

# North Township NAVIGATOR

YOUR GUIDE TO NEWS AND SERVICES IN EAST CHICAGO, HAMMOND, HIGHLAND, MUNSTER AND WHITING • SUMMER 2016

## SENIOR AMBASSADORS

### New township program to assist residents with complex issues

North Township Trustee Frank Mrvan has a mission to expand township assistance to local seniors that will debut this fall.

North Township Concierge is a one-stop shop that connects seniors with the appropriate agency that can help them.

“I spend a great deal of time out and about in the township and our seniors have many questions, but really don’t know where to get answers,” Mrvan said. “We will have a dedicated phone number to reach a senior ambassador along with information on our website.”

To begin the program, North Township case managers will work as ambassadors. Additional township personnel will be included as demand increases.

“We have many seniors, who are very engaged with us day-to-day,” Mrvan said. “We get great turnouts at our monthly lunches and trips.”

### NORTH TOWNSHIP CONCIERGE

This new program connects seniors to the appropriate agency that can help. North Township ambassadors will work to help seniors who have issues with:

- Consumer protection
- Wills
- Transportation
- Home-delivered meals
- Scam assistance
- Volunteer opportunities
- Elder abuse protection
- Property taxes



“I got the idea for this program after one of our lunches, where it seemed many of our seniors had questions and weren’t quite sure where to get the answers,” Mrvan said.

“North Township Concierge will bridge that gap and provide another level of safety.” ▲

### AMERISTAR CAREER FAIR

North Township is teaming up with Ameristar to pair eager job seekers with one of the region’s major employers.

The casino has several food/beverage openings from baker to bartender as well as dealers and management opportunities.

“We have been able to attract employers that have solid, decent-paying jobs,” Township Resource Coordinator Cindy Rivera said. “These employers provide opportunities for residents to advance their careers and get ahead financially.”

**WHEN:** 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. June 22

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

**INFO:** Call (219) 803-0659.

### SUMMER CLOTHING DRIVE

North Township is collecting gently used summer clothing for its clients. Please drop off donations – from shorts and dresses to T-shirts and summer suits – from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Wicker Park Social Center, 2215 Ridge Road in Highland and Circle of Services, 2835 165th St. in Hammond.

**INFO:** Call (219) 803-0659.

## NEW DOG PARK OPENS AT WICKER MEMORIAL PARK

A few sniffs followed by a healthy kick of the turf and the new dog park was open for business.

In its first two weeks, the playground for pooches attracted 35 dogs ranging from the long and lanky to tiny teacups all bent on kicking up their heels and enjoying the amenities, such as dog fountains, benches for the leash-holders and an abundant swath of green.

One of the best features of the new

Wicker Park Dog Park: a plan to preserve the verdant green turf.

“The problem we had with the last dog park was twofold: It was too small and the grass never had a chance to recover,” Wicker Park Superintendent Brett Bierman said. “We have the new park split in two. When one side gets beat up, we open the other side for dogs and let the weathered grass recover. This new park is a great improvement over the one we replaced.” ▲



### DOG PARK RATES

Dogs must be registered at the Wicker Park Picnic Office. Vaccination records and valid ID required. Rates are per year.

<b>TOWNSHIP RESIDENT</b>	\$25 1st dog \$10 additional dog
<b>OUT OF TOWNSHIP</b>	\$60 1st dog \$20 additional dog
<b>OUT OF STATE</b>	\$100 1st dog \$30 additional dog



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



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 Board Secretary



**LISA SALINAS-MATONOVICH**  
 Board Member

**HAMMOND OFFICE**

5947 Hohman Avenue  
 Hammond, IN 46320  
**PHONE:** (219) 932-2530  
**FAX:** (219) 937-4412  
**HOURS:** 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday – Thursday

**EAST CHICAGO OFFICE**

2105 Broadway  
 East Chicago, IN 46312  
**PHONE:** (219) 398-2435  
**FAX:** (219) 397-2190  
**HOURS:** 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday – Friday

**HESSVILLE CIRCLE OF SERVICES**

2835-165th Street  
 Hammond, IN 46323  
**PHONE:** (219) 803-0659  
**HOURS:** 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday – Friday



**NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?**

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

The Navigator is produced by:  
**The Idea Factory • (219) 779-9041**  
[www.theideafactory.us.com](http://www.theideafactory.us.com)

Printed by Miss Print  
 8244 Calumet Avenue  
 Munster, IN 46321



**WICKER PARK COMES ALIVE WITH NEW TREES**

A grant from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is putting the green back into the Wicker Memorial Park golf course.

Already this spring, 80 poplar, tulip, birch, locust and cypress saplings have replaced some of the ash trees felled by the emerald ash borer. Another 40 fir, elm, oak and black gums are scheduled to be planted this fall.

It is a cycle that will continue as the park staff works to replace the 675 trees that fought a losing battle with the borer.

