

# North Township NAVIGATOR

YOUR GUIDE TO NEWS AND SERVICES IN EAST CHICAGO, HAMMOND, HIGHLAND, MUNSTER AND WHITING • FALL 2019



## NORTH TOWNSHIP LAUNCHES NEW ONLINE RESOURCE FOR VETERANS

Whether you are looking for the nearest veterans organization, an opportunity to volunteer on behalf of fallen soldiers or are in need of assistance, North Township has what you need in one convenient location.

The brainchild of North Township Trustee Frank J. Mrvan, this comprehensive guide to all things involving local soldiers and veterans resources can be found at — [NTTveterans.com](http://NTTveterans.com).

"We recognize how difficult it has been for veterans to connect in ways that are meaningful to them and their families," Veterans Coordinator Brittany Cooper said. "This web portal along with an expanded focus on veterans is our way of lending a helping hand to our military — who have given so much to all of us."

### >> MORE INSIDE <<

Turn to Page 5 for complete Victory for Veterans Memorial Ride details and other veterans programs:

- ★ **MEMORIAL RIDE**
- ★ **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**
- ★ **GOLD STAR FAMILY**
- ★ **COMMANDERS INITIATIVE**
- ★ **COMMANDER'S CORNER**
- ★ **OAK HILL CEMETERY TOUR**

## SOCIAL WORK TEAM PROVIDING LONG-TERM HELP

North Township's Social Work Restore Team is working with local police providing wraparound services for vulnerable populations.

Community Development Coordinator Rosie Quintanilla said the team works with those struggling with issues related to domestic violence, autism, elder abuse, sexual assault, suicide and even those who are undocumented immigrants.

The Restore Team includes Quintanilla, Community Support Specialist Brittany Cooper and social work interns Janet Miodragovic and Shakiyla Holloway. Together, they work with regional social service agencies — such as Highland-based Fair Haven and Catholic Charities — to provide long-term assistance.

Miodragovic, who spent her summer working with North Township clients, said it is rewarding to help those most in need.

"We are so new, but are gaining traction," Quintanilla said. "This as an opportunity to break the cycle and our clients are eager for change."

### TOWNSHIP INTERNS ...

Meet our hard-working interns who've had as much of an impact on us as we've had on them.

**FULL STORY:** Page 2





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**PETER KATIC**  
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 Board member

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5947 Hohman Ave.  
 Hammond, IN 46320  
**Phone:** (219) 932-2530  
**Fax:** (219) 937-4412  
**Hours:** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday – Friday

**EAST CHICAGO OFFICE**

2100 Broadway  
 East Chicago, IN 46312  
**Phone:** (219) 398-2435  
**Fax:** (219) 397-2190  
**Hours:** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday – Friday

**HESSVILLE CIRCLE OF SERVICES**

2835-165th Street  
 Hammond, IN 46323  
**Phone:** (219) 803-0659  
**Hours:** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday – Friday

**WICKER MEMORIAL PARK**

8554 Indianapolis Boulevard  
 Highland, IN 46322  
**Phone:** (219) 838-3420  
**Hours:** 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday – Friday  
[www.WickerMemorialPark.com](http://www.WickerMemorialPark.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



**LETTER FROM THE NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE**

**“Our hard-working interns learned as much about township government – as we learned from them”**

Interns selected for the North Township summer program found themselves immersed in the lives of North Township residents. Their charge: research and develop solutions. Meet the class of 2019:

**JASMINE CAULEY, EAST CHICAGO**

Working with grieving families taught this nursing major more than she imagined. “I loved the smiles we got as we helped them handle difficult situations. It was a master class in working with people from all walks of life and learning to handle situations under pressure.”

**PETER GALANOS, MUNSTER**

This management major was entrusted with being in charge of events that changed the face of the community. “I have been inspired to help the community like Frank does. My time here has helped me see management from a different perspective. My goal is to increase my involvement in the community, impacting people’s lives in the process.”

**CLARE MAJCHROWICZ, SCHERERVILLE**

As a law and public policy major, the summer experience has reassured Clare Majchrowicz she is on the right path. “This opportunity let me know I’m exactly where I am supposed to be. I loved

being hands-on working with younger kids and I am determined to use my degree to make a difference.”

**JONATHAN MORALES, HAMMOND**

Jonathan Morales drove past the North Township Trustee’s office thousands of times never realizing lives were being changed. Weeks into his tenure, the Purdue sophomore organized a sand volleyball tournament and executed the township’s first teen event, “13 Reasons Why Not.” Now, he’s inspired to do more.

