

# North Township NAVIGATOR

YOUR GUIDE TO NEWS AND SERVICES IN EAST CHICAGO, HAMMOND, HIGHLAND, MUNSTER AND WHITING · SUMMER 2017



**NO MORE SECRETS:** There was a sense of great accomplishment for lawmakers and child advocates who gathered with Gov. Eric Holcomb when he ceremonially signed Senate Enrolled Act 355. Front row left to right: Sen. Mark Messmer, Gov. Eric Holcomb and Rep. Julie Olthoff. Back row left to right: Prevent Child Abuse Indiana Director Sandy Runkle, North Township Consultant Isha Haley, Jane Mrvan, North Township Trustee Frank Mrvan, Sen. Frank Mrvan, Rep. Donna Schaibley, Rep. Sheila Klinker, Southwestern Indiana Child Advocacy Center Coalition Regional Coordinator Tammy Lampert and North Township Coordinator Myra Rodriguez. [Photo provided]

## NEW LAW REQUIRES SCHOOLS TO IMPLEMENT ABUSE PROGRAMS

Indiana's children have additional protections from physical and sexual abuse by virtue of a new law championed by State Sen. Frank Mrvan.

Signed into law in May by Gov. Eric Holcomb, the law requires the Indiana Department of Education to provide model policies and reporting procedures for child sexual abuse to assist school districts in implementing programs in grades K-12 no later than July 1, 2018.

North Township Trustee Frank Mrvan said, ultimately it was the 73 students from Whiting, Hammond, East Chicago, Highland and Munster who came forward with first-person accounts of horrific abuse that moved legislators to enact the No More Secrets law.

"This law is a testament to individuals who had the courage to come forward," he said. "After seeing the impact our campaign had in our area, we knew we needed to further solidify our work by ensuring this message reverberated throughout the whole state."

Children who have come forward to report abuse are receiving counseling. "The sooner children are moved away from the abuse, the greater their chances for living full, productive lives," Mrvan said. "No More Secrets gives children the support they need to fulfill their dreams."

**What's next?** The team will talk to students in Gary, Fort Wayne and Mishawaka. **New chapter:** Free programs for survivors in North Township. **Learn more at:** [NoMoreSecretsNWI.com](http://NoMoreSecretsNWI.com).

### FARMER'S MARKET

The North Township Trustee will host a Farmer's Market on Fridays in June, July and August.

**When:** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays in June, July and August.

**Where:** Township's Hammond office, 5947 Hohman Avenue and the East Chicago office, 2100 Broadway.

**Vouchers:** Clients may also qualify – based on income and age – for vouchers redeemable at Scheeringa's Farms & Produce in Highland.

**Info:** (219) 932-2530, ext. 313

### COMMUNITY GARDEN

Girl scouts from St. Stanislaus in East Chicago planted raised vegetable gardens at the Circle of Services in Hessville. Once ripe, tomatoes, cucumbers, zucchini, egg plant and peppers will be harvested and donated to those in need.

**Want to help?** (219) 803-0659

### NEW WEBSITES

Check out the new Wicker Memorial Park website, featuring up-to-date events, online tee-time registration and more. **INFO:** [WickerMemorialPark.com](http://WickerMemorialPark.com).

We've also launched a website for our annual Victory for Veterans Memorial Ride making it easier to register. **INFO:** [Victory-ForVeteransWickerPark.org](http://Victory-ForVeteransWickerPark.org).



WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOU! FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT US AT [NORTHTOWNSHIPTRUSTEE.COM](http://NORTHTOWNSHIPTRUSTEE.COM).



