

# North Township NAVIGATOR

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

## NEW INITIATIVES HELP TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS LIVE THEIR BEST LIFE

North Township Trustee Frank J. Mrvan is expanding the reach of the township's Mrvan Cares initiative.

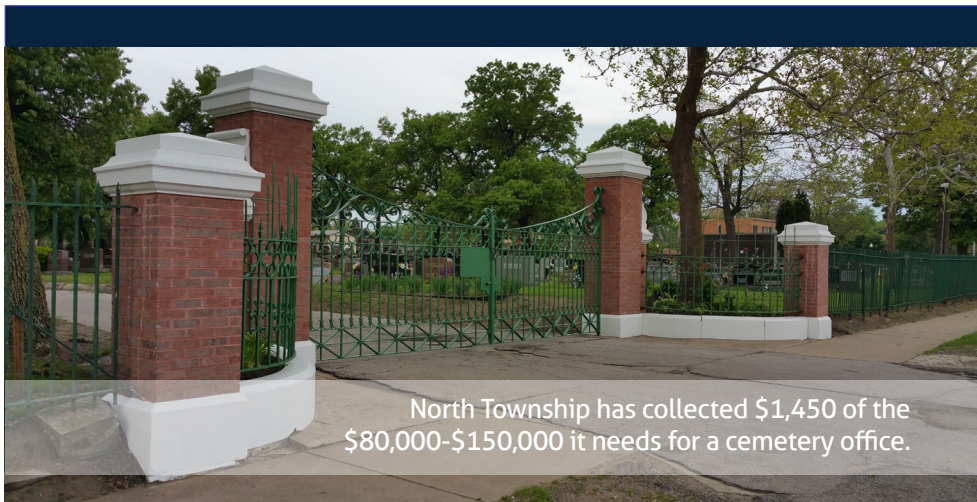
It began with No More Secrets and its focus on reducing the incidence of childhood sexual abuse through education and educator training. Since that program began nearly three years ago, Mrvan Cares has evolved to include programs to reduce opioid use, dating violence and dangers posed to individuals with autism and other developmental disorders.

Mrvan said the more he learns about factors that predispose individuals to lifelong struggles, the more determined he is to finding solutions.

"Every person deserves to lead their best life," he said. "For children who are abused and don't receive assistance to deal with the ongoing impacts of that abuse, their likelihood of developing substance abuse issues, depression, even Post Traumatic Stress Disorder increases exponentially. We are here to make a difference in their lives."

### LEARN MORE INSIDE

For more information on Mrvan Cares, including No More Secrets, Autism Awareness and 13 Reasons Why Not, please see Page 5.



North Township has collected \$1,450 of the \$80,000-\$150,000 it needs for a cemetery office.

## PRESERVING OAK HILL'S HISTORY

Oak Hill Cemetery is in dire need of donations for a new pole barn that will serve as the cemetery office.

Since North Township assumed ownership of the abandoned cemetery at 165th and Hohman in 2012, township employees and a host of volunteers have cleaned up the site, replaced grave stones and provided much needed repairs.

Throughout that time, cemetery operations have been conducted from a donated trailer.

Trustee Frank J. Mrvan said the township needs to build a permanent structure that meets city building codes and seeking the public's help.

"We are looking to groups and individuals who can donate a few dollars to help us meet that goal."



### HOW TO HELP

Donating to the building fund has never been easier. Oak Hill Cemetery now has its own website – [oakhillhammond.com](http://oakhillhammond.com) – where you can donate online to our building fund.

The new site also features its services, links to more than 25,000 individuals buried there, volunteer opportunities and events.



WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOU! FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT US AT [NORTHTOWNSHIPTRUSTEE.COM](http://NORTHTOWNSHIPTRUSTEE.COM).



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**HAMMOND OFFICE**

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 Hammond, IN 46320  
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**Fax:** (219) 937-4412  
**Hours:** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday – Friday

**EAST CHICAGO OFFICE**

2100 Broadway  
 East Chicago, IN 46312  
**Phone:** (219) 398-2435  
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**Hours:** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday – Friday

**HESSVILLE CIRCLE OF SERVICES**

2835-165th Street  
 Hammond, IN 46323  
**Phone:** (219) 803-0659  
**Hours:** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday – Friday



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**ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM HELPS TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS SAVE ON UTILITIES**

Up to \$500 is available for qualifying township residents who need assistance paying winter heating costs.

Assistant Chief Deputy Gilda Orange said the township is helping residents qualify for the Northwest Indiana Community Action Energy Assistance Program at Circle of Services in Hessville; and at the East Chicago and Hammond township offices.

