

# North Township NAVIGATOR

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

## ELIMINATING BARRIERS

### Township joins forces with schools to build bridges to academic success

North Township is partnering with the East Chicago and Hammond schools to eliminate barriers to academic success.

Data has long shown the connection between poverty and achievement in the classroom. A study published by Princeton University in 1997 detailed how inadequate nutrition, fewer learning experiences, housing instability, homeless and relatively dangerous neighborhoods adversely affected a student's academics. Updated studies have shown that, on a national level, not much as changed.

Trustee Frank Mrvan along with East Chicago Superintendent Paige McNulty and Hammond Superintendent Walter Watkins are determined to help change the status quo.

"We are working to clear a path for students – to help break down the barriers and allow them to succeed in school," Mrvan said. "Counselors and teachers will work with families to identify issues. We can then help families pay utilities and find stable housing. We will assist in any way we can." ▲

### IMPACTS OF POVERTY

Did you know a \$10,000 increase in family income between birth and age 5 is associated with nearly a full-year increase in completed schooling. Uncertainties in childhood caused by economic instability cause numerous hardships for children that tend to last well beyond childhood, including:

- ✓ Stunted growth
- ✓ Learning disabilities and cognitive delays
- ✓ Emotional and behavioral problems

SOURCE: PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

### MORE INSIDE ...

**STOPPING CHILD ABUSE:** The North Township Trustee is partnering with the healthcare community and schools to begin an all-out effort to decrease child sexual assaults.

**SCHOOL UNIFORM ASSISTANCE:** Applications for the School Uniform Program will be accepted through Sept. 30. Must have verification of child's school as well as a valid driver's license or state ID with current address.

### NEW TOWNSHIP WEBSITE

North Township has a new website, created with the needs of residents in mind. "We wanted to make it easier to tap available services, such as food, utility and housing assistance as well as take advantage of township activities" Trustee Frank Mrvan said. "This site makes it easier to provide updates in real time and can be viewed on any computer, tablet or phone." Check us out at [www.northtownshiptrustee.com](http://www.northtownshiptrustee.com)!



### HELPING WEST CALUMET

North Township Trustee Frank Mrvan is marshalling available resources to assist the 190 families who are being relocated from their West Calumet neighborhood due to lead contamination. "Helping these families move and get what they need to start a new life is going to require coordination between dozens of local, state and federal agencies," Mrvan said. "We stand ready to do what we can to help."

**INFO:** Call the North Township Trustee's East Chicago office at (219) 398-2435.

## NORTH TOWNSHIP LAUNCHES SENIOR AMBASSADORS PROGRAM

Welcome to North Township's Senior Ambassadors program, a clearinghouse for seniors – from the facts about reverse mortgages to a Catherine's List of dependable vendors that clean windows, perform household repairs, clean gutters, mow lawns, trim trees and more. Catherine's List is a nod to Senior Ambassadors Coordinator Catherine Thomas, who worked feverishly over the summer putting the finishing touches on the program.

"Our database will assist seniors on such things as health and nutrition," she said. "Our partners will provide important resources and workshops. The program helps our seniors stay safe and ensures their needs are met."

Thomas already envisions how Senior Ambassadors can grow. "We are limited only by our needs and vision for how our seniors can be helped. Even if we don't provide the requested service, we can find those that do." ▲

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Senior Ambassadors program kicks off in early October. To learn more, please call Senior Ambassadors Coordinator Catherine Thomas at (219) 398-2435, ext. 364.



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



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**HAMMOND OFFICE**

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**HOURS:** 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday – Friday

**HESSVILLE CIRCLE OF SERVICES**

2835-165th Street  
 Hammond, IN 46323  
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**HOURS:** 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday – Friday



**NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?**

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**HOSPICE PARTNERSHIP HELPS FILL GAPS IN CARE**

North Township is partnering with Hospice of the Calumet Region to fill gaps in care for individuals with serious medical issues.

“Our role is helping people access resources that assist in their day-to-day life,” Transitions Coordinator Laurie Yothment said. “North Township is a great asset to this program.”

Township case managers are enrolling qualified individuals and identifying programs and services to enhance quality of life.

While Yothment helps those who are seriously ill navigate the medical system, the township will provide necessities, such as food, transportation, utilities and prescription assistance.

“We want to help our residents live in their home for as long as they can,” Township Trustee Frank Mrvan said. “This is our way of helping those who fall through the cracks.” ▲

**TRANSITIONS PROGRAM**

The Transitions support team knows how overwhelming it can be managing a chronic illness.