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**RICHARD J. NOVAK**  
 Board Chairman



**RALPH FLORES JR.**  
 Board member



**LISA SALINAS-MATONOVICH**  
 Board secretary

**HAMMOND OFFICE**

5947 Hohman Avenue  
 Hammond, IN 46320  
**PHONE:** (219) 932-2530  
**FAX:** (219) 937-4412  
**HOURS:** 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday – Friday

**EAST CHICAGO OFFICE**

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday – Friday  
 East Chicago, IN 46312  
**PHONE:** (219) 398-2435  
**FAX:** (219) 397-2190  
**HOURS:** 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday – Friday

**HESSVILLE CIRCLE OF SERVICES**

2835-165th Street  
 Hammond, IN 46323  
**PHONE:** (219) 803-0659  
**HOURS:** 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday – Friday



**NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?**

Send your suggestions to:  
[northtownship@theideafactory.us.com](mailto:northtownship@theideafactory.us.com)

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# TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM TO HELP OUR HOMELESS VETERANS

North Township and the Housing Authority of East Chicago are partnering to end veteran homelessness.

A four-unit complex that is being refurbished for veterans and their families will be ready for occupancy this fall.

The program provides more than shelter for homeless and struggling veterans who have fallen on hard times.

North Township Trustee Frank Mrvan said what differentiates this initiative from others is its focus on family.

“We will be working with families to provide wrap-around services, such as financial literacy, mental health, job placement and transportation as well as transitioning these veterans into home ownership,” Mrvan said.

Veterans advocate Jim Chancellor, who has spent years helping former soldiers

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

If you know a struggling or homeless veteran, please contact Jim Chancellor at (219) 771-6243 or visit us online at [www.veteranscollection.com](http://www.veteranscollection.com).

adjust following active duty, will be assisting in the effort.

“These veterans are struggling with the emotions of war and the family is a huge part of the healing,” he said. “When you separate them, it does an injustice.

Once an individual is accepted into the program, there is no deadline to leave.

“Our veterans can stay as long as it takes to help them become self-sustaining,” Mrvan said. “They put their lives on the line for us. It’s the very least we can do to help them.”



**LETTER FROM THE NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE**

**“Recreation, fitness and entertainment abound as we continue to make enhancements to park”**

If you haven’t been by Wicker Memorial Park yet this spring, the first thing you will notice is the new fencing and park entrances. We are proud of this very visible improvement and even prouder of what’s inside.

Athletics. Recreation. Entertainment.

We work to offer as many opportunities to enjoy the park as there are residents in North Township.

Our golf course is truly one of the jewels of the park. The greens are in great condition and there is shade again on the fairways, thanks to a multi-year effort to replace trees lost to emerald ash borers.

There is always room for one more on

our outdoor fitness equipment, which has been in high demand since it was installed a year ago. The equipment has become a favorite place – not only for exercise, but for residents to get social while getting healthier.

It’s the same at our dog park, which is incredibly popular with pooches and their owners.

Join me this summer. I’ll be pitching my tent at the upcoming family camp-out and taking in as many Thursday concerts as possible. See you at the park!

**FRANK J. MRVAN**  
 North Township Trustee

# SUMMER IN THE PARK

## THE TALK OF THE TOWNSHIP ...

A decorative black fence interspersed with 15 masonry columns that was completed just before Memorial Day is generating quite the buzz. As it turns out, the fence is both beautiful and functional, separating the park from bustling Ridge Road. Additional features of the project completed by low-bidder Larson Danielson include an enhanced west entrance and a new pedestrian gate and sidewalk at Prairie Street.

## 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.

## SPLASH PAD

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

**INFO:** [wickermemorialpark.com](http://wickermemorialpark.com) for splash pad hours and fees.

## SUMMER GOLF RATES

This 18-hole, par-72 course offers tree-lined fairways, a practice green and driving range. Summer rates are \$35 to ride 18 holes on the weekend for residents, \$38 out of township. Weekdays with cart are \$29 for residents, \$32 out of township. **INFO:** For more info or to schedule a tee time, call the Pro Shop at (219) 838-9809.

## JUNIOR GOLF CAMP

Instructor Bill Springer will teach young golfers aspects of the game including grip, swing, short game, etiquette! Golf camp will be held July 10-13 and 18-21. Cost is \$60 per session or \$100 for both. Ages 7-11 meet from 9-11 a.m. and ages 12-18 meet from noon to 2 p.m. **RESERVATIONS:** Call the Pro Shop at (219) 838-9809.

