

25

VICTORY FOR VETERANS

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

RIDING WITH A CAUSE ...

On September 26, 1999, Randall Winbush astride his Honda GoldWing lined up with nearly 1,000 other motorcyclists and their bikes for North Township's first ever Victory for Veterans Memorial Ride.

It was the first ride. No one knew if there would be a second or fifth

On September 29, Winbush, along with thousands of veterans and veteran supporters, will once again take to the streets of Northwest Indiana to celebrate the 25th annual ride. The only difference for the East Chicago native this year will be his transportation: He'll be steering a Harley Davidson.

For the lifelong region resident the event is his way of paying homage to those who have served.

"I wasn't in the military, but my grandfather, dad, brother and sisters



Thousands of riders turn out each year to honor our local service personnel who died in the line of duty and celebrate the lives of those who came home after serving our country.

were. Many of my friends are veterans. They all served this country with pride," he said. "I ride to pay tribute to them and thousands of others who served this country with pride. That's what the Victory for Veterans ride means for me."

PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT TO SPEAK AT EVENT

Lou Covelli was just 19 when he enlisted in the Marines and became a member of the first Marine unit to fight in Vietnam. A Purple Heart recipient, Covelli will be the keynote speaker as part of the September 29 Victory for Veterans day to honor those who served.

"I never thought I'd make it home alive. I enlisted because I wanted to serve my country," he said. Today, Covelli serves to meet the needs of his fellow soldiers who were wounded in war as part of Disabled American Veterans Chapter 80, a not-for-profit organization based in Crown Point.

A PROUD TRADITION

This year marks the 25th Annual Victory for Veterans Memorial Ride at Wicker Memorial Park.

Thousands of riders mark the last Sunday in September with a 27-mile ride dedicated to those who served their country.

Every ride begins and ends at Wicker Memorial Park, dedicated in 1927 by President Calvin Coolidge to veterans of the first World War and home to the eternal flame in honor of veterans from the region who served.



VENDORS & EXHIBITS

The daylong event will feature multiple areas of exhibits and vendors as well as food and fellowship. This year, we welcome the return of the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall, which will be on display at the park beginning September 25.

New this year! Lake Central History Teacher Tom Clark will share memories and memorabilia on loan from the Vietnam Veterans Museum at Tri-Town Safety Village.



TICKETS & PROCEEDS

Tens of thousands of dollars have been raised over the years for local veterans programs and services throughout North Township.

Tickets are available online at victoryforveteranswickerpark.org or you can purchase the day of the event. Single riders are \$25, double riders are \$40. Cost includes a souvenir anniversary pin for the first 3,500 riders as well as food and beverage tickets. Commemorative T-shirts will also be available for purchase.

FOUR WINDS CASINO

Roll the dice and let Lady Luck guide you to fame, fortune and a rollicking good time on this senior bus trip to New Buffalo, Michigan.

WHEN: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. **September 17, October 15 and November 19.** Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m.

WHERE: Four Winds Casino

FEE: \$30 per township resident | \$35 for nonresidents – includes round-trip transportation to/ from Wicker Park.

RESERVATIONS: Please call our Events Director Kelly Bridges at (219) 313-3934.

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: 1-3 p.m. **November 21.** Doors open at noon.

WHERE: Wicker Park Social Center

RESERVATIONS: Please call our office at (219) 932-2530, ext. 2.

SENIOR LUNCHEONS

North Township seniors enjoy great food, entertainment, guest speakers and door prizes for only \$7 at our luncheons on the second Wednesday of the month through December at Wicker Memorial Park Social Center. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. Lunch at noon. Meals include hot tea and coffee.

RESERVATIONS: Please call our office at (219) 932-2530, ext. 2.

RADIO SHOW

Join us at 7:30 a.m. the second and fourth Thursday of the month on WJOB Radio + JEDTV to learn about the latest North Township news and events!

ADRIAN A. SANTOS
NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

5947 HOHMAN AVENUE
HAMMOND, INDIANA 46320



16th ANNUAL NORTH TOWNSHIP COAT DRIVE

New winter coats will be given to children of North Township. Children must be present with parent/guardian to receive a coat. Recipients must be North Township residents with valid ID.

WHEN: 9-11 a.m. Saturday, **November 16**

WHERE: Wicker Memorial Park Pavilion

QUESTIONS? Call (219) 932-2530 or email info@ntto.net.

