

North Township NAVIGATOR

YOUR GUIDE TO NEWS AND SERVICES IN EAST CHICAGO, HAMMOND, HIGHLAND, MUNSTER AND WHITING • SPRING 2019



Join us for North Township's ...

FIRST FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL

The township's first ever Food Truck Festival is months away, but interest is running high in the summer event that will feature great food, fantastic music, a beer garden and a bevy of retail vendors.

Activities Director Kelly Bridges is thrilled with the response.

"Within 24 hours of an event post on Facebook, hundreds said they were going and more than 3,000 people said they were interested in attending," she said.

Bridges is seeking retail vendors that sell items – such as T-shirts, tie-dyed clothing, beach glass jewelry, artisan soaps and essential oils – to fill the 15-shop arcade.

SAVE THE DATE

North Township's first food truck festival features food and retail vendors as well as a beer garden and live bands. Participating trucks:

- Sizzlebox
- The Cookout on Wheels
- LuLu's licks
- Cute as a Cupcake
- Smokin Indios BBQ
- Dogs n Hogs
- The Cheesy Truck

WHEN: 3 to 9 p.m. Aug. 24

WHERE: Wicker Park Pavilion

ADMISSION: \$3

INTERESTED? The retail vendor fee is only \$25. Please call Kelly Bridges at (219) 932-2530, ext 331 or bridgesk@ntto.net to reserve your spot!

NORTH TOWNSHIP SOCIAL WORKERS FILL GAP BETWEEN RESIDENTS, POLICE

When North Township Trustee Frank Mrvan went looking to find a program that was working to reduce social ills that plague individuals and families through early intervention, he didn't have to look far.

Through a one-of-a-kind partnership where Griffith police and schools share the costs and benefits of a full-time social worker, the town has logged significantly fewer referrals to the Indiana Department of Child Services – in just one year.

Mrvan is looking to emulate the program with police in Hammond and East Chicago, staffing his office with two full-time social workers and an intern to provide resources families need to tackle serious issues, such as domestic violence, child abuse and neglect.

Griffith Police Chief Greg Mance said the program has surpassed every expectation. "We fill the gap between what our officers deal with on the street and the services people need," he said. "We will be watching North Township and wishing them the same success we've seen here."

INFO: If you or someone you know needs assistance, please call Rosie Quintanilla at (219) 932-2530 x 329 or quintanillar@ntto.net.



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



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NORTH TOWNSHIP BOARD



LISA SALINAS-MATTONOVICH
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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

EAST CHICAGO OFFICE

2100 Broadway
 East Chicago, IN 46312
Phone: (219) 398-2435
Fax: (219) 397-2190
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

WICKER MEMORIAL PARK

8554 Indianapolis Boulevard
 Highland, IN 46322
Phone: (219) 838-3420
Hours: 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday – Friday
www.WickerMemorialPark.com

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NORTH TOWNSHIP SEEKING VETERAN FOR REHABBED HOME IN EAST CHICAGO

North Township's veterans home is ready to welcome its first family.

From concept to completion, Narva House has always been so much more than a structure. Named for the street where it is located, Narva House was created to provide a comprehensive support system for a veteran and his or her family as they work toward self-sufficiency.

“We know there are veterans returning from service who have difficulty transitioning from the military to civilian life,” Community Development Coordinator Rosie Quintanilla said. “We have created a comprehensive system to help them do just that.”

HOW TO APPLY

Struggling veterans interested in participating in the Narva House project will work with a social worker, who will coordinate services and chart progress.

The township is looking for a family of at least three individuals where one adult is a veteran. Download an application at northtownshiptrustee.com. Following a successful background check, the family will be able to move in within a week.

INFO: Please contact Community Development Coordinator Rosie Quintanilla at (219) 932-2530 x 329 or quintanillar@ntto.net.



LETTER FROM THE NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

“North Township working with East Chicago to help high schoolers get summer internships”

There is nothing like a summer job for high schoolers to provide a sense of responsibility along with spending money.

At North Township, we are working to take the idea of summer employment for 16 to 18 year olds to the next level.

Our fledgling internship program has a goal to find 30 high school students meaningful employment as well as a fulfilling learning experience in the workplaces of some of the region's biggest employers.

In exchange for 20 hours of their time, this group of ambitious students will learn from the inside what it's like to

work at places like Ameristar, Arcelor-Mittal and HealthLink.

The township staff is already preparing interested students for success, helping with resumes and dressing for success.

Once they secure the internships, our staff will serve as intermediaries, ensuring that employers are getting what they need at the same time students are, too. We are starting with East Chicago, but won't be ending the program there.

Stay tuned for updates!

FRANK J. MRVAN

North Township Trustee



HELLO, Spring!