## 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.

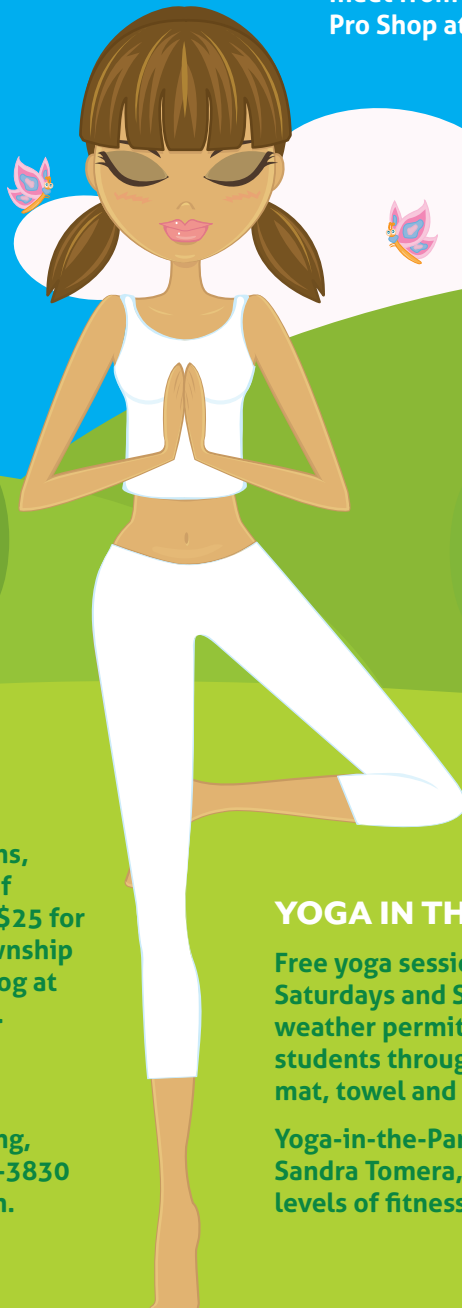
## BANQUET FACILITIES

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

## YOGA IN THE PARK

Free yoga sessions are held in the park at 9 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays, June 17 through September, weather permitting. The class is suitable for high school students through seniors. All you need to bring is 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



WICKER MEMORIAL PARK

# SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

**WHEN:** Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Showtime is 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

Rain or Shine!

**WHERE:** Wicker Memorial Park  
Social Center Gazebo, 2215 Ridge  
Road, Highland

**TICKETS:** \$7 per person – ages  
21 and over. Season pass is \$50.  
Table reservations available.

**NOTE:** Food (Big Franks Sausage –  
bigfrankssausage.com ) and cash  
bar. Outside food/drinks prohibited.

**MORE INFO:** (219) 932-2530, 331  
or wickermemorialpark.com.

JUNE 15

CRAWPUPPIES

[crawpuppies.com](http://crawpuppies.com)

JUNE 22

BONFIRE

[bonfireband.com](http://bonfireband.com)

JUNE 29



INFINITY

[infinity2k.com](http://infinity2k.com)

JULY 6

GONE 2 PARADISE

[frankpaul  
entertainment.com](http://frankpaulentertainment.com)



JULY 13

DICK DIAMOND & THE DUSTERS

[dickdiamond.net](http://dickdiamond.net)

JULY 20

RUMOURS

[rumoursatl.com](http://rumoursatl.com)

JULY 27

FIVE GUYS NAMED MOE

[fiveguysnamedmoe.com](http://fiveguysnamedmoe.com)

AUGUST 3

KASHMIR

[kashmirchicago.com](http://kashmirchicago.com)

AUGUST 10

ECHOES OF POMPEII

[echoesofpompeii.net](http://echoesofpompeii.net)

AUGUST 17

DEACON BLUES

[deaconblues.com](http://deaconblues.com)

SEPTEMBER 7

MEXICAN  
INDEPENDENCE

CONCERT

WITH

TOGETHER  
[togethermusic.com](http://togethermusic.com)

FOOD • DRINKS • ENTERTAINMENT • UNDER THE STARS

# Sensational Summer

## SPECIAL NEEDS DAY

Take a break from the summer heat at our Splash Pad – reserved for those with special needs and abilities.