“Those who qualify can receive \$200-\$500 as a one-time payment this winter,” Orange said. “What we do is help residents qualify.”

EAP is available by appointment only from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday at the East Chicago and Hohman Avenue township offices and from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fridays at Circle of Services.

**SHOVELING ASSISTANCE**

North Township wants to match seniors, who need help digging out, with volunteers, who have a shovel or snowblower. During heavy snow, the township implements an automated call system to help those who are snowed-in and need help getting out.

**INFO:** If you need assistance or want to volunteer, please call our Snow Hotline at (219) 306-1344.

To secure your appointment and get a list of documents needed to process your application, please call (219) 932-2530 ext. 315 or 364. The township is already booking appointments for January but has a few open appointments each week, which are reserved for emergencies.



**LETTER FROM THE NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE**

**“With your help, we can impact the lives of those living in poverty in North Township”**

As we pause during this season of peace and wonder, I want to offer my thanks for the bountiful hearts of those who live in our midst and make the world better just because they are there.

It is not lost on me how frequently I ask the community to help those in need and how you always respond.

I asked our youth to shovel sidewalks for those who can't do it for themselves. They didn't hesitate before saying yes.

When Oak Hill Cemetery was in desperate need of a new entrance, our local tradesmen were the first to step up with offers of assistance.

It's the same when we asked local veterans, who have experience in helping soldiers who come home with battle wounds no one can see, partner on our

new veteran's assistance program.

Today, I am asking for your help – again – as we give a hand up to those who live in poverty as well as those who are just one paycheck away from becoming homeless.

In partnership with Lake Area United Way, North Township is drilling down on systemic poverty to determine the root cause of economic instability and instituting programs to help.

Our Mrvan Cares initiatives are designed to do just that. We can't do it without you. If you have some time to offer and the heart of a volunteer please contact the township. It will mean a brighter 2019 for so many.

**FRANK J. MRVAN**  
 North Township Trustee

# WINTER wonderland

## SHELTER & PICNIC RENTALS

As the end of the year approaches, Wicker Memorial Park begins fielding calls to rent summer space at one of its eight picnic areas and six buildings. "We open reservations right after the New Year and expect that all of our facilities will be fully booked for the summer by the middle of January," Park Superintendent Brett Bierman said. "Folks know how popular Wicker Park is for family reunions, picnics and get-togethers."

Reservations for the 2019 summer season – May 1 to Sept. 30 – begin 8:30 Wednesday, Jan. 2. The North Township rates are:

	FRIDAY-SUNDAY	MONDAY-THURSDAY
GENERAL PICNIC AREA	\$100	\$75
PAVILION	\$550	\$325
STANDS	\$225	\$175
SHELTERS	\$175	\$125
BREEZEWAY	\$275	\$225

Reservations are available for out-of-township and out-of-state residents at a higher cost.

Discounts are available for nonprofit organization members, veterans, police officers and firefighters who are North Township residents.

**INFO:** Visit [wickermemorialpark.com](http://wickermemorialpark.com) to learn more about our facilities and picnic areas as well as view all of our amenities.

## WELCOME!

Wicker Park is alive with activity throughout the winter season. Bundle up for a brisk walk or bring the kids and dog along to frolic in the snow.

## WINTER SNOW TRAILS

When the weather outside is frightful, walkers and runners are accompanied on the Wicker Park trails by snow-shoe enthusiasts and cross-country skiers. Bring your own equipment and join in the fun on either the 2.5 mile trail or half-mile inner path.

## DOG RUN

Our 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. Download forms at [wickermemorialpark.com](http://wickermemorialpark.com).



## SENIOR ACTIVITIES

# Pictures with Santa

Bring your little ones for a visit and free photo with Santa from **3:30 to 5 p.m. December 13** at the North Township Trustee's East Chicago office, 2100 Broadway.

**For more information:** Please call (219) 398-2435.

## SENIOR LUNCHEONS

Seniors enjoy great food, entertainment, guest speakers and door prizes for \$5. Lunch is served at noon. Doors open at 11 a.m. Friendly reminder: **There's no luncheon in January. RSVP required for all luncheons.**

**DECEMBER 12:** Mixed green salad, baked ham with horseradish, green beans almondine, baked potato with butter, chives and sour cream, apple pie. Includes bread and butter, coffee or hot tea.

**FEBRUARY 13:** Vegetable soup, baked fish, scalloped potatoes, green beans and tapioca pudding. Includes bread and butter, coffee or hot tea.

**WHERE:** Wicker Park Social Center

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:** Please call (219) 932-2530, extension 2.

