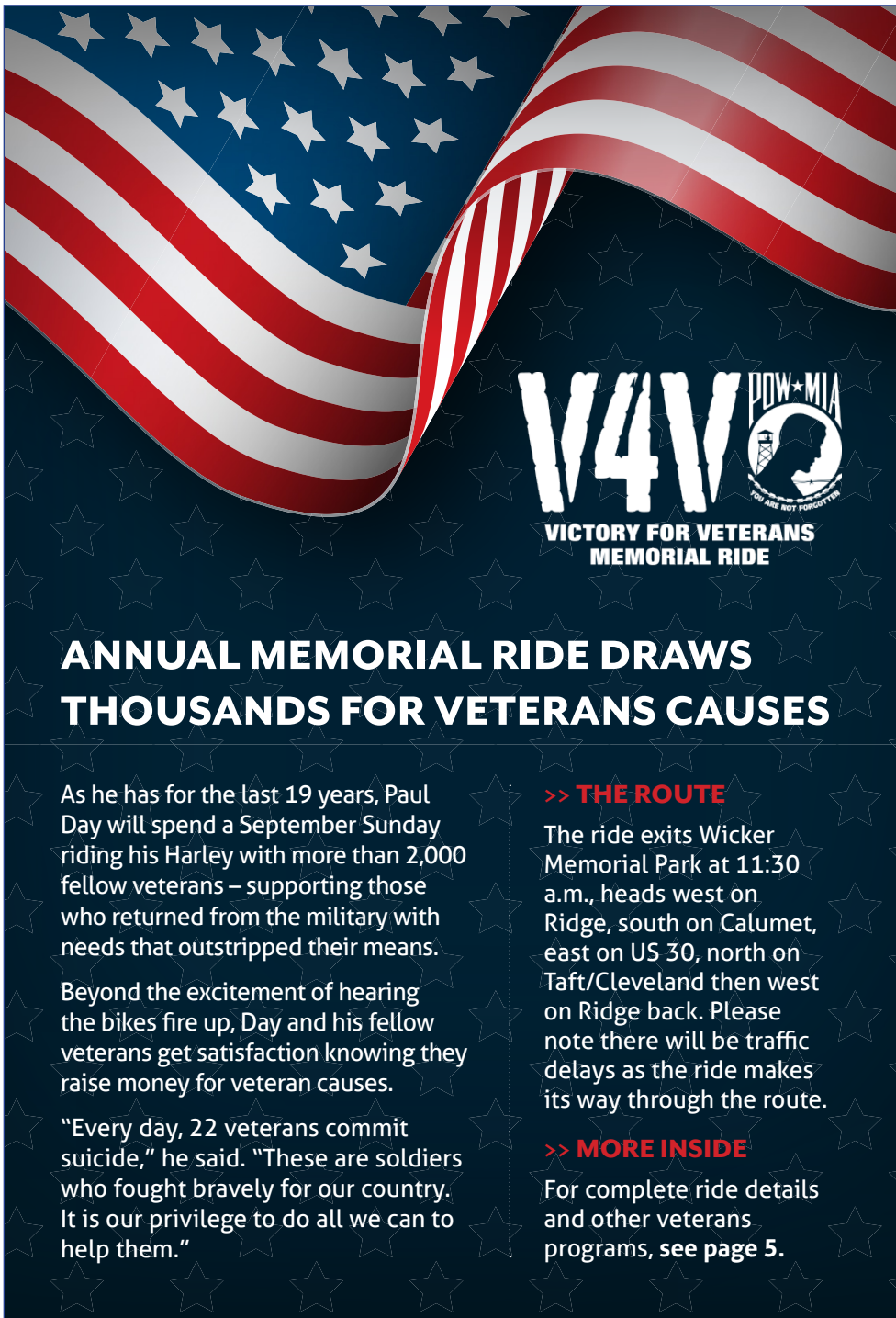


# North Township NAVIGATOR

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



## ANNUAL MEMORIAL RIDE DRAWS THOUSANDS FOR VETERANS CAUSES

As he has for the last 19 years, Paul Day will spend a September Sunday riding his Harley with more than 2,000 fellow veterans – supporting those who returned from the military with needs that outstripped their means.

Beyond the excitement of hearing the bikes fire up, Day and his fellow veterans get satisfaction knowing they raise money for veteran causes.

“Every day, 22 veterans commit suicide,” he said. “These are soldiers who fought bravely for our country. It is our privilege to do all we can to help them.”

