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14th ANNUAL

# WHAM!

# BIKE TO THE FUTURE

MONTH	DAY	YEAR
AUG	02	2025

LAUNCH TIME

MONTH	DAY	YEAR
AUG	03	2025

## REGISTER AT: WHAMRIDE.COM

# SERVICE DIRECTORY

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219.931.0721

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219.931.1000

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3534 170th Place  
Hammond, IN 46323  
219.545.1942

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Hammond, IN, 219.853.6346  
www.am legal.com/hammond\_in

**Hammond Park Foundation**  
3031 Mahoney Dr.  
Hammond, IN 463223  
219.853.6378

**Hammond Department of  
Planning & Development**  
5925 Calumet Avenue  
Hammond, IN 219.853.6371

**Hammond Mayor's Office**  
5925 Calumet Avenue  
Hammond, IN 46320  
219.853.6301

**Hammond Port Authority**  
701 Casino Center D.  
Hammond, IN 46320  
219.659.7678

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steering wheel or  
your spare tire?  
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# Wham Ride Returns

Midnight bike ride ready to roll on August 2nd-3rd

Dust off your wheels and charge your flux capacitors! The 14th annual WHAM Ride (short for The Whiting, Hammond, Highland, and Munster After Midnight Ride) returns with a "Bike to the Future" theme, inviting cyclists of all ages to light up the night on an unforgettable ride through four Northwest Indiana communities.

The event kicks off the evening of Saturday, August 2, 2025, with the ride officially rolling out

at midnight (12:00 AM) on Sunday, August 3 from The Pav (The Pavilion at Wolf