



YOUR GUIDE TO NEWS AND SERVICES IN EAST CHICAGO, HAMMOND, HIGHLAND, MUNSTER AND WHITING • SPRING 2017

# NO MORE SECRETS

## North Township trustee, state senator galvanizing support to end child sex abuse throughout Indiana

The two Franks – North Township Trustee Mrvan and his father, state senator Mrvan – are working to end child sexual abuse throughout Indiana.

Known as No More Secrets, they are doing what they do best.

In Indianapolis, state Sen. Mrvan is championing a bill that requires the Indiana Department of Education to provide model policies and reporting procedures for child sexual abuse. The law will assist districts with implementing sexual abuse education programs in grades K-12 no later than July 1, 2018.

The bill passed the state Senate Feb. 13 and will be introduced in the House later this month.

Closer to home, the trustee is launching No More Secrets March 13-17 at the five school districts in North Township.

He won't be alone.

Support for the effort to reduce child sexual abuse continues to grow with awareness that Indi-

### PUBLIC SYMPOSIUM

Meet Erin Merryn, survivor and advocate for Erin's Law. This free event includes workshops on sexual abuse prevention and human trafficking.

**WHEN:** 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. March 18

**WHERE:** Purdue University Northwest, Alumni Hall

**REGISTER ONLINE:** [nomoresecretsnwi.eventbrite.com](http://nomoresecretsnwi.eventbrite.com).

ana ranks second in the nation for forced sexual intercourse among high school females.

"One act causes an enormous wave of family destruction and, more than likely, emotional and physical abuse that tears the fabric of society," he said.

"If we are going to boast about bringing in new businesses and improving quality of life, this is one topic that needs to be discussed. Education is our best weapon in this fight."

### CAMPAIGN PARTNERS

Partners in the No More Secrets campaign include:

- ✓ Prevent Child Abuse Indiana
- ✓ Geminus Corp.
- ✓ WJOB
- ✓ Regional Mental Health Center
- ✓ U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Indiana
- ✓ Lake County Prosecutor
- ✓ The Times Media Co.

### PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Superintendents from the five school districts in North Township signed on to bring the program to their schools:

- ✓ Whiting
- ✓ Hammond
- ✓ East Chicago
- ✓ Munster
- ✓ Highland





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**NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?**

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# TOWNSHIP PARTNERS WITH LAUW TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE

North Township is partnering with Lake Area United Way to make resources easier to find for families in need.

Known as the United for Families Network, the goal of the new initiative is to create a coalition of social service agencies, faith-based organizations and government entities that deliver services to Lake County households that do not earn enough to pay for their basic needs.

Known as ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) families, this demographic represents one in four households in Lake County.

“We are attacking problems facing ALICE families while searching for solutions for lasting, sustainable change,” said Kristin Marlow-Kellemen, United for Families Network Coordinator. “Bringing organizations together will

**HOW TO GET INVOLVED**

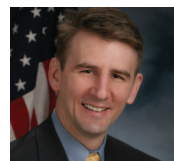
United for Families Network is looking for social service agencies, faith-based organizations and government entities to join its ALICE initiative.

**INFO:** (219) 932-4800, ext. 109 or [kristin@unitedforfamiliesnetwork.org](mailto:kristin@unitedforfamiliesnetwork.org)

foster collaboration among providers and strengthen support for ALICE.”

Township Trustee Frank Mrvan said the ability to share information among all providers is groundbreaking.

“This will allow us to capture the data of assistance,” Mrvan said. That information will position our community to help move all our struggling working families into financial stability and perhaps eradicate poverty for good.”



**LETTER FROM THE NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE**

**“North Township abuzz with spring activities that enhance our community and quality of life”**

While nature slept, the staff at North Township was working overtime on projects to improve the quality of life for all residents and visitors to our little corner of the world this spring and beyond. Here’s a sneak peak:

**REPLACING TREES ...**

The remaining ash trees killed by the emerald ash borer have been removed and the golf course fairways prepped for their replacements. A new canopy of foliage is greatly anticipated.

**FENCING THE PARK ...**

Along Ridge Road, we are eager to see new brick-and-aluminum fencing constructed along with two new entrances. Crews will begin work in April.

**TESTING FOR LEAD ...**

In East Chicago, those suffering from lead poisoning are getting the help they need. Families are continuing to receive assistance in finding new housing and moving. We are grateful to Gov. Eric Holcomb, who has become an ally.

**ENDING CHILD ABUSE ...**

The “No More Secrets” campaign is moving forward. I am humbled and thankful to business and organization leaders, who have stepped forward to create awareness of child sexual abuse and protections for our children.

**FRANK J. MRVAN**  
 North Township Trustee

# SPRING IN THE PARK

## WELCOME!

There are wonders in every season at Wicker Memorial Park, but there is something extraordinary about spring. Join us this spring for a walk, a bike ride or a rest in one of the most peaceful places in the township.

