



ADRIAN A. SANTOS

NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

Summer in North Township started early this year.

For us, it was just at the right time to welcome folks back to Wicker Memorial Park.

Word has gotten out about our all-abilities playground that is drawing record crowds. It does my heart good when I see children who couldn't play on traditional playgrounds enjoying this venue. It was a labor of love to bring this project to life.

Attention golfers: I'm hearing the course has never been better. Check it out and use our new electric carts while you're at it.

Music lovers: You know when the sky sets late in the evening, it's time for Wicker Park's Summer Concert Series. The line-up is spectacular.

See you at the park!

LEARN MORE

Learn more about us at WickerMemorialPark.com.

NORTH TOWNSHIP ADVOCATE

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

TRUSTEETALK



LONGTIME DUO KEEPS WICKER PARK HUMMING

Whether the birds are singing or snow is falling, there isn't a day when Julio Merced and Prescott Serna don't look forward to coming to work. The two have been working together for more than 25 years as the primary groundskeeping team at Wicker Memorial Park, tending to everything needed to keep the park humming.

In all, there are nine members of the groundskeeping staff, five full-timers and

four seasonal workers. Serna is foreman of the crew while Merced serves as the grounds supervisor.

They maintain vegetation and trees to have them looking their best. You can also thank Merced and Serna for keeping the restrooms tidy and water flowing throughout the spacious venue, maintaining

See DUO, page 2

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.

VICTORY FOR VETERANS MEMORIAL RIDE TICKETS GO ON SALE JULY 15

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

Sponsored by North Township Trustee Adrian A. Santos and the American Veterans Motorcycle Riders Association, the day will feature veterans organizations and exhibits, food vendors, retail vendors, a 50/50 raffle and live entertainment by Anthem (classic rock and beyond) with special guest Misfit Toyz.

Highlights include Guest Speaker Bill Hanna and the American Veterans Traveling Tribute Wall, which will be on display beginning September 25.

Proceeds from the ride benefit local veterans programs and services throughout North Township.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Tickets go on sale online July 15 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 at the ride.

WHEN: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, **September 29**, Registration/check-in is 9-11 a.m. Ride starts at 11:30 a.m.

WHERE: Wicker Memorial Park

INFO: Sponsorship opportunities are still available as well as vendor space. Call (219) 670-0764 for information.

DUO

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groundskeeping equipment and even planting trees.

The two East Chicago natives don't stop there. They sand, stain and varnish picnic tables built on site while always on the alert for what may need attention next.

"This is the job I dreamed of – and am lucky enough to have it," Merced said. "Working outside is what I was born to do. What I love so much about Wicker Memorial Park is getting to do my job among people who visit us here.

"There is joy in every season," he said. "The color on our trees makes fall spectacular. Winter is beautiful. Every season brings residents here to enjoy the park. We do what we do – for them."

Watching the park evolve into what it is today, is a bonus of the job, Serna said.

"It's like Disneyland out here. We even



Foreman Prescott Serna (left) and Supervisor Julio Merced keep Wicker Park humming. The two have been working together for more than 25 years as the primary groundskeeping team. [Tavell Grant photos]

had a circus on the driving range not that many years ago," he said. "Concerts, parties, camp-outs – we work to make the park look beautiful for every event.

North Township Trustee Adrian A. Santos may be their biggest fan.

"Julio and Prescott are the pillars of Wicker Park," Santos said. "They do such a fantastic job: I know the park is in good hands. We are more than lucky to have them."

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

JULY 11

LIBIDO FUNK CIRCUS

Dance Party Experience

JULY 18

ADRENELIZE

Ultimate Def Leppard Experience

JULY 25

HEARTLESS

Best of Heart

AUGUST 1

ROCK N ROLL BAND

Boston Tribute

AUGUST 8

SOUTHERN ACCENT

Tom Petty Tribute

AUGUST 15

CHICAGO LATIN GROOVE

Latin Night

AUGUST 22

ECHOES OF POMPEII

Pink Floyd Tribute

**TICKETS
\$10**

SHOW STARTS

AT 7:30 PM

DOORS OPEN

AT 6 PM

WICKER PARK

SOCIAL CENTER

2215 RIDGE ROAD

HIGHLAND

FOOD AND BEVERAGES

AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE.