The daffodils are peeking out. Blue jays and owls that braved the winter are welcoming geese and ducks back to the park. It's all about longer days, warmer nights and windier skies. Grab your roller blades 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 \$29 to ride 18 holes on the weekend or \$25 for nine holes. Senior discounts and evening twilight rates available. 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 (219) 923-3830 or visit diningsolutionswickerpark.com.

SENIOR ACTIVITIES

TRIBUTE LUNCHEON

Reserve your spot by March 15 for our Tribute to Marilyn Monroe and Connie Francis with a special luncheon featuring salad, pot roast, mashed potatoes, vegetable medley, bread, chocolate cake with strawberries and coffee.

WHEN: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. **March 21**
WHERE: Wicker Park Social Center



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, April 30 and May 28**

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.



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: Noon to 2 p.m. **April 11.**
Sign in at door. Opens at 11 a.m.
WHERE: Wicker Park Social Center



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 2**
WHERE: Wicker Park Social Center
FEE: \$20 includes a delightful luncheon, gifts and entertainment.

RESERVATIONS

For reservations or more info about our senior activities, call Deena Schriks at (219) 838-3420.



WICKER MEMORIAL PARK CRUISE NIGHT

MAY 22

JUNE 26

JULY 24

AUGUST 28

SEPTEMBER 25

Check out the coolest classic cars and trucks during our monthly summer cruise nights from 5 to 8 p.m. at Wicker Memorial Park. Our DJ will be spinning some tunes and food will be available for purchase. Bring a blanket or lawn chair for comfortable seating and enjoy the evening!

FLAG CEREMONY AT OAK HILL CEMETERY

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.-1 p.m. Saturday, May 25

WHERE: Oak Hill Cemetery, 6445 Hohman, Hammond

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

MRVAN CARES

CONNECTIONS • ADVOCACY • RESOURCES • EDUCATION • SERVICES

AUTISM TRAINING & AWARENESS



North Township Trustee Frank J. Mrvan (top center) and Autism Society Coordinator Elena Luna Magallanes (top left) discuss the symptoms and common characteristics of autism with East Chicago police officers during a training session at the department.

TRUSTEE PARTNERS WITH EAST CHICAGO TO TRAIN OFFICERS, RAISE AWARENESS

A year in the planning, North Township cleared one of the final hurdles to implementing an autism safety program when all East Chicago police officers were trained in January on how to best communicate with citizens wearing the lime green bracelets that signify their special needs.

“When you tell someone with autism to stop, it is likely to trigger their fight-or-flight response,” Trustee Frank J. Mrvan told officers. “It is important to know what is typical for most people is not typical for them. We need to understand autism to keep them safe.”

The program will go live this spring in East Chicago with a meet-and-greet between individuals with autism, their families and police along with distribution of the individualized wrist bands. The launch will be followed by implementation and training in other communities in the township.

it's
OKAY
to be
DIFFERENT

REGISTER TODAY

To register your child or an adult with autism, please visit the North Township Trustee's website – www.norhtownshiptrustee.com – and click on the services button. Select Autism under Special Programs to register individuals online.

NO MORE SECRETS

North Township Community Development Coordinator Rosie Quintanilla is putting the finishing touches on this year's third annual No More Secrets symposium.

This year's free program will continue to shine a light on child sexual abuse. The event, which includes multiple presentations and a host of free resources, will feature a representative from the Department of Homeland Security, representatives from Fair Haven Center for Women and other experts who will talk about combating a culture of rape that exists in the U.S. today.

INFO: The symposium will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 9 at Purdue Northwest. For more info, please call (219) 932-2530 x 329.

NARCAN TRAINING

The winter Narcan training for families and professionals who work with individuals addicted to opioids was so well attended, the township is planning a second event later this spring.

Narcan – also known as naloxone – is widely used by first responders to reverse the effect of opioids in an overdose situation.

Dates and times of the upcoming training session will be announced on the Frank J. Mrvan, North Township Trustee Facebook page. Each attendee will receive one dose of Narcan nasal spray.

REGISTRATION: Supplies are limited. Please contact Community Development Coordinator Rosie Quintanilla at (219) 932-2530 x 329 or quintanillar@ntto.net to sign up for our next training session.



VISITOR
HOME

SENIORS AGES 55 AND OLDER

BUS TRIP TO WRIGLEY FIELD



CHICAGO CUBS vs. COLORADO ROCKIES

1:20 PM THURSDAY, JUNE 6

10:30 AM COACH BUS FROM WICKER PARK
RESERVATIONS MUST BE PAID BY MAY 17

\$85 INCLUDES GAME TICKET + TRANSPORTATION • RSVP 219.838.3420

Frank J. Mrvan



NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE
BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY

5947 HOHMAN AVENUE
HAMMOND, INDIANA 46320

13TH 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.

9-11 AM UNTIL THE LAST EGG IS FOUND **APRIL 13**

WICKER PARK PAVILION • HIGHLAND



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