## 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.

## PICNIC SHELTERS

Summer rentals for picnic areas, shelters and the pavilion are going fast. Call the park office at (219) 838-3420 to book yours today!

## GOLF COURSE

This 18-hole, par-72 course offers tree-lined fairways, a practice green and driving range. Spring rates start at \$27 to ride 18 holes on the weekend or \$22 for nine holes. Memberships are also available. Call the freshly painted and carpeted Pro Shop at (219) 838-9809 to schedule your tee time.

## OUTDOOR FITNESS

Get your groove on at our outdoor fitness area. Open year-round, the handicapped-accessible exercise equipment includes an elliptical machine, leg press, rower bike, vertical press and pendulum.

## BANQUET FACILITIES

Looking for a place to host your spring wedding, retirement bash or meeting? Call Bridget at (219) 923-3830 to make an appointment to view our facilities. For rental fees and catering menus, visit [www.diningsolutionswickerpark.com](http://www.diningsolutionswickerpark.com).

## WALKING & BIKING

The 2.5-mile trail along the perimeter of the park and the half-mile inner trail is perfect for walking, running, biking – or even scooters! All our beautiful trails are paved and open from dawn to dusk.

## ENHANCEMENTS COMING THIS SPRING TO WICKER MEMORIAL PARK

A mild winter with warmer temps and little snow has Wicker Memorial Park crews eager to begin two new projects this spring.

Park Superintendent Brett Bierman said nearly all of the ash trees infected with the Emerald Ash Borer have been removed.

"We've been awarded \$8,750 in federal funds as part of the 2016 Community and Urban Forestry Assistance grant," Bierman said. "This project will allow us to plant 120 replacements as soon as the ground thaws."

But that's not all.

Beginning in April, a new fence featuring brick columns and black aluminum railing will be installed along Ridge Road with new entrances at Prairie Street and the west end of Wicker Memorial Park.

"These additions will continue to enhance the beauty of our park."



## SENIOR ACTIVITIES



### EASTER SERVICE

North Township welcomes all comers to its first ever Easter Sunrise Service. The non-denominational service includes pastors from the township as well as Bishop Donald J. Hying from the Catholic Diocese of Gary.

**WHEN:** 6:30 a.m. Saturday, April 15

**WHERE:** Wicker Memorial Park  
**INFO:** (219) 932-2530, ext 331

### FLAG CEREMONY

Oak Hill Cemetery will honor more than 500 veterans with a flag-raising ceremony. "Putting flags at the resting places of these brave men and women is an honor," Cemetery Manager Kelly Vicari said. "Local scouts have volunteered and we hope to see many from the community, too."

**WHEN:** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 27

**WHERE:** Oak Hill Cemetery, 6445 Hohman Ave., Hammond  
**INFO:** Call Cemetery Manager Kelly Vicari at (219) 746-7668.

### CHICAGO BOAT CRUISE

Trustee Frank J. Mrvan invites North Township seniors for an afternoon on Lake Michigan on the Spirit of Chicago.

The Cabaret Luncheon Cruise buffet features three entrees: Caribbean rotisserie chicken with garlic and herbs, oven-baked North Atlantic sole filet or three-cheese baked macaroni with roasted broccoli.

Salad, roasted garlic or mashed potatoes accompany the meal.

Delicious desserts include vanilla custard with strawberries, cakes, apple cobbler, cheesecake and seasonal fruit.

**WHEN:** 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 27. Coach bus departs Wicker Park at 10 a.m. Cruise is from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Attendees return to Wicker Park at 4:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Navy Pier, Chicago  
**TICKETS:** \$75 per person and must be purchased by April 26.  
**RESERVATIONS:** Call Eleanor at (219) 313-3934.

### CHICAGO: THE MUSICAL

Hop the bus to Drury Lane for the razzle-dazzle of Chicago. The longest-running musical on Broadway, Chicago is filled with fame, fortune and one Fosse showstopper after another.

**WHEN:** 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, May 18. Lunch is at 11:30 a.m. Show is 1:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Drury Lane Theatre, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois  
**TICKETS:** \$75 includes lunch and must be purchased by March 10.  
**RESERVATIONS:** Call Eleanor at (219) 313-3934.

### EASTER HAM BINGO

Grab a friend and head to Wicker Park for an afternoon of fun. Winners receive a gift card for a ham. Township residents only.

**WHEN:** 1 to 3 p.m. April 13. Doors open at noon. Sign in at the door.

**WHERE:** Wicker Park Social Center  
**INFO:** Call (219) 313-3934.



### 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. March 30, April 25 and May 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.



