who work in schools and parish programs geared to children. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of our young people.

FRANK J. MRVAN

North Township Trustee

Spring in the Park

VISIT US ONLINE AT WICKERMEMORIALPARK.COM FOR THE LATEST EVENTS AND PARK INFO!

The daffodils are peeking out. Blue jays and owls that braved the winter are welcoming geese and ducks back to the ponds; it's all about longer days, warmer nights and windier skies. Grab your kite and welcome spring at Wicker Memorial Park!

GOLF COURSE

This 18-hole, par-72 course offers tree-lined fairways, a practice green and driving range. Spring rates start at \$27 to ride 18 holes on the weekend or \$22 for nine holes. Call the Pro Shop at (219) 838-9809 to learn more about our memberships or schedule your tee time online at wickermemorialpark.com.

WALKING & BIKING

The 2.5-mile trail along the perimeter of the park and the half-mile inner trail is perfect for walking, running, biking – or even roller skates! All our trails are paved and open from dawn to dusk.

DOG PARK

Our dog park features pet fountains, benches for leash holders 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.

OUTDOOR FITNESS

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

BANQUET & FACILITIES

Looking for a place to host your spring wedding, retirement bash or meeting? Call Jennifer at (219) 923-3830 to make an appointment to view our facilities. For rental fees and catering menus, visit diningsolutionswickerpark.com.



SENIOR ACTIVITIES

EASTER HAM BINGO

Grab a friend and head to Wicker Park for an afternoon of fun. Winners receive a gift card for a ham. Township residents only.

WHEN: 1 to 3 p.m. **March 21.** Doors open at noon. Register at the door.
WHERE: Wicker Park Social Center
INFO: Call (219) 838-3420.



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. **March 27, April 26 and May 29**
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: Call Renee or Deena at (219) 838-3420.



MOTHER'S DAY DANCE

Join us as we celebrate Mother's Day with a special luncheon featuring salad, chicken marsala, mashed potatoes, vegetable medley, homemade bread, peach cobbler, iced tea and coffee.

WHEN: 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. **May 10**
WHERE: Wicker Park Social Center
FEE: \$20 includes a delightful luncheon, gifts and entertainment.
RESERVATIONS: Call Renee or Deena at (219) 838-3420.



SENIOR LUNCHEONS

Enjoy great food, engaging guest speakers and fabulous 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.

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

Township Events

FLAG CEREMONY

Oak Hill Cemetery will honor more than 500 veterans with a flag-raising ceremony Memorial Day weekend.

"Putting flags at the graves of these brave men and women is an honor," Cemetery Manager Patricia Wolfe said. "Local scouts have volunteered and we hope to see many from the community, too."

Oak Hill has also started an Adopt-A-Vet program.

"We have a number of veterans laid to rest here," Wolfe said. "Unfortunately, many have no living relatives to care for their final resting place."

Anyone can adopt a veteran's grave for \$25 a year.

"The funds go to maintaining the grounds, so the brave men and women who fought for our country have the beautiful memorial they deserve."

WHEN: 10 a.m.-3 p.m. **May 26**

WHERE: Oak Hill Cemetery, 6445 Hohman, Hammond

INFO: Call Cemetery Manager Patricia Wolfe at (219) 932-0206 or wolfep@ntto.net.

DAY OF PRAYER

North Township welcomes all comers to its National Day of Prayer service. The non-denominational program includes pastors from around the township and region.

WHEN: 6 to 8 p.m. **May 3**

WHERE: Wicker Memorial Park Social Center

INFO: (219) 932-2530, ext. 338

SOUTH PACIFIC

Hop the bus to Drury Lane for South Pacific. This Rodgers & Hammerstein musical proves that even the backdrop of a tropical paradise cannot shelter its residents from the prejudices of World War II. South Pacific is the winner of the 1950 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and 10 Tony Awards.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. **May 17.** Lunch is at 11:30 a.m. Show is 1:30 p.m.

WHERE: Drury Lane Theatre, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois

TICKETS: \$75 includes lunch and transportation – and must be purchased by March 23.

RESERVATIONS: Call Renee or Deena at (219) 838-3420.

QUICK BOOKS CERTIFICATION HELPS CLIENTS SECURE LIVABLE-WAGE JOBS

First Midwest Bank is providing seed money to help North Township residents get trained to improve opportunities and qualify for livable-wage jobs.