The agency within Hospice of the Calumet Area was created 17 years ago to provide relief through companionship, assistance and referrals to community resources. Funded through community donations, the no-cost service provides help:

- Locating community resources to assist at home
- Making decisions about options for care
- Coping with life-limiting illnesses
- Transition volunteers provide:
- Companionship visits
- Respite breaks for caregivers
- Assistance with errands and meal preparation

**INFO:** For more information about the Transitions program, call Laurie Yothment at (219) 922-2732. For township assistance, please call the trustee’s Hammond office at (219) 932-2530.

**LETTER FROM THE NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE**



**“Township continues to invest in Wicker Park and new partnerships benefitting residents”**

Happy Autumn! What happened to summer?

We had record crowds. The volleyball pits were heavily used as was the splash pad and our new outdoor fitness area. Dry weather made for great golfing. The new dog park has also been a smashing success. It is gratifying to our park staff when they see their efforts enjoyed by so many. You’re the reason they do what they do.

We bid a sad farewell to Peter Auksel, a former North Township Advisory Board member, who passed far too soon. Pete had grown up near Wicker Memorial Park and followed in the footsteps of his father in serving on the board.

Within the township we are busy building partnerships with more agencies and businesses. We are launching a trio of initiatives this fall that will help individuals who are living with chronic illnesses as well as tackling hard issues, like childhood poverty and sexual abuse.

Stay tuned in to the township – through this newsletter as well as our new web site – [www.northtownshiptrustee.com](http://www.northtownshiptrustee.com). There is much work to be done. I can’t wait to get started.

**FRANK J. MRVAN**  
 North Township Trustee



**POKEMON MEET-UP!**

The world has been captivated by the interactive Pokemon Go game and Northwest Indiana is no exception. Things got dicey at Wicker Park when golfers happened upon throngs of players, who had wandered onto the fairways. The game involves a search for objects using a mobile phone’s GPS and clock that work in tandem to create creatures available for the virtual capture at a real location.

“As soon as this craze started, the park was inundated with as many as 400 people a night,” Trustee Frank Mrvan said. “All was good until they ended up on the greens where it became unsafe.”

A quickly hatched get together drew about 200 fans. Along with the fun, the park staff laid out the Pokemon-Go free zones.



# AUTUMN IN THE PARK

## 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, volleyball courts and playground. Trails are paved and open from dawn to dusk.

## NEW DOG PARK

The new dog park, featuring dog fountains, benches for the leash-holders and an abundant swath of green, is attracting pooches from the long and lanky to tiny teacups. New rules mean a modest fee and proof that your dog is vaccinated. 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.

## TENNIS & VOLLEYBALL COURTS

The park features five tennis and three sand volleyball courts for your enjoyment.

## GOLF COURSE

This 18-hole, par-72 course offers tree-lined fairways, a practice green and driving range. Fall rates are \$27 to ride 18 holes or \$23 for 9 holes on the weekend. Weekdays with cart are \$23 for 18 holes and \$17 for 9 holes. For more info or to schedule a tee time, call the Pro Shop at (219) 838-9809.

## BANQUET FACILITIES

Looking for a place to host your wedding, retirement party or meeting? Wicker Memorial Park banquet facilities are perfect for any occasion. To make an appointment to view our facilities, call Bridget at (219) 923-3830. For rental fees and catering, visit [www.diningsolutionswickerpark.com](http://www.diningsolutionswickerpark.com).

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Wicker Memorial Park, 8554 Indianapolis Blvd., Highland  
[www.wickermemorialpark.com](http://www.wickermemorialpark.com)



## PARK UNVEILS OUTDOOR FITNESS AREA

When outdoor fitness equipment was installed at Wicker Memorial Park in May, the hope was adults would use the equipment to help get fit and that children would learn from them the benefits of regular exercise.

By any measure, the equipment that includes an elliptical machine, leg press, rower bike vertical press and

pendulum has been a rousing success.

“The Outdoor Fitness Center is a wonderful addition to the park: It’s crowded every day. Everywhere I go, people are talking about it,” Mrvan said. “What makes me happier is when I see parents teaching their children to be physically fit. That we’re able to help in any way with that is gratifying.”



### CEMETERY TOUR

Join us for the 2016 Suzanne G. Long Annual Cemetery Tour at Oak Hill Cemetery. Participants will learn about the lives and experiences of local historical figures who are buried there.