**WHEN:** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 11 and August 8

**WHERE:** Wicker Park Splash Pad

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

## CRUISE NIGHT AT MOVIES IN THE PARK

Join us for an evening in the park. Sit back, relax and watch "Grease" on the big screen or check out the classic cars and trucks during our car show. Bring a blanket or lawn chair for comfortable seating.

**WHEN:** July 14. Movie begins at dusk. Car Show from 7 to 9 p.m.

**WHERE:** Wicker Memorial Park, 2215 Ridge Road

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



## OVERNIGHT CAMPOUT

Grab the family, your tents and head to the park for an overnight campout. Activities include a scavenger hunt, crafts and outdoor showing of "The Secret Life of Pets." All ages are welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

**WHEN:** 7 p.m. to 8 a.m. overnight June 9-10.

Registration/set-up at 6 p.m.

**WHERE:** Wicker Memorial Park Pavilion, 2215 Ridge Road

**TICKETS:** \$5 per tent

**RESERVATIONS:** Call (219) 932-2530, extension 331.

## ART IN THE PARK

Children – ages 3-12 – are invited to get their creative groove on during our free Art in the Park on Tuesdays in July. All art supplies are provided.

**WHEN:** 10 a.m. July 11, 18, 25

**WHERE:** Wicker Memorial Park Breezeway, 2215 Ridge Road, Highland.

**QUESTIONS?** Call (219) 932-2530, extension 331.

## SCHOOL CAREER DAY

North Township and the School City of Hammond are hosting a career day for interested job candidates. Employment opportunities include teachers, tutors, bus drivers, kitchen helpers, nurses, office manager, recess aide as well as many substitute positions including custodian, support staff and so much more.

**WHEN:** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. **June 15**

**WHERE:** Wicker Park Social Center

**ADMISSION:** Free

**RESERVATIONS:** Call Cindy Rivera at (219) 803-0659.



## 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. **June 27, July 25 and August 24**

**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:** Call Eleanor at (219) 313-3934.



## 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.

**JUNE 14 MENU:** Chicken salad, cottage cheese, tomato, beets, Hawaiian rolls and strawberries.

**JULY 19 MENU:** Mixed green salad, pot roast with boiled potatoes and carrots, chocolate pudding.

**AUGUST 16 MENU:** Taco salad with beef, lettuce, tomato, cheese, sour cream; nachos/salsa; lime Jell-O.

**RESERVATIONS:** Call the township at (219) 932-2530, ext. 2.



**4 - 8 PM SATURDAY • AUGUST 19**

**WICKER MEMORIAL PARK • HIGHLAND**

**LIVE MUSIC BY DICK DIAMOND AND THE DUSTERS**

**\$45-\$55 GENERAL ADMISSION** includes unlimited beer samples and commemorative sampling cup. Food available for purchase.

**\$75-\$85 VIP ADMISSION** includes 3 p.m. admittance, unlimited beer samples along with featured brews available only to VIPs, commemorative sampling cup, unlimited buffet and access to a private VIP lounge.

**\$15 DESIGNATED DRIVER** includes unlimited pop, water and a food voucher.

**INFO & TICKETS:** [www.PINTSINTHEPARK.COM](http://www.PINTSINTHEPARK.COM)



**Frank J. Mrvan**



**NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE**  
BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY

5947 HOHMAN AVENUE  
HAMMOND, INDIANA 46320



**JUNE 22**

*American Cancer Society Fund-raiser*

**FREEDOM 5K**

REGISTER: <https://runsignup.com/Race/IN/Highland/NorthTownshipTrusteesRunforFreedom5K>

EARLY REGISTRATION: \$20 | RACE DAY: \$25 | RUN-WALK STARTS 6:30 PM | REGISTRATION AT 5:30