DONATE GENTLY USED ADULT COATS BY NOVEMBER 8 AT THESE LOCATIONS:

East Chicago Office
2100 Broadway
East Chicago, IN 46312

Hammond Office
5947 Hohman Avenue
Hammond, IN 46320

Wicker Memorial Park
8554 Indianapolis Blvd.
Highland, IN 46322



NORTH TOWNSHIP ADVOCATE

YOUR NORTH TOWNSHIP GUIDE TO ASSISTANCE, SERVICES AND RECREATION
IN EAST CHICAGO, GRIFFITH, HAMMOND, HIGHLAND, MUNSTER AND WHITING

ADRIAN A. SANTOS

NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

North Township will be honoring our soldiers this fall, beginning with a bus trip to Kokomo for the 42nd Annual All-Veterans Reunion **September 20**, the Victory for Veterans Memorial Ride **September 29**.

Looking ahead, I will be traveling **January 16** to the Indiana State House with veterans and their families for Veteran's Legislative Day.

This is our opportunity to lobby lawmakers about veteran-specific legislation and how they can help our service men and women, who so proudly and courageously served our country. Our veterans need and deserve more from their government.

For more information, please call (219) 313-3934.

LEARN MORE

Learn more about us at WickerMemorialPark.com.



MEMORIAL RIDE CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

This year marks the 25th Annual Victory for Veterans Memorial Ride from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. **September 29** at Wicker Memorial Park. Hosted by the Wicker Park Memorial Fund in partnership with North Township Trustee Adrian A. Santos and the American Veterans Motorcycle Riders Association, the day will feature veterans organizations, exhibits, food vendors, retail vendors, a raffle and live entertainment by Anthem (classic rock and beyond) with special guest Misfit Toyz. Highlights include Keynote Speaker and Vietnam Veteran Lou Covelli and the American Veterans Traveling Tribute Wall, which will be on display beginning September 25. **INSIDE:** See page 3 for celebration details.

ADRIAN A. SANTOS

NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

(219) 932-2530 or info@ntto.net

HAMMOND OFFICE

5947 Hohman Ave.
Hammond, IN 46320

Phone: (219) 932-2530

Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. M-F
Please note this office is closed
for lunch from noon-1 p.m.

EAST CHICAGO OFFICE

2100 Broadway
East Chicago, IN 46312

Phone: (219) 398-2435

Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. M-F
Please note this office is closed
for lunch from noon-1 p.m.

WICKER MEMORIAL PARK

8554 Indianapolis Boulevard
Highland, IN 46322

Phone: (219) 838-3420

Hours: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. M-F
Please note the park office is
closed for lunch from 2-3 p.m.