“The new trees stabilize the soil and reduce the flow of untreated water reaching the Little Calumet River,” Wicker Memorial Park Superintendent Brett Bierman said. “These saplings are hearty and will become a beautiful canopy again. It’s just going to take time.” ▲

**EMERALD ASH BORER**

The emerald ash borer kills ash trees by disrupting their conductive tissues, which means water and other nutrients can’t reach the highest levels of the tree and it begins to die.

First detected in Indiana in 2004, Munster began seeing large tracts of ash canopy destroyed by burgeoning populations of the marauding insect in established neighborhoods several years ago. Today, the emerald ash borer has wreaked havoc throughout North Township, killing thousands of mature ash trees.

**WHAT’S NEXT?**

Wicker Park crews will repeat the process, removing another 175 trees in the fall and winter and planting replacements in the spring.

**INFO:** Call Wicker Park Superintendent Brett Bierman at (219) 838-3420.



**LETTER FROM THE NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE**

**“On-demand transportation isn’t temporary, township program needs permanent funding”**

If you haven’t yet heard, our on-demand transit program is wildly successful with more trips than ever before and high satisfaction resulting from efficiencies we’ve built into the system.

If anyone had told me even two years ago that Dial-a-Ride would make more than 50,000 trips a year, I wouldn’t have believed them – but that’s exactly where we find ourselves today.

We knew there was a need. That demand is reinforced each month our trip numbers continue to grow.

A federal grant got us to where we are today. Unfortunately, Congestion Mitigation Air Quality funds provide limited-term grants – in the case of North Township, that money stops next year. The Regional Development Authority has also chipped in funds to help us keep pace with demand.

**The problem:** As grateful as I am for the grants we’ve secured, they are only a temporary fix to a permanent challenge. On-demand transportation isn’t a temporary condition.

The disabled, as well as those who no longer drive, will still need to get to the doctor or grocery store long after the last of the existing



grant dollars have been spent.

I am looking at options and talking to elected leaders to find permanent funding that will keep this vital transportation link humming for years to come.

Within the next 90 days, North Township will be adding an online portal that provides Dial-A-Ride information as well as links to all local mass transit options.

Please, enjoy your summer. Take advantage of our concerts, the opportunity to commune with nature at our very own Wicker Memorial Park or hit a round of golf on our links.

Stay tuned for exciting developments ahead.

**FRANK J. MRVAN**  
 North Township Trustee

# SUMMER IN THE PARK

## SPLASH PAD

Our 8,500-square-foot water playground boasts more than 30 spray features and is open seven days a week. Visit [wickermemorialpark.com](http://wickermemorialpark.com) for hours and fees.

## BIKE RENTALS

Rentals are available in a variety of styles and sizes for adults and children. The cost is \$7 for one hour or \$10 for two hours. A valid driver's license is required.

## TENNIS AND VOLLEYBALL COURTS

The park features five tennis courts and three volleyball courts for the community to enjoy.

## WALKING & BIKING

The half-mile inner trail and the 2.5-mile trail along the perimeter of the park are perfect for the avid walker, runner or bicyclist.

## PICNIC AREAS & SHELTERS

Picnic areas, shelters and the pavilion are available for rent from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Call (219) 838-3420 for reservations.

## 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. For more info or to schedule a tee time, call the Pro Shop at (219) 838-9809.

## NEW DOG RUN

The Dog Run is open every day dawn to dusk. Let your dog enjoy the freedom of being a dog, while playing with other canines and pet enthusiasts. Register your pooch at the picnic office. Vaccination record and ID required. See Page 1 for rates.

## YOGA IN THE PARK

Commune with nature while you perfect your downward dog and reach newfound strength and flexibility this summer at Wicker Memorial Park. Free yoga sessions, which combine stretching exercises, controlled breathing and relaxation, are held in the park **9 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays, June 18 through September**, weather permitting.

The class is suitable for high school students through seniors. All you need to bring is a yoga mat and towel along with a water bottle. Dress comfortably. North Township's Yoga-in-the-Park has become a popular summer staple and is taught by certified yoga instructor Sandra Tomera, who provides poses and exercises for all levels of fitness.

## JUNIOR GOLF CAMP

Instructor Bill Springer will teach young golfers all aspects of the game including grip, swing, short game, etiquette! Sign up for a four-day golf camp either **June 20-23 or July 18-21**. Cost is \$60 per session or \$100 for both. Ages 8-12 will meet from 10 a.m. to noon and teens 13-18 will meet from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. **RESERVATIONS:** Call the Pro Shop at (219) 838-9808.