**WHEN:** 1 to 4 p.m. Oct. 1

**WHERE:** Oak Hill Cemetery, corner of Hohman Avenue and 165th Street

**ADMISSION:** \$5, children under 12 free

**INFO:** Call Amanda Aguilera at (219) 931-5100, ext. 307 or email [aguila@hammond.lib.in.us](mailto:aguila@hammond.lib.in.us).

### CELEBRATE MEXICO!

Celebrate Mexican Independence Day with Latin Satin Soul. Cash bar and concessions are available. You must be at least 21 years of age with valid ID to attend. Food and drinks available for purchase. No coolers allowed.

**WHEN:** 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Sept. 8  
Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Wicker Park Social Center

**ADMISSION:** \$7

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



### ANNUAL COAT DRIVE

After collecting gently used coats/jackets and buying new ones with donated funds, North Township Trustee and Kusiak Care's 9th annual coat drive will distribute hundreds of winter items to township residents.

**WHEN:** 9 to 11 a.m. November 12

**WHERE:** Wicker Park Pavilion

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

#### DROP-OFF LOCATIONS:

Wicker Memorial Park Social Center; Wicker Park Pro Shop; Kusiak Construction, 8338 Kennedy Ave., Highland; and Ridge United Methodist Church, 8706 Columbia Ave., Munster.

### BEARS TAILGATE PARTY

Join us for a tailgate party as the Bears take on the Green Bay Packers. Picnic tables available or bring your own chair to watch the game on our outdoor big screen while enjoying \$2 drafts, \$2 hot dog and brats or \$3 burgers. Full cash bar available. No coolers allowed.

**WHEN:** 7 p.m. October 20

Game starts at 7:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Wicker Park Pro Shop

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

### FOUR WINDS CASINO TRIPS

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. Seats fill up fast and are first come, first served! Reserve your spot today!

**WHEN:** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, September 27; Monday, October 24; and Monday, November 7

**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.

### TRIBUTE TO FRANK SINATRA

Peter Oprisko will entertain seniors with a tribute to Frank Sinatra. Menu includes tossed salad, pot roast, mashed potatoes, vegetable medley, homemade bread, tea, coffee, apple pie and ice cream.

**WHEN:** 11:30 to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 3

**WHERE:** Wicker Memorial Park Social Center

**FEE:** \$30 includes dinner and show

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

### HOLIDAY TURKEY BINGO

Grab a friend and 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 residents only.

**WHEN:** Noon to 3 p.m. Monday, November 14

**WHERE:** Wicker Memorial Park Social Center

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

### CHRISTMAS DINNER-DANCE

This special holiday dinner-dance features singing sensation Peter Oprisko, who will entertain the crowd with oldies and Christmas songs. Enjoy a delicious dinner of baked ham with dressing, mashed sweet potato, vegetable medley, mixed green salad, chocolate cake with strawberries, homemade bread and coffee.

**WHEN:** Monday, Dec. 5. Doors open 11 a.m. Dinner will be served at noon. Door prizes from 1 to 1:30 p.m. and entertainment from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

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

**COST:** \$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. All lunches include homemade bread, tea and coffee. Doors open at 11 a.m. Lunch begins at noon.

**SEPTEMBER 14 PICNIC:** BBQ chicken, coleslaw, potato salad, dinner roll and watermelon.

**OCTOBER 19 MENU:** Mixed green salad, beef stroganoff over noodles and chocolate cake.

**NOVEMBER 9 MENU:** Chicken noodle soup, roasted turkey breast, stuffing, mashed potatoes, corn, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie with whipped cream.

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





# NORTH TOWNSHIP PROGRAM AIMS TO STOP CHILD ABUSE

The North Township Trustee is partnering with the healthcare community and schools to begin an all-out effort to decrease child sexual assaults.

The Global Health Communications Center at Indiana University issued a report showing an alarming number of high school girls are a victim of sexual assault before they are 18 years old.

Equally disturbing: Indiana ranks second in the nation for child sexual assault.

“Our plan is to work with the schools and local pediatricians to create a program geared for early elementary school children,” Trustee Frank Mrvan said. “We will be getting in front of these kids with a presentation that lets them know the difference between good and bad touching.”

By engaging a trusted adult, such as a school nurse, the hope is the program will be effective in helping abused children feel comfortable reporting inappropriate behaviors.