### MOTHER'S DAY DANCE

Join us as we celebrate Mother's Day with a special luncheon and dancing. Enjoy tossed salad, pot roast, mashed potatoes, vegetable medley, homemade bread, peach cobbler, ice tea and coffee.

**WHEN:** 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. May 11  
**WHERE:** Wicker Park Social Center  
**FEE:** \$20 includes a delightful luncheon, gifts and entertainment.  
**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.

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



# SECURITY ALLIANCE RAISING FUNDS TO ESTABLISH EMERGENCY CENTER

When emergencies strike, Northwest Indiana's first responders mobilize as part of the Northwest Indiana Information Sharing & Security Alliance.

Organized by Munster Police Chief Stephen Scheckel, who serves as president of NIISA, the group is working to raise funds to establish a multi-agency coordination center.

Derby Fest is the organization's inaugural fund-raiser – an opportunity to enjoy an afternoon peppered with Kentucky Derby festivities including a dinner worthy of the Run for the Roses and a viewing on the big screen.

“Participating in this event is a great way to have fun with friends and colleagues while supporting NIISA's very important mission to serve and protect the region,” Event Chair Nick Popovich said.

## DERBY FEST FUND-RAISER

Watch the 2017 Kentucky Derby live on the big screen while enjoying dinner and a silent auction.

**WHEN:** 3:30 to 8 p.m. **May 6**

**WHERE:** Gary/Chicago Airport

**TICKETS:** \$50 per person.

Sponsorships are available.

**INFO:** Call Event Chair Nick Popovich at (219) 464-8320.



“Emergencies happen without warning,” he said. “A coordination center will be a next step for NIISA to strengthen our response capabilities when disasters strike.”

# NEARLY 100 EMPLOYERS SEEKING QUALIFIED CANDIDATES AT JOB FAIR

Last year's career fair was such a success, North Township is partnering again with the City of Hammond, Rescare and Work One to host one of the largest recruiting events in the region.

The event features nearly 100 employers from a host of sectors, including government, finance, gaming, health-care, sales, manufacturing and trades.

Resource Coordinator Cindy Rivera, who builds partnerships that lead to jobs for North Township residents, said the annual career fair is a proven success, amplifying the job-seeking potential for those looking for work.

“More than 1,000 attended in 2016. We hope to see even more this year,” she said. “Interest from potential em-

## SPRING CAREER FAIR

Dress for success and bring your resume to an upcoming career fair hosted by North Township Trustee and the City of Hammond.

**WHEN:** 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. **March 9**

**WHERE:** Hammond Civic Center

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

ployers remains high. Bringing those who need jobs with those who can supply them is what we're all about.”

Township residents, who need help putting together a resume or work attire, can find assistance at North Township's Circle of Services, 2835-165th Street, Hammond.

## CIRCLE OF SERVICES

Crews at North Township's Circle of Services have been busy sprucing up the hall for spring and summer bridal and baby showers, receptions even birthday parties. New flooring, a fresh coat of paint and donation of an oversized trophy case to Our Lady of Grace School in Highland has given the space a bright, roomy feel. The hall is available for rental.

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

## COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Community Garden that produces a bumper crop of vegetables at Circle of Services in Hessville, will be planted again in May. Resource Coordinator Cindy Rivera said she will be starting the garden from seed this spring. “We were fortunate to have a Girl Scout Troop help with prior gardens,” Rivera said. “We would be grateful to see another troop or community organization step forward to help this year, too.”

**WANT TO HELP?** Call Cindy Rivera at (219) 803-0659.



## TOWNSHIP ASSISTANCE

A booklet of service providers – featuring organizations, churches and departments within local government that provide low- or no-cost assistance for counseling, clothing, emergency shelter, prescriptions, child care and gas vouchers – is available at the Hammond and East Chicago offices or online at [NorthTownshipTrustee.com](http://NorthTownshipTrustee.com).





# BUS TRIP TO WRIGLEY FIELD



**CHICAGO CUBS vs. SAN DIEGO PADRES**

**1:20 PM WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21**

10:30 AM COACH BUS FROM WICKER PARK  
RESERVATIONS MUST BE PAID BY MARCH 15

**\$68 INCLUDES GAME TICKET + TRANSPORTATION • RSVP 219.313.3934**

**Frank J. Mrvan**



**NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE**  
BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY

5947 HOHMAN AVENUE  
HAMMOND, INDIANA 46320

## 11TH ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

North Township children – ages 1 through 10 – are invited to hunt for eggs. DJ music and a visit from the Easter Bunny are all part of the festivities. Admission is free. Supplies are limited. First come. First served.

**9 AM** UNTIL THE LAST EGG IS FOUND **APRIL 8**  
WICKER PARK PAVILION • HIGHLAND



FOR MORE INFORMATION: PLEASE CALL (219) 932-2530, EXTENSION 331