

North Township NAVIGATOR

YOUR GUIDE TO NEWS AND SERVICES IN EAST CHICAGO, HAMMOND, HIGHLAND, MUNSTER AND WHITING • SPRING 2020

WICKER MEMORIAL PARK



With an 18-hole golf course, 3 miles of trails, a dog park, playground, picnic areas, banquet facilities and Splash Pad, Wicker Memorial Park has something for everyone!



WICKER PARK CONTINUES TO SHINE

Whether it's golf, outdoor fitness equipment, the splash pad or attractions like an expanded food truck festival and new acts for the summer concert series, Wicker Memorial Park never stands still.

North Township Trustee Frank J. Mrvan said the venues bring in approximately \$1 million per year, dollars spent maintaining and upgrading the park to reduce reliance on property taxes.

"The staff and I work hard to bring programs and amenities to the park. Our reward is seeing how many people visit this landmark every day of the year," Mrvan said. "It has become a destination for those who want to get fit, enjoy music, play golf or just enjoy time spent with nature."



THIS SPRING ...

Work will resume on the Fallen Heroes Memorial while construction begins on a reflection wall on the western side of the park.

The Fallen Heroes Memorial is dedicated to North Township's First Responders who died in the line of duty (see page 2 for details) while the reflection area is dedicated to survivors of childhood sexual abuse.

BEWARE OF SCAMS TARGETING NORTH TOWNSHIP SENIORS

Whether it's someone claiming to be a grandchild or a robocall claiming your social security number has been compromised, scams against seniors are alive and well.

In 2018, criminal cases were filed against more than 260 defendants who victimized more than 2 million Americans, most of them elderly. Losses exceeded \$700 million.

"We take the safety of our seniors seriously," North Township Frank J. Mrvan said. "We have a section on our website reserved just for that purpose with helpful information and phone numbers for assistance."

Here's what you can do now:

- Shred credit card receipts
- Sign up for the Do Not Call list at donotcall.gov or (888) 382-1222
- Direct deposit your benefit checks
- Never give credit card, banking, Social Security, Medicare or other personal information over the phone unless you initiated the call

Visit northtownshiptrustee.com for additional resources or call our Senior Service Hotline for assistance at (219) 306-1344.

LEARN MORE INSIDE

For more information on Mrvan Cares, including Narcan Training, Autism Awareness and 13 Reasons Why Not, please see Page 5.



WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOU! FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT US AT NORTHTOWNSHIPTRUSTEE.COM.

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2835-165th Street
 Hammond, IN 46323
Phone: (219) 803-0659
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WICKER MEMORIAL PARK

8554 Indianapolis Boulevard
 Highland, IN 46322
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 www.WickerMemorialPark.com

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COMING SEPTEMBER 2020

The North Township Fallen Heroes Memorial will feature a bounty of green space surrounding flowering bushes, gentle pathways and ample seating.



LETTER FROM THE NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

“Thank you to the businesses, first responders, residents who make this memorial possible”

It's only four months into our campaign and I want to thank the generous sponsors who are helping us raise \$200,000 for a permanent memorial for North Township police officers, firefighters and emergency medical services personnel who have died in the line of duty.

From our local businesses and first responders who have generously donated and to the more than 100 individuals who purchased memorial bricks that are dedicated to family and friends, we are grateful for this project to be the beneficiary of such good will.

We are looking to finish the memorial in time for a Sept. 12 dedication and are appealing to those who have not yet donated to dig a little deeper to help us meet our goal.

FRANK J. MRVAN
 North Township Trustee



A special thank you to our top sponsors who make this memorial possible:

\$5,000: BP, Belgard, Indiana Professional Firefighters East Chicago Local 365, Meijer, Peoples Bank and Schepel Buick GMC

\$2,500: Centier, Crowel Companies Insurance Professionals and United Steelworkers Local 1010

INFO: NTTfallenheroes.org

MEMORIAL BRICKS

Our 4" x 8" engraved bricks are a perfect tribute to your loved ones.

Commemorate the graduation of a favorite niece, the birth of a new child or a marriage that has lasted a lifetime.

QUESTIONS? Call the park office at (219) 838-3420.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

YES! I want a 4" x 8" engraved brick for \$50.

YES! Add an additional "keepsake" brick for \$25.

Please engrave my brick as follows:

3 lines | 16 characters each (includes spaces and punctuation)

Please make contributions payable and mail to: Wicker Park Memorial Fund, 8554 Indianapolis Blvd., Highland, IN 46322

HELLO Spring!

There are wonders in every season at Wicker Memorial Park, but there is something extraordinary about springtime. Join us for a walk, a bike ride or a round of golf this season in one of the most beautiful parks in the township.

❁ SPRING GOLF

Our 18-hole, par-72 course offers tree-lined fairways, a practice green and driving range. Spring rates start at \$37 to ride 18 holes on the weekend or \$27 for nine holes. Senior discounts and evening twilight rates available. Call the Pro Shop at (219) 838-9809 to learn more about our memberships or schedule your tee time online at wickermemorialpark.com.

❁ DOG PARK

Our 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.

❁ OUTDOOR FITNESS

Take your workout to our outdoor fitness area. Open year-round, the handicapped-accessible exercise equipment includes an elliptical machine, leg press, rower bike, vertical press and pendulum.

❁ 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 roller skates! All our trails are paved and open from dawn to dusk.

❁ BANQUET & FACILITIES

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

❁ FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit WickerMemorialPark.com to check out the latest events, download forms, applications, maps and so much more!