WickerMemorialPark.com

OAK HILL CEMETERY

6445 Hohman Avenue
Hammond, IN 46324

Phone: (219) 932-0206

Gate: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily

Office: 8 a.m.-4 p.m. M-F

OakHillHammond.com

NORTH TOWNSHIP BOARD

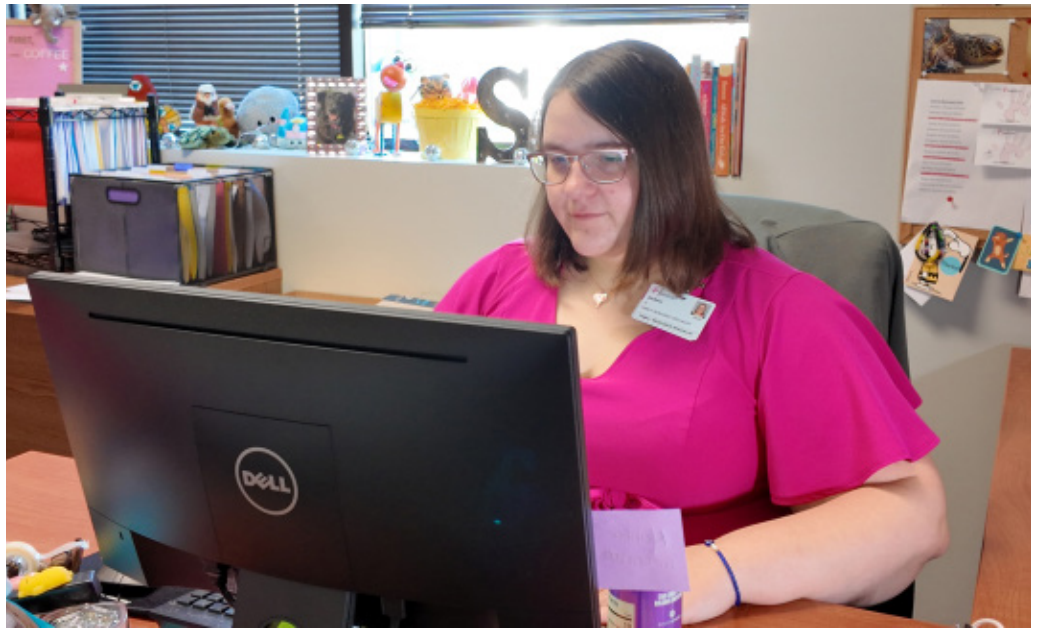
Peter Katic, Chairperson

Richard J. Novak, Secretary

Lisa Salinas-Matonovich, Member

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

The Advocate is mailed quarterly throughout the township on a rotating basis. Please note that you may not receive a newsletter each time it is published. Hard copies are available at our offices and online at NorthTownshipTrustee.com.



Sarah Janiga almost skipped the township's job fair. Almost. "I shudder to think what I would have missed if I did not go. It changed my life." [Josh Carlascio photos]

HIGHLAND RESIDENT LANDS DREAM JOB AT NORTH TOWNSHIP CAREER FAIR

Sarah Janiga went to the North Township job fair looking for employment. What she found was the opportunity of a lifetime at KidsPeace Foster Care in Merrillville.

"This is a dream job. I've been here eight months and love coming to work every day," the Highland resident said. "I work on behalf of children who need temporary homes. I train and license foster parents. In this job, I see the fruits of my labor come to fruition in such a rewarding way."

Her advice to other job-seekers:

- » Scope out local organizations and companies that appeal to you beforehand if you can.

JOIN US FOR OUR FALL JOB FAIR!

North Township is hosting a fall job fair from **3-6 p.m. October 16** at the Wicker Park Social Center, 2215 Ridge Road.

INFO: Visit northtownshiptrustee.com for participating employer updates.

- » Come prepared with multiple copies of an updated resume.

"Based on a flyer that listed employers, I knew which companies interested me" she said. "All of the vendors were friendly and open to talking to anyone who wanted to talk to them."

AUTUMN wonderland



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. Open from dawn to dusk.

Outdoor Fitness

Take your exercise routine to the next level at our outdoor fitness area. Open year-round, the accessible equipment includes an elliptical machine, leg press, rower bike, vertical press and pendulum.

Delightful Dog Park

Our fenced-in dog park features water fountains, benches and plenty of space to run around. Annual fee is \$25 for township residents, \$60 out-of-township and \$100 out-of-state. **INFO:** Download forms online at wickermemorialpark.com.



All-Inclusive Playground

Check out our all-inclusive playground equipment for individuals of all abilities. Mulch has been replaced to make the entirety of the playground ADA accessible.

Tree-lined Fairways

Our 18-hole, par-72 course offers beautiful tree-lined fairways, a practice green and driving range. Come enjoy great golf at some of the most competitive rates in the region. **INFO:** Call our Pro Shop at (219) 838-9809 for more info, rates or to schedule your tee time.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit wickermemorialpark.com to learn more about our amenities and what Wicker Memorial Park has to offer.



Join us at Wicker Park Pavilion
for an afternoon of trunk-or-treating,
DJ, decorated cars, candy, food
and the most awesome costume contest!

1-3 PM SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

VENDOR REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Please note: Vendor registration is limited to businesses and organizations, not individuals. Deadline is Oct. 23. Registration forms are available by emailing info@ntto.net.

Questions? Call (219) 932-2530, extension 327.



FINAL CRUISE NIGHT

Check out the coolest muscle cars, collector cars and trucks at our last cruise night of the season.

WHEN: 4-7 p.m. Wednesday, **September 25**. The park opens to participants at 3:30 p.m.

WHERE: Wicker Memorial Park

INFO: (219) 313-3934

VETERANS ROUNDTABLE

Under the leadership of North Township Trustee Adrian A. Santos, veteran organization leaders meet on the first Wednesday of the month to discuss issues facing today's vets.

WHEN: Wednesdays, noon **October 2**, 4:30 p.m. **November 6** and 4:30 p.m. **December 4**.

WHERE: Wicker Park Social Center

INFO: (219) 313-3934

VETS & FRIENDS SOCIALS

Vets & Friends takes place on the second Tuesday of each month and is open to veterans, family members and supporters within – and outside – the township.

WHEN: Tuesdays, 9-11 a.m. **October 8**, 4-7 p.m. **November 12** and 9-11 a.m. **December 10**.

WHERE: Wicker Park Clubhouse

INFO: (219) 313-3934