**KENDALL ZIEL, MUNSTER**

The Wisconsin Parkside student had never given much thought to the importance of townships. “We got opportunities to make a difference every day. I shadowed a victim advocate at Fair Haven Center for Women in Highland. It opened my eyes and let me know social work is where I should invest my energies.”

North Township is better because these young people were here. They connected us to their generation, how they do things and how they think. Thank you to the Class of 2019!

**FRANK J. MRVAN**  
 North Township Trustee



## HELPING OUR SENIORS

### SENIOR SERVICE HOTLINE IS YOUR GO-TO RESOURCE FOR ASSISTANCE

North Township has launched a Senior Service Hotline that provides a host of resources for the township’s retirees.

“We encourage our seniors and their families, to make the Senior Service Hotline their go-to resource for information and assistance,” Trustee Frank J. Mrvan said. “This hotline has information on who can help with issues like mental health assistance, elder abuse and well-being checks – and how.”

### SENIOR SERVICE HOTLINE

Are you a senior citizen who’s looking for assistance? Please call our hotline – (219) 306-1344 – or stop by our offices:

- Trustee’s Hammond office, 5947 Hohman Ave., Hammond
- Circle of Services, 2835 165th St., Hessville
- East Chicago office: 2100 Broadway, East Chicago

### BEWARE OF SENIOR SCAMS!

The Department of Justice hosts a website – [Elderjustice.gov](http://Elderjustice.gov) – for seniors looking to learn more about scams and how to avoid them.

If you have been a victim of a scam, you may also call the following hotlines:

- 1-877-FTC-HELP (Federal Trade Commission)
- 1-855-4VICTIM (Department of Justice)



## SENIOR ACTIVITIES

### 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.-3 p.m. **September 24, October 29 and November 12**

**WHERE:** Four Winds Casino

**FEE:** \$30 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:** (219) 838-3420



### HOLIDAY TURKEY BINGO

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 senior citizens only.

**WHEN:** 11 a.m.-2p.m. **November 21**

**WHERE:** Wicker Park Social Center

**RESERVATIONS:** (219) 838-3420



### CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Register now for our annual senior Christmas luncheon and dance with music by Peter Oprisko.

**WHEN:** 11 a.m.-3 p.m. **December 3.**

Doors open at 11 a.m. Lunch served at noon. Christmas raffle at 12:30 p.m. and music from 1 to 3 p.m.

**WHERE:** Wicker Park Social Center

**FEE:** \$20 includes dinner and show  
**RESERVATIONS:** (219) 838-3420.



### 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. View menus at [northtownshiptrustee.com](http://northtownshiptrustee.com).

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

## PARK ACTIVITIES

There are wonders in every season here at Wicker Memorial Park, but there is something extraordinary about autumn ...

### 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, shelters and playground. Trails are open from dawn to dusk.

### TREE-LINED FAIRWAYS

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.

**INFO:** WickerMemorialPark.com or (219) 838-9809 (Pro Shop)

### 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.

### DELIGHTFUL DOG PARK

Our fenced-in dog park features water fountains, benches and plenty of space to run around. Annual fee is \$25 for township residents, \$60 out-of-township and \$100 out-of-state.

**INFO:** Download forms online at wickermemorialpark.com.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit WickerMemorialPark.com to check out the latest events or download registration forms, applications and maps.



# HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR

Little ghouls and goblins – ages 3-12 – are invited to join us from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, October 26 at Wicker Park Pavilion for an afternoon of trunk-or-treating, activities and a costume contest.

**INFO:** Questions or for more information about these or other events, please contact Activities Director Kelly Bridges at (219) 313-3934.

### MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION

Celebrate Mexican Independence Day with Together, a 12-member band featuring pop, Latin rock, blues and big band. Cash bar and food concessions are available. No coolers allowed.

**WHEN:** 7:30-10:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 5. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Wicker Park Social Center

**ADMISSION:** \$7, age 21 and older

### BEARS VS. REDSKINS TAILGATE

Join us as the Bears take on the Washington Redskins. Picnic tables are available or bring your own chair to watch the game on our big outdoor screen while enjoying drafts, hot dogs, brats or burgers. Cash bar available. No coolers allowed.

**WHEN:** 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 23

**WHERE:** Wicker Park Pro Shop





## VICTORY FOR VETERANS RIDE

The 20th Annual Victory for Veterans Memorial Ride steps off at 11:30 a.m. September 29 at Wicker Memorial Park. Sponsored by North Township Trustee Frank J. Mrvan and the American Veterans Motorcycle Riders Association, the day features keynote speaker Major Gen. John Borling, the Traveling Vietnam Wall, food vendors, a 50/50 raffle and live entertainment from NAWTY.