## WICKER MEMORIAL PARK SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

**WHEN:** Doors open 6:30 p.m.  
Showtime is 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.  
Rain or Shine!

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

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

**NOTE:** Food and drinks  
(full bar) available for  
purchase. No coolers allowed.

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

**JUNE 16**  
**THE CRAWPUPIES**  
crawpuppies.com

**JUNE 23**  
**HAIRBANGERS BALL**  
hairbangersball.com

**JUNE 30**  
**GONE 2 PARADISE**  
frankpaulentertainment.com

**JULY 7**  
**WEDDING BANNED**  
weddingbanned.net

**JULY 14**  
**DICK DIAMOND  
& THE DUSTERS**  
dickdiamond.net

**JULY 21**  
**BONFIRE**  
bonfireband.com

**JULY 28**  
**TRIPPIN BILLIES**  
trippinbillies.com

**AUGUST 4**  
**INFINITY**  
infinity2k.com

**AUGUST 11**  
**KASHMIR**  
kashmirchicago.com

**AUGUST 18**  
**ECHOES OF POMPEII**  
echoesofpompeii.com

**SEPTEMBER 8**  
**LATIN SATIN SOUL**  
*Mexican Independence  
Celebration*  
latinsatinsoul.biz



**FOOD • DRINKS • LIVE ENTERTAINMENT UNDER THE STARS**





# Summer Spectacular

## FARMER'S MARKET

Find fresh produce at this summer's Farmer's Market from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the following North Township locations:

**JUNE 16:** Hammond office

**JULY 21:** East Chicago office

**AUGUST 18:** Circle of Services

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

## FAMILY CAMP OUT

Grab the family, your tent and head to the park for an overnight camp out. Activities include a scavenger hunt, crafts and a bonfire. Plus we'll be showing the movie, "Open Season" on our big outdoor 9' x 16' screen!

**WHEN:** Friday, June 10. Camp set-up starts at 5 p.m., activities at 6 p.m.

**WHERE:** Wicker Park Pavilion

**FEE:** \$5 per tent - bring your own

**NOTE:** Please bring food, drinks, camping equipment, bug spray, flashlights, sleeping bags, etc.

## MOVIES IN THE PARK

Join us for an evening in the park. Sit back, relax and watch "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" on the big screen. Bring a blanket or lawn chair for comfortable seating.

**WHEN:** Starting at dusk July 22

**WHERE:** Wicker Memorial Park

## SPECIAL NEEDS DAY

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

**WHEN:** 10:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Tuesdays, July 12 and Aug. 9

**WHERE:** Wicker Park Splash Pad

## For more information

For more information about these Wicker Memorial Park activities, please call Kelly Bridges at (219) 932-2530, ext. 331 or visit [www.northtownshiptrustee.com](http://www.northtownshiptrustee.com).

## TOWNSHIP BLOOD DRIVE

Donating blood is a simple thing to do, but can make a big difference in the lives of others. Donors must weigh at least 110 pounds and be in good health. The first 50 people to register receive free admission that night to the North Township Summer Concert Series.

**WHEN:** 12:30 to 7:30 p.m. June 30

**WHERE:** Wicker Park Clubhouse, Highland

**REGISTRATION:** Register early at [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) or simply show up the day of the drive.



## FOUR WINDS CASINO TRIP

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. Bus will pick up and return seniors to Wicker Memorial Park. Seats fill up fast and are first come, first served!

**JUNE TRIP:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 28

**JULY TRIP:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. July 25

**AUGUST TRIP:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. August 25

**WHERE:** Four Winds Casino, New Buffalo, MI

**FEE:** \$26 per person. Upon arrival at the casino, you will receive a \$15 slot credit and \$10 food credit.

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



## MAE WEST DINNER SHOW

Join us for an entertaining afternoon Mae-West style. The comedienne and actress was best known for her lighthearted double entendres, such as: "It's not the men in my life that count, it's the life in my men," and "Why don't you come on up and see me sometime." Dinner includes mixed green salad, tender sliced sirloin with au jus, buttered mashed potatoes, buttered corn, homemade bread, apple pie with ice cream, ice tea and coffee.

**WHEN:** Noon to 4 p.m. Tuesday, July 19. Doors

open at noon. Dinner is 1 p.m. Show begins at 2 p.m.

**WHERE:** Wicker Park Social Center, Highland

**FEE:** \$20 per person

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



## SENIOR LUNCHEONS

Seniors 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.

**JUNE 15 MENU:** Chicken salad, cottage cheese, tomato, beets, Hawaiian rolls and fresh strawberries.

**JULY 13 MENU:** Mixed green salad, pot roast with boiled potatoes and carrots, chocolate pudding.

**AUGUST 10 MENU:** Taco salad with beef, lettuce, tomato, cheese and sour cream. Nacho chips, salsa and lime Jell-O will also be served.

**RESERVATIONS:** Call (219) 932-2530, ext. 301.



**4 - 8 PM SATURDAY • AUGUST 20**

**WICKER MEMORIAL PARK • HIGHLAND**

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

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

**\$75 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.

**\$20 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

ENTRY INCLUDES FREE  
ADMISSION TO TONIGHT'S  
SUMMER CONCERT!  
21 AND OVER



**WICKER PARK PAVILION**  
2215 RIDGE ROAD • HIGHLAND

**JUNE 23**

*American Cancer Society Fund-raiser*

**FREEDOM RUN**

*Early registration: \$20 Race day: \$25*

**5K RACE STARTS 6:30 PM**

*Registration begins at 5:30*

**REGISTER ONLINE:** <https://runsignup.com/Race/IN/Highland/NorthTownshipTrusteeRunforFreedom5K>