



WICKER MEMORIAL PARK



FALLEN HEROES MEMORIAL TAKES SHAPE

A year after breaking ground on a memorial to fallen police, firefighters and emergency medical services personnel at Wicker Memorial Park, work is buttoning up on the project in time for an Oct. 3 dedication.

North Township Trustee Frank J. Mrvan said there is still time to contribute to the project through the purchase of a brick, granite inlay or to have the name of an individual or company name engraved on one of the reflection benches located strategically throughout the monument to allow visitors to rest and reflect.

“COVID-19 put us a little bit behind on the fundraising,” Mrvan

said. “Through the generosity of the community and the efforts of Dean’s Landscaping, The Idea Factory, Hillside Funeral Home and Cremation Center, Memorial Coordinator Renee Ramos, Highland Police Cmdr. John Banasiak and our dedicated first responders, I know we will meet our goal.”

To date, more than 200 individuals, businesses and corporations have donated. The generosity of those donations is incorporated in the bricks, inlays and benches of the memorial.

INFO: Visit NTTfallenheroes.org to learn more about the memorial or make a donation today.



OCTOBER DEDICATION

Join us at **9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 3** for the dedication of the Fallen Heroes Memorial, a tribute to North Township police officers, firefighters and emergency medical services personnel who have died in the line of duty.

RSVP: Call Renee Ramos at (219) 838-3420 to reserve your spot today! Social distancing and mask guidelines apply.



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

For more information about North Township assistance and services, visit northtownshiptrustee.com or call one of our offices below.

NORTH TOWNSHIP BOARD



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TRUSTEE'S HAMMOND OFFICE

5947 Hohman Ave.
 Hammond, IN 46320
Phone: (219) 932-2530
Fax: (219) 937-4412
Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday

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 East Chicago, IN 46312
Phone: (219) 398-2435
Fax: (219) 397-2190
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HESSVILLE CIRCLE OF SERVICES

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

WICKER MEMORIAL PARK

8554 Indianapolis Boulevard
 Highland, IN 46322
Phone: (219) 838-3420
Hours: 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday
www.WickerMemorialPark.com

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TOWNSHIP PUTS DISTANCING MEASURES IN PLACE FOR 2021 SHELTER RESERVATIONS

Wicker Memorial Park is putting new protocols in place for the 2021 picnic shelter reservation process that will go into effect Jan. 4.

Renee Ramos, who heads up picnic shelter reservations, said the ongoing pandemic coupled with seasonal flu makes the past practice of accepting shelter reservations in close quarters at the park office unworkable.

“People begin lining up hours before we open on the first day we begin accepting reservations in the new year,” she said.

“We expect social distancing will remain in effect. With that in mind, we will be issuing a new plan in early December to address how we can best meet the needs of our residents.”

INFO: Visit wickermemorialpark.com to view our shelters and picnic areas.



LETTER FROM THE NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

“COVID-19 pandemic may cancel annual township events, but it can’t crush our spirit”

Let me begin this letter with a request.

The township has been forced to cancel the Victory for Veterans Memorial Ride and so many other fall traditions – such as Trunk or Treat and Winter Coat Drive – because of the dangers posed by the COVID-19 virus.

With that in mind, I am asking everyone to become an ambassador of goodwill to all of our veterans as well as the brave women and men who risk their lives every day to protect our freedoms.

For the veterans you know, please make sure they know what their service means to you and your family. For those current and former service members you haven’t met but wish you had, check in

if you can at any one of our VFWs and American Legions with a card or letter of thanks. It’s the smallest of gestures that have the biggest impacts.

Although many events have been canceled, we will proceed with a virtual Veterans Day remembrance. Our plans are to host the ceremony at Oak Hill Cemetery Nov. 11, which will be viewable on your laptops, tablets or phones via Zoom. Details on how to tune in will be sent to the news media, posted on social media and online at northtownshiptrustee.com and oakhillhammond.com. See you then!

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 bring your furry friend for a romp in our dog park.

BASK IN OUR 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, shelters and playground. All our trails are paved and open from dawn to dusk.

TAKE IN OUR TREE-LINED FAIRWAYS ...

This 18-hole, par-72 course offers tree-lined fairways, a practice green and driving range. Rates are \$37 to ride 18 holes or \$27 for 9 holes on the weekend. Weekdays with cart are \$23 for 18 holes and \$17 for 9 holes. Senior discounts and evening twilight rates available. **INFO:** Call the Pro Shop at (219) 838-9809 to learn more about our memberships or schedule your tee time online at wickermemorialpark.com.

ENJOY WORKING OUT AL FRESCO ...

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.

DELIGHT IN OUR 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. **INFO:** Register your dog with the Wicker Memorial Park office by calling (219) 838-3420 or emailing Renee Ramos at ramosr@ntto.net. Download forms on our website at wickermemorialpark.com/dogpark.

SOCIAL DISTANCING RULES APPLY ...

Please continue to wear a mask and practice, safe social distancing when visiting the park. All North Township special events have been cancelled until further notice. Please check our website – wickermemorialpark.com – for the latest updates.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit our website to reserve tee times, download registration forms and so much more at WickerMemorialPark.com.

EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE



DRESS FOR SUCCESS: Circle of Services features a professional clothing closet to help clients look their best for job interviews. “These clothes help people get back on their feet, first on interviews and then during those first weeks on a new job before they get their first paycheck,” Township Resource Coordinator Cesar Garcia (pictured above) said. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, appointments and masks are required. Please call (219) 803-0659 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday to schedule yours today! [Photo provided]

TOWNSHIP HELPS RESIDENTS PREPARE FOR INTERVIEWS – AND FIND WORK

When Highland resident Karli Lecea needed to get full-time work, she reached out to North Township Trustee Frank J. Mrvan.