SENIOR ACTIVITIES

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: noon-2 p.m. **April 2.** Doors open at noon. Sign in at the door. Deadline to register is March 27.

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 25, April 21 and May 19**

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: Call Kelly Bridges 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 7**

WHERE: Wicker Park Social Center
FEE: \$20 includes a delightful luncheon, gifts and entertainment.
RESERVATIONS: Call Kelly Bridges 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.

VETERANS FLAG CEREMONY

Oak Hill Cemetery will honor more than 500 veterans with a flag-raising ceremony Memorial Day weekend.

"Putting flags at the graves of these brave men and women is an honor," Cemetery Manager Patricia Wolfe said. "Local scouts have volunteered and we hope to see many from the community, too."

Oak Hill also has an Adopt-A-Vet program. "We have a number of veterans laid to rest here," Wolfe said. "Unfortunately, many have no living relatives to care for their final resting place." Anyone can adopt a veteran's grave for \$25 a year. "The funds go to maintaining the grounds, so the brave men and women who fought for our country have the beautiful memorial they deserve."

WHEN: 10 a.m.-1 p.m. **May 23**

WHERE: Oak Hill Cemetery, 6445 Hohman, Hammond

INFO: Call Oak Hill Cemetery Manager Patricia Wolfe at (219) 932-0206 or email wolfep@ntto.net.

CRUISE NIGHTS

Check out the coolest classic cars and trucks during our monthly summer cruise nights from 5 to 8 p.m. at Wicker Memorial Park. Our DJ will be spinning some tunes and food will be available for purchase. Bring a blanket or lawn chair for comfortable seating and enjoy the evening.

WHEN: 4-8 p.m. **May 27, June 24, July 22, August 26, September 23, October 28**

WHERE: Wicker Park Social Center



SUMMER CONCERTS

Tickets sales for our Summer Concert Series begin April 1. Reserved tables sell out quickly, so visit eventbrite.com in April to reserve your concert seats before they're gone!

MRVAN CARES

CONNECTIONS • ADVOCACY • RESOURCES • EDUCATION • SERVICES

>> 13 REASONS WHY NOT



Reaching our youth: Our annual 13 Reasons Why Not summit educates hundreds of teens about the special needs, vulnerabilities, risks and mental health issues that they, or their peers, may encounter. "For many students, this is their first opportunity to use their voice to engage with school officials," North Township Asst. Community Development Coordinator Tavell Grant said. "Peer-to-peer collaboration also encourages discussion of sensitive topics such as bullying, suicide, sexual assault and substance abuse."

>> NO MORE SECRETS

COURAGE, HARD WORK & BRAVERY

A special nook is being created at Wicker Memorial Park in recognition of those who have overcome traumas such as child sexual abuse and domestic violence.

The area of reflection with an Overcomers Wall, greenery and benches will be constructed this summer at the park.

"An awards ceremony will commemorate the hard work and bravery of those who survived unspeakable horrors, including the 73 students from North Township schools who came forward as part of the No More Secrets campaign," North Township Trustee Frank J. Mrvan said. "Their courage led to new laws and groundbreaking work in Indiana to identify and offer a lifeline to school children abused in the home."

LUNCHEON Friday, April 3

The Overcomers Awards Luncheon will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Wicker Memorial Park Social Center.

There is no cost to attend the event, but reservations are required.

Register: [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)

Questions? Please call Asst. Community Development Coordinator Tavell Grant at (219) 932-2530, ext. 338.

>> OPIOIDS

DRUG TAKE BACK

Residents are invited to turn in expired and unwanted medications at Wicker Park as part of the 2020 National Drug Take Back Day.

All medications – whether they are prescription or over-the-counter – are welcome. Drug Enforcement Officials will also dispose of vaping cartridges and devices with the lithium ion batteries removed.

When: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **April 25**

Where: Wicker Memorial Park

Information: Call Asst. Community Development Coordinator Tavell Grant at (219) 932-2530, ext. 338.

>> AUTISM

RELAY4AUTISM

Save the date for this year's Relay4Autism – an event that brings families together for a day of fun and fellowship, fostering awareness and growth of North Township's autism safety initiative.

Sign up for our Autism Bracelet Program, peruse the resource fair, enjoy the sensory calming area or cool off at our Splash Pad.

The event also features emergency vehicles, music, games, food trucks, face painting and more!

When: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **June 20**

Where: Wicker Memorial Park

Information: To register your team or become a sponsor/vendor, please call Asst. Community Development Coordinator Tavell Grant at (219) 932-2530, ext. 338.

SEC

120

ROW

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SEAT

4

CHICAGO WHITE SOX vs.

CHICAGO CUBS

5-11 PM TUESDAY

JULY 7

GUARANTEED RATE FIELD

COACH BUS DEPARTS
FROM WICKER PARK AT 5 PM

QUESTIONS? CALL (219) 313-3934



\$105
INCLUDES
GAME TICKET +
ROUNDTRIP
COACH BUS

TICKETS SELL OUT FAST!
GET YOURS NOW AT
EVENTBRITE.COM

Frank J. Mrvan



NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY

5947 HOHMAN AVENUE
HAMMOND, INDIANA 46320



14TH ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

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

10:30 AM UNTIL THE LAST EGG IS FOUND **APRIL 4**
WICKER PARK PAVILION • HIGHLAND

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
PLEASE CALL ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR
KELLY BRIDGES (219) 313-3934.