NO OUTSIDE FOOD, DRINKS

OR COOLERS PERMITTED.

PATIO TABLES, SEASON PASSES, LAWN TICKETS ON SALE AT [HUMANITIX.COM](https://humanitix.com)

SUMMER IN THE PARK

OUTDOOR FITNESS

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.

ALL-INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND

Our all-inclusive playground features equipment for individuals of all abilities and a mulch-free surface for easy ADA accessibility.

SPLASH PAD

Open seven days a week, our popular 8,500-square-foot water playground boasts more than 30 spray features.

INFO: Visit wickermemorialpark.com for splash pad hours and fees.

SUMMER GOLF

This 18-hole, par-72 course offers tree-lined fairways, a practice green and driving range. Come and enjoy great golf at some of the most competitive rates in the region.

INFO: For more information, rates or to schedule a tee time, call the Pro Shop at (219) 838-9809.

WALKING & BIKING

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.

DOG PARK

Our new 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.

BANQUET FACILITIES

Looking for a place to host your wedding, retirement or meeting? Call (219) 923-3830 or visit diningsolutionswickerpark.com.

YOGA IN THE PARK

Free yoga sessions are held in the park at 9 a.m. Saturdays through September 28, weather permitting. The class is suitable for high school students through seniors. Just bring a yoga mat, towel and water bottle. Dress comfortably.

Yoga-in-the-Park is taught by certified yoga instructor Sandra Tomera, who provides poses and exercises for all levels of fitness. **INFO:** (219) 718-9856



Jazz blues

concert



7-9 PM TUESDAYS

WICKER PARK BREEZEWAY • 2215 RIDGE ROAD • HIGHLAND

JULY 9	JASON MARTIN TRIO
JULY 18	JOE MARCINEK
JULY 23	KEITH JACKSON AND TRIPLE DOSE
JULY 30	DUNELAND JAZZ COLLECTIVE
AUGUST 6	RICK KING AND THE ROYAL HUSTLE
AUGUST 13	DIG 3

BBQ SOCIAL

Join us for our Vets & Friends BBQ Social, part of our monthly coffee social series that brings veterans and their families together to establish meaningful connections through camaraderie and resource sharing.

WHEN: 11 a.m.-1 p.m. **July 9**

WHERE: Wicker Park Club House, 2215 Ridge Road, Highland

INFO: Call Special Events Director Kelly Bridges at (219) 313-3934 or email bridgesk@ntto.net.

CRUISE NIGHTS

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

WHEN: 4-7 p.m. Wednesdays, **July 24, August 28** and **September 25**

WHERE: Wicker Memorial Park

INFO: Call Special Events Director Kelly Bridges at (219) 313-3934 or email bridgesk@ntto.net.

CROSTOWN CLASSIC

Join us for a trip to the South Side to watch the Chicago White Sox take on the Chicago Cubs in this year's Crosstown Classic series.

WHEN: 7:10 p.m. Friday, **August 9.**

Check-in at 4:30 p.m. Bus departs Wicker Memorial Park at 5 p.m. and returns at after end of the game.

WHERE: Guaranteed Rate Field (White Sox ballpark)

FEE: \$130 per person includes game ticket and round-trip coach bus transportation to/from Wicker Memorial Park.

RESERVATIONS: Call Special Events Director Kelly Bridges at (219) 313-3934 or email bridgesk@ntto.net.

FOUR WINDS CASINO

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

WHEN: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. **July 19, August 16, September 20, October 18 and November 15.** 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: (219) 313-3934

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.

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: 4:40-6 p.m. **July 3, August 7 and September 4**

WHERE: Wicker Park Social Center

INFO: (219) 932-2530

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!

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NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

5947 HOHMAN AVENUE
HAMMOND, INDIANA 46320



WICKER MEMORIAL PARK

12-7 PM AUGUST 24

FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENT | LIVE BANDS | CASH BAR