“Frank sent me to the township’s Resource Coordinator Cesar Garcia at Circle of Services in Hessville,” Lecea said. “Cesar went to work right away to help. The township also had a computer I used to put my resume together.”

The township didn’t stop there. Garcia went the extra mile to prepare Lecea before her interview at Chase Bank.

“All of the help Cesar provided paid off. I beat out several other candidates to get the job,” she said. “Cesar knows what employers want and made sure I was ready.”

That job led Lecea to her dream job as a social worker at Family First Services in Gary. “I was able to get a job utilizing my degree in social work,” she said. “None of this would have been possible without North Township – and Cesar.”

Garcia said the township celebrates every resident who gets a job.

“During the COVID-19 crisis, we know more people than ever before need employment,” he said. “There are jobs available. Simply call first to set up an appointment.

“And please, wear a mask!”

INFO: For more information about employment assistance, call North Township Resource Coordinator Cesar Garcia at (219) 803-0659.

MENTAL HEALTH HELP

Whether it’s living in isolation, struggling to pay bills, working through home issues or simply the stress of living in the time of COVID-19, our mental health professionals are here to help.

“The North Township Mental Health Wellness Hotline offers services people need — at no cost — to get us through the challenges we face now,” North Township Trustee Frank J. Mrvan said.

INFO: Call our 24-hour hotline at (800) 706-2751. A licensed professional will gather pertinent information about the issues at hand, assess the struggle and connect you with a mental health provider from Clarity Clinic.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

North Township case managers are assisting North Township residents who need help paying their mortgage, rent, utilities and burials during the Coronavirus pandemic. Because of the crisis, food vouchers are currently unavailable.

INFO: Hammond, Highland, Munster and Whiting residents should contact a case manager at the Hammond number – (219) 932-2530 and follow the prompts. East Chicago residents should contact a case manager at the East Chicago number – (219) 398-2435.

RENTAL ASSISTANCE

Rental assistance of up to \$2,000 over four months are available to households impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The program is designed to help renters avoid eviction by covering monthly rent payments or late fees.

INFO: Visit indianahousingnow.org – where you can apply, find more information and frequently asked questions – or call toll-free (844) 463-7368 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.



Since an eternal flame was lit at Wicker Memorial Park more than 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 ...



VETERANS DAY



NOVEMBER
LEST WE FORGET



VICTORY FOR VETERANS MEMORIAL RIDE CANCELED

The 2020 Victory for Veterans Memorial Ride has been canceled.

A tradition for the last 20 years, North Township Trustee Frank J. Mrvan said COVID-19 and the ongoing threat it poses left him no other choice.

"Welcoming more than 2,000 veterans and their loved ones to Wicker Park is an honor," Mrvan said. "It was profound concern over the health of these individuals that made the decision for me. These are heroes who have sacrificed their blood, sweat and tears for our freedoms."

The township and the American Veterans Motorcycle Riders Association Chapter 1 – which partner on the ride – are exploring virtual fundraising options that will be detailed later this fall.

AVMRA Cmdr. Paul Day said everyone is disappointed that circumstances beyond anyone's control led to the event being canceled.

"We will be planning something even if it's just a get together on a smaller scale," Day said. "We'll get past this."

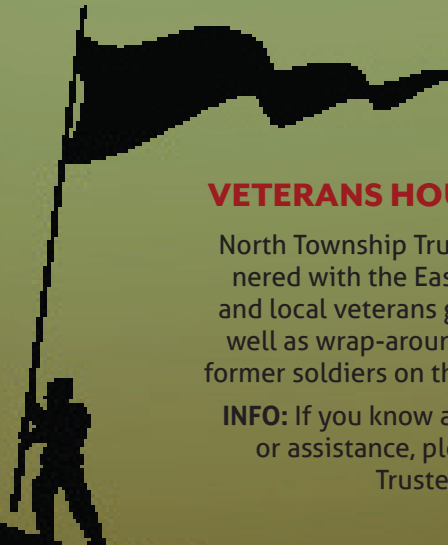
The event, which raises about \$30,000 a year, funds veterans programs along with enhancements to the Wicker Park Veterans Memorial.

"I understand this is a difficult decision, but COVID-19 is a serious issue and we must do what is best for the health of our fellow veterans," said Chester Colvin, commander of American Legion Post 232 in Hammond.

"Our veterans understand the toll war exacts and are often reluctant to share those feelings with those who have not served," Mrvan said. "The ride has been an opportunity for them to gather together as brothers and sisters who can relate, relax and enjoy that day together.

"Once this virus is behind us, Victory for Veterans will ride again."

INFO: For questions or more information about the ride, please call North Township Activities Director Kelly Bridges at (219) 313-3934.



VETERANS HOUSING & ASSISTANCE

North Township Trustee Frank J. Mrvan has partnered with the East Chicago Housing Authority and local veterans groups to provide housing as well as wrap-around services necessary to help former soldiers on the road to self-sustainability.

INFO: If you know a veteran who needs housing or assistance, please call the North Township Trustee's office at (219) 932-2530.



In time of crisis ...

**WE'RE HERE
TO SERVE
YOU!**

Frank J. Mrvan



NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY

Frank J. Mrvan



NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

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5947 HOHMAN AVENUE
HAMMOND, INDIANA 46320

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(219) 838-9809 OR SCHEDULE YOUR TEE TIME
ONLINE AT WICKERMEMORIALPARK.COM.**