**WHEN:** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 29

**WHERE:** Wicker Memorial Park

**REGISTRATION:** Tickets are \$25 per person or \$40 per couple and include V4V pin, entertainment, food and beverage tickets. Register online at [victoryforveteranswickerpark.org](http://victoryforveteranswickerpark.org).

**INFO:** For questions or more information about the ride, please call Activities Director Kelly Bridges at (219) 313-3934

## MEET OUR KEYNOTE ...

Join us in welcoming Maj. Gen. John Borling, USAF (retired), our V4V keynote speaker. The suburban Chicago native, was shot down June 1, 1966 and became a POW at the Hanoi Hilton for 6-1/2 years until he was released in 1973. Maj. Gen. Borling has received many medals, including the Bronze Star, Silver Star and the Purple Heart and is the author of "Taps on the Wall, Poems from the Hanoi Hilton."



## GOLD STAR FAMILY



Army National Guard Spc. Sergio Eduardo Perez grew up in East Chicago and graduated from Lake Central. He died just three years later when his vehicle was hit by rocket-propelled grenades in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan.

His family will be honored Nov. 11 as the 2019 North Township Gold Star Family at Wicker Park Social Center.

It is a bittersweet honor for Veronica Orozco and her three daughters. "It seems like only yesterday Sergio was here, planning his future after the military," the Gold Star mother said. "The Gold Star organization has made this wound more bearable than it would have been. My pain is their pain and their pain is mine. We help each other."

## COMMANDERS INITIATIVE

When Mike Planer returned from Vietnam, he joined 2,200 other veterans at East Chicago's American Legion Post 369 where they supported each other. Today, that post's membership is down by 75 percent.

Trustee Frank J. Mrvan said Post 369 isn't alone. Across the country, efforts to rebuild century-old veteran's organizations like the Legion and VFW are failing.

Mrvan and commanders from more than a dozen local veteran's groups are banding together at monthly meetings to discuss the issue and find solutions.

"Veterans groups have splintered between Vietnam and the more recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan," Planer said. "I applaud Frank for what he's doing to bring these groups back to vitality."



## COMMANDER'S CORNER

Chester Amyra was honorably discharged in 1991, four years after he joined the U.S. Army. It would be another 20 years before the veteran would join Hessville's American Legion Post 232. When the organization put out the call for a new commander, it was Amyra who stepped up. Unlike many other area legion groups, the Lansing, Ill. native said Post 232 is beginning to grow – again. "We have a couple hundred active members. Many of us are also 232 Legion Riders – our very own veterans motorcycle group. We are a place that welcomes veterans to participate in any activity that suits them."

### American Legion Post 232

6523 Kennedy Ave. | Hammond, IN  
(219) 844-0230



## OAK HILL CEMETERY TOUR

Join us for the 2019 Suzanne G. Long Annual Cemetery Tour at Oak Hill Cemetery honoring veterans and their families.

**WHEN:** 1 to 4 p.m. October 6

**WHERE:** Oak Hill Cemetery, located on the corner of Hohman and 165th Street

**ADMISSION:** \$5. Children under 12 are free.



Join us for North Township's ...  
**FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL**  
SEPTEMBER 8 | 2-8 PM

**ADMISSION IS \$3 | RAIN OR SHINE!**

**WICKER MEMORIAL PARK PAVILION**  
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**SIZZLEBOX • DING DING CHICKEN WINGS • CUTE AS A CUPCAKE • LULU'S LICKS**  
**DA PORTABLE RICAN • THE CHEESY FOOD TRUCK • AND SO MUCH MORE!**

**FOOD TRUCKS • ARTISAN VENDORS • BEER GARDEN • LIVE BANDS**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION: CONTACT ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR KELLY BRIDGES AT (219) 313-3934.**

Frank J. Mrvan



**NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE**  
BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY

5947 HOHMAN AVENUE  
HAMMOND, INDIANA 46320



**NORTH TOWNSHIP COAT DRIVE**

Hundreds of winter items will be available for residents during the North Township Trustee's 11th annual coat drive.

**WHEN:** 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 16

**WHERE:** Wicker Park Pavilion

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

**WANT TO DONATE?**

Drop-off donated items at the following locations through November 13:

- ✓ Wicker Park Social Center
- ✓ Wicker Park Pro Shop
- ✓ Ridge United Methodist Church, 8706 Columbia Avenue, Munster