## 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 26**

**WHERE:** Four Winds Casino

**FEE:** \$30 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 REQUIRED:** Please call Deena at (219) 838-3420.

## 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. Must show picture ID.

**WHEN:** noon to 2 p.m. **April 11.**

Doors open at 11 a.m. **WHERE:**

Wicker Park Social Center

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:**

Call Deena at (219) 838-3420.

Reservation deadline is April 1.

# Happy Birthday, Jesus!

Children and their parents are invited **December 6** to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Wicker Park Social Center, 2215 Ridge Road in Highland. Each child should bring a gift in the form of hygiene items – such as shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant – as well as gloves of any size or hearty soups. This free event features crafts, games, face painting, stories, cookie decorating, pizza and beverages.

**Preschoolers**  
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Kindergarten-Grade 5**  
4:30 to 7 p.m.

**Reservations:** Call Tya at (219) 730-8931 to reserve your seat today!



# MRVAN CARES

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## >> 13 REASONS WHY NOT

### OPIATES, TEEN VIOLENCE & DATE RAPE

The latest program launched as part of Mrvan Cares is designed to address issues high school students face every day.

The goal: to improve the well-being of adolescents.

In partnership with the township's eight high schools and the Catholic Diocese of Gary's three regional high schools – Bishop Noll, Andrean and Marquette – 13 Reasons Why Not will debut Feb. 13.

Discussion during the event will include sessions on bullying, suicide prevention, substance abuse and teen dating violence.

These topics are also serving as themes for editorials penned by

#### TEEN WORKSHOP

February 13 2019

If your high school student would like to attend the launch of 13 Reasons Why Not, please contact your high school principal.

students and radio discussion programs on WJOB leading up to the February program and beyond.

"We will be hosting 200-225 students at the launch event in February at Purdue Northwest," said Rosie Quintanilla, the township's new community development coordinator. "Our goal is to fill a need in our community."

## >> NO MORE SECRETS

### BREAKING THE CYCLE OF SEXUAL ABUSE

As No More Secrets continues to roll out around the state, closer to home North Township is expanding the program's reach to more local school districts.

Township Community Development Coordinator Rosie Quintanilla said there is an ongoing need to help teachers identify children who may be suffering silently as victims of sexual abuse.

Whiting and Munster schools along with the Catholic Diocese of Gary schools are looking to implement the No More Secrets curriculum at all grade levels by the end of 2019.

"We continue to train staff about

#### SYMPOSIUM

Coming March 2019

The third annual No More Secrets symposium will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 9 at Purdue Northwest. There is no cost to attend the event but reservations are required.

Register: [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com)

reporting abuse, minimizing trauma and getting help for the child," she said. "We have made great strides in implementing this program and helping break the cycle of childhood sexual abuse."

## >> AUTISM

### LOCAL TRAINING & AWARENESS

East Chicago Det. Justin Orange is preparing to lead the first police training session in February designed to help officers understand how to best address special needs individuals who may wander away from home unattended.

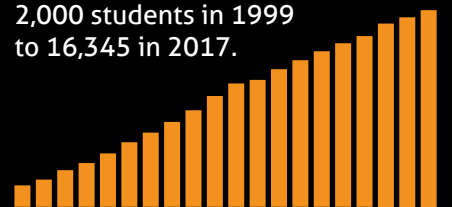
The next step: East Chicago will launch North Township's Autism Awareness initiative in April.

By all accounts, Orange is the perfect person for the job. Not only did he help shine a light on the issue, the East Chicago police officer is the father of a 15-year-old son who has autism.

"Justin looks like any other normal kid," he said. "You wouldn't know anything was different until you talk to him. We want to keep all of the Justin's in this area safe."

#### BY THE NUMBERS ...

Indiana Department of Education reports 1 in 70 students are autistic. Here's a look at the increasing incidence of autism – from 2,000 students in 1999 to 16,345 in 2017.



#### REGISTER TODAY ...

Visit [northtownshiptrustee.com](http://northtownshiptrustee.com) and click on the services button. Select Autism under Special Programs to register online or download forms



# TOWNSHIP ASSISTANCE

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**(219) 932-2530**

## Frank J. Mrvan



**NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE**  
BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY

5947 HOHMAN AVENUE  
HAMMOND, INDIANA 46320

# SWEETHEART'S DANCE

**4-6 PM FEBRUARY 9**

WICKER PARK SOCIAL CENTER

**DANCING ♥ DJ ♥ PRIZES ♥ CRAFTS ♥ FOOD**

WHO CAN ATTEND? CHILDREN - AGES 3-12 - ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

ADMISSION: \$5 PER COUPLE, \$3 EACH ADDITIONAL CHILD INCLUDES FOOD

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED: 219.932-2530 EXT. 331**



CHILDREN'S  
EVENT