**>> THE ROUTE**

The ride exits Wicker Memorial Park at 11:30 a.m., heads west on Ridge, south on Calumet, east on US 30, north on Taft/Cleveland then west on Ridge back. Please note there will be traffic delays as the ride makes its way through the route.

**>> MORE INSIDE**

For complete ride details and other veterans programs, see page 5.

## AUTISM PROGRAM HELPING TO KEEP SPECIAL NEEDS INDIVIDUALS SAFE

The School City of East Chicago and the city’s police department are partnering with North Township to launch a pilot autism awareness and safety program this autumn.

By mid-August, 75 East Chicago families registered for the voluntary program that identifies special-needs individuals through bracelets, necklaces or shoe clips to help law enforcement work with them and treat them according to their condition.

“Police are at a disadvantage when they encounter children with autism and other disabilities because these kids look – but don’t act – like others their age,” said Gilda Orange, the township’s assistant chief deputy.

“Parents and guardians have completed forms identifying comforting items that are part of a go-bag police carry with them. That, along with specialized training, are providing another layer to keep kids safe.”

### HOW TO REGISTER ...

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

**INFO:** Please call the North Township Trustee’s Hammond office at (219) 932-2530.





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**RALPH FLORES JR.**  
 Board Member



**LISA SALINAS-MATNOVICH**  
 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



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**NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?**

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**INDIANAPOLIS ADOPTS ‘NO MORE SECRETS’ CAMPAIGN TO END CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE**

The Indiana Township Association in partnership with North Township and National Urban Fellows is advancing the “No More Secrets” community engagement campaign throughout the state.

Indianapolis will be the first community outside of North Township to establish the program universally geared to assisting victims of child sexual abuse, educating those who work with children regarding child sexual abuse and engaging law enforcement to help those who have been harmed.

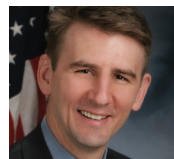
It will be New York City-based National Urban Fellows that will provide the boots-on-the-ground to launch the program that will serve nearly 160,000 Marion County students.

**TOWNSHIPS UNITED ...**

Known as Townships United Against Child Sexual Abuse, the Indiana Township Association program has a long-range goal to end child sexual abuse. In its formative stage, the group is targeting early identification and assistance for victims.

It is a transformation North Township Trustee Frank Mrvan hadn’t yet envisioned when he saw a study in 2016 that showed Indiana ranked second in the nation for child sexual abuse.

“Child sexual abuse is all too pervasive,” he said. “If there was one child impacted, it is one too many. Our goal is to press forward to change the status quo.”



**LETTER FROM THE NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE**

**“From the opioid crisis to local veterans causes, we’re tackling tough issues facing our residents”**

Victory for Veterans Memorial Ride ... tailgating at Wicker Memorial Park ... the fall drive to collect and distribute coats, hats and gloves to residents most in need ... crisp walks on the trails ...

Yep, it’s autumn in North Township.

**OPIOID WORKING GROUP ...**

Community organizations, law enforcement and church leaders are banding together to address opioids – one of the toughest issues facing our communities. This epidemic claims the lives of 115 Americans each day and several Northwest Indiana residents each month. North Township is part of the Opioid Working Group. So far, we have 68 members auditing treatment options in Lake, Porter, LaPorte, Newton and Jasper counties. Stay tuned!

**VETERANS HOUSING ...**

We are putting the finishing touches on our first single-family veterans dwelling in North Township and are looking at the weekend of the Victory for Veterans ride for an open house celebration. In addition to housing, each veteran and their family will receive the assistance they need to move forward. A big thank you to the East Chicago Central Cardinals football team. These young men were a huge help in getting the house cleaned up to make way for the rehab. I also want to thank Mayor Copeland and the East Chicago Housing Authority for helping bring this dream to life. Keep an eye on Facebook for updates!

**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 Spooktacular Trunk-or-Treat, Bears tailgate party or annual coat drive!

## 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. 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](http://WickerMemorialPark.com) or call the Pro Shop at (219) 838-9809 for more information.

## 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. Register your dog at the Wicker Memorial Park picnic office. **INFO:** Download forms on our website at [wickermemorialpark.com/dogpark](http://wickermemorialpark.com/dogpark).

Visit our website to reserve tee times, download applications and registration forms, check out the latest events, and so much more at [WickerMemorialPark.com](http://WickerMemorialPark.com).



# HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Prepare yourself for a spooktacular Halloween night...

Little ghouls and goblins – ages 3-12 – are invited to join us from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, October 27 at Wicker Park Pavilion for an afternoon of trunk-or-treating, activities and a costume contest.

**INFO:** Questions or for more information, please contact Activities Director Kelly Bridges at (219) 932-2530, ext. 331

## MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE

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 to 10:30 p.m. Sept. 6

**WHERE:** Wicker Park Social Center

**ADMISSION:** \$7, age 21 and older

**INFO:** (219) 932-2530, ext. 324

## BEARS TAILGATE

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

**WHEN:** 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 9

**WHERE:** Wicker Park Pro Shop

**INFO:** (219) 932-2530, ext. 331



## SILVER SCREEN GOLD

Peter Oprisko brings Academy-Award winning songs to life during this special dinner-show. Enjoy the live performance peppered with trivia, anecdotes and the glamorous untold stories of Hollywood's most beloved tunes.

**WHEN:** 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. October 16

**WHERE:** Wicker Park Social Center

**FEE:** \$30 includes dinner and show

**RESERVATIONS:** (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. September 25, October 29 and November 8

**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) 838-3420

## HOLIDAY TURKEY BINGO

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 senior citizens only.

**WHEN:** noon to 3p.m. November 5

**WHERE:** Wicker Park Social Center

**RESERVATIONS:** (219) 838-3420

## 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, extension 2.

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 ...



# VETERANS DAY

# 11

NOVEMBER  
LEST WE FORGET



## VICTORY FOR VETERANS MEMORIAL RIDE

The 19th Annual Victory for Veterans Memorial Ride steps off at 11:30 a.m. September 30 at Wicker Memorial Park. Sponsored by North Township Trustee Frank J. Mrvan and the American Veterans Motorcycle Riders Association, the day features a memorial wall, food vendors, a 50/50 raffle and so much more.

"We are happy to announce Hessville Star will be performing at the pavilion after the ride," Activities Director Kelly Bridges said. "The group is made up of some real all-stars of music."

**WHEN:** 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, September 30

**REGISTRATION:** Tickets are \$25 per person or \$40 per couple and include V4V pin, entertainment, food and beverage tickets. Register online at [victoryforveteranswickerpark.org](http://victoryforveteranswickerpark.org).

**INFO:** For questions or more information about the ride, please call Activities Director Kelly Bridges at (219) 932-2530, ext. 331

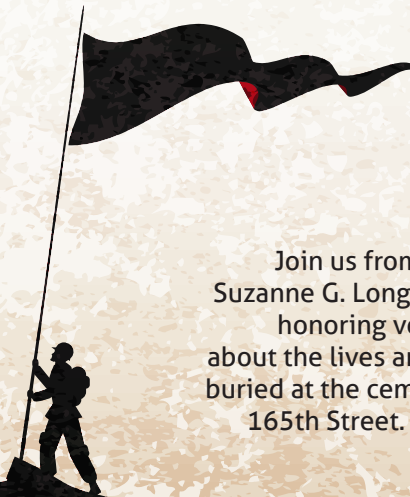
## HEROES WALL OF FAME

Be sure to visit the Heroes Wall of Fame during the Victory for Veterans Memorial Ride. The exhibit includes photos and biographies of more than 200 Hoosiers who died in service to their country.

## 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 North Township Trustee's office at (219) 932-2530.



## OAK HILL CEMETERY TOUR

Join us from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, October 7 for the 2018 Suzanne G. Long Annual Cemetery Tour at Oak Hill Cemetery honoring veterans and their families. Participants learn about the lives and experiences of the local historical figures buried at the cemetery, located on the corner of Hohman and 165th Street. Admission is \$5. Children under 12 are free.

**WANT TO VOLUNTEER?**  
Please email Ruth Mores at [ruthmores@gmail.com](mailto:ruthmores@gmail.com).



# 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



### **NORTH TOWNSHIP COAT DRIVE**

Hundreds of winter items will be available for residents during the North Township Trustee's 11th annual coat drive.

**WHEN:** 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 17

**WHERE:** Wicker Park Pavilion

**INFO:** (219) 932-2530, ext. 331

### **WANT TO DONATE?**

Drop-off donated items at the following locations through November 10:

- ✓ Wicker Park Social Center
- ✓ Wicker Park Pro Shop
- ✓ Ridge United Methodist Church, 8706 Columbia Avenue, Munster