Hammond residents Janet Magallanes and Gail Stewart – both clients of the township – began the intensive Quick Books Certification classes in February.

After 24 hours of instruction and passing the required test for certification, North Township Resource Coordinator Cindy Rivera said Magallanes and Stewart will qualify for jobs paying between \$15 and \$20 per hour.

Trustee Frank J. Mrvan said the goal is to provide access to training and jobs that give clients a leg up when it comes to qualifying for employment that provides livable wages – ample paychecks that pay for necessities, such as housing, food and clothing.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Resource Coordinator Cindy Rivera is already vetting others who are interested in becoming proficient on Quick Books.

“We are looking for individuals that are proficient in working on computers. That background will make it easier for trainees to absorb Quick Books,” she said. “Components of the program include payroll, sales, purchasing and basic accounting.”

INFO: For more information about the class or how to apply, contact Cindy Rivera at (219) 803-0659 or riverac@ntto.net.

“We are grateful to First Midwest for their generosity,” she said. “This training and the jobs that follow will be life-changing for these women.”

EMPLOYERS – BIG AND SMALL – SEEK QUALIFIED CANDIDATES AT JOB FAIR

North Township is partnering again with the City of Hammond and Work One to host a job fair featuring nearly 100 employers from a host of sectors, including government, finance, gaming, healthcare, manufacturing and trades.

Resource Coordinator Cindy Rivera, who builds partnerships that lead to jobs for North Township residents, said the annual career fair is a proven success.

“This is a popular event – for those who need good workers as well as those who need jobs,” Rivera said. “Our 2017 event drew 1,200 job seekers. We’re hoping for even more this year.”

Need help putting together a resume or work attire? Assistance is available at North Township’s Circle of Services, 2835-165th Street, Hammond.

SPRING CAREER FAIR

Dress for success and bring your resume to an upcoming career fair hosted by North Township Trustee and the City of Hammond.

WHEN: 11 a.m.-3 p.m. **March 22**

WHERE: Hammond Civic Center, 5825 Sohl Avenue

QUESTIONS? Call Cindy Rivera at (219) 803-0659 or email riverac@ntto.net.



SENIOR COORDINATORS

North Township has named two new senior coordinators. Deena Schriks and Renee Ramos have taken charge of planning events and outings tailored to the interests of the township’s active seniors.

“Eleanor Uribe, our retiring senior coordinator, left big shoes to fill. I know Deena and Renee are more than up to the task,” Trustee Frank J. Mrvan said. “We are looking forward to their input that will continue building and expanding our senior services.”

INFO: Renee Ramos can be reached at (219) 838-3420 or email ramosr@ntto.net. Deena Schriks can be reached at (219) 838-3420 or email schriksd@ntto.net.

PROSECUTORS OFFICE

Lake County Prosecutor Bernard Carter has dispatched key members of his staff to North Township’s Circle of Services to make filing easier for custodial parents.

The three intakes process paperwork for the establishment of paternity and review child support cases for township residents.

WHEN: 8:30 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Thursday

WHERE: Circle of Services, 2835-165th St., Hammond

INFO: Please call (219) 803-7290 or (219) 803-7324.

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

North Township is looking for volunteers to assist in stabilization efforts. We need professionals who can address veteran homelessness, legal issues, education and employment as well as volunteers who can help with groceries, clothing, tutoring and other activities that are part of daily life.

INFO: Call Restore Team Coordinator Mayra Rodriguez at (219) 932-2530, ext. 338.





SENIORS AGES 55 AND OLDER

BUS TRIP TO WRIGLEY FIELD



CHICAGO CUBS vs. PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES

1:20 PM WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7

10:30 AM COACH BUS FROM WICKER PARK
RESERVATIONS MUST BE PAID BY APRIL 2

\$60 INCLUDES GAME TICKET + TRANSPORTATION • RSVP 219.838.3420

Frank J. Mrvan



NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE
BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY

5947 HOHMAN AVENUE
HAMMOND, INDIANA 46320

12TH ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

North Township children – ages 1 through 10 – are invited to hunt for eggs. DJ music and a visit from the Easter Bunny are all part of the festivities. Admission is free. Supplies are limited. First come. First served.

10:30 AM UNTIL THE LAST EGG IS FOUND **MARCH 24**
WICKER PARK PAVILION • HIGHLAND



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