“This is a significant issue in our communities and we need to do more to stop our children from being abused,” Mrvan said. “None of us can do it alone. But, together, we can make a significant difference in the lives of these precious children.”

## BY THE NUMBERS

Child sexual assault in Indiana is far more common than most would imagine. Here's a look at the numbers:

**1 in 6**

Hoosier high school girls is sexually assaulted before her 18th birthday.

Nearly

**30%**

of assaults involve someone who lives in the home.

More than

**51%**

involve a family friend or person they trust.

## SCHOOL UNIFORM PROGRAM

School uniforms that fit well and are in good condition are important to a child's school success.

They are also an expensive back-to-school purchase. Instead of being forced to choose between other school supplies and new uniforms, the North Township Trustee's office has a program in place that helps offset the expense.

“When most of our schools began implementing uniforms as their standard, we created the School Uniform Program,” Chief Deputy Virginia Carter said. “With all of the other expenses that come with starting school in the fall, we found this an effective way to help.”

## HOW TO APPLY

Applications for the School Uniform Program will be accepted through Sept. 30. Must have verification of child's school as well as a valid driver's license or state ID with current address.

### HAMMOND OFFICE

5947 Hohman Avenue  
(219) 932-2530

### EAST CHICAGO OFFICE

2105 Broadway  
(219) 932-2530

### CIRCLE OF SERVICES

2835 - 165th Street  
(219) 803-0659



## A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU!

Hammond's very own power couple – Alice and the late Horace Mamala – invested decades working to make the township and Wicker Park a better place.

Trustee Frank Mrvan presented a plaque and heartfelt thank you to their daughter, Anna, in honor of Horace's tenure as township trustee and the couple's service as members of the North Township Advisory Board.

“The Mamalas set a high bar for all of us who work in township government to follow,” Mrvan said. “They helped make our township a better place and for that, we are incredibly grateful.”

## MEET OUR NEW DEPUTIES



**VIRGINIA CARTER**

Congratulations to Virginia Carter and Gilda Orange. The dynamic duo, who worked together for 21 years at the township's East Chicago office, have assumed new responsibilities as Chief Deputy and Assistant Chief Deputy of the Hammond office.



**GILDA ORANGE**

“Virginia and Gilda are valued members of my staff,” Trustee Frank Mrvan said. “They demonstrate leadership and compassion every day, going above and beyond with innovations that make the lives of those who receive services at the township better.”

## LITTLE CAESARS CAREER FAIR

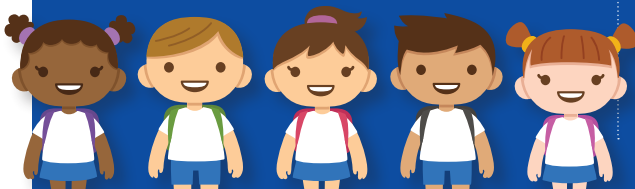
If you've thought about working in the food-service industry, the country's largest carryout-only pizza chain is looking for dependable employees to staff their local stores.

Put on your best business-friendly attire – which is available at the township's Circle of Services office in Hessville – update your resume and drive over to Wicker Park Social Center when the Trustee's office will host a mini career fair with Little Caesars.

**WHEN:** 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. October 6

**WHERE:** Wicker Park Social Center

**INFO:** Call Resource Coordinator Cindy Rivera at (219) 803-0659 or email [riverc@ntto.net](mailto:riverc@ntto.net).



# Halloween Spooktacular

**1 - 4 PM** **OCTOBER 22**  
 WICKER PARK PAVILION • 2215 RIDGE ROAD

BRING A DECORATED PUMPKIN FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A PRIZE!

**FOR LITTLE GHOULS AND GOBLINS AGES 3-12**  
**TRICK-OR-TREATING • HAY RIDES • COSTUME CONTEST**

INFO: CALL (219) 932-2530, EXT 331

**Frank J. Mrvan**



**NORTH-TOWNSHIP-TRUSTEE**  
 BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY

5947 HOHMAN AVENUE  
 HAMMOND, INDIANA 46320

## VICTORY FOR MEMORIAL RIDE VETERANS

**SEPTEMBER 25**  
**11 AM – 5 PM**

FOOD  
 BEER GARDEN  
 CONCESSIONS  
 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**9 – 11 AM REGISTRATION**  
 WICKER MEMORIAL PARK

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
 CALL (219) 932-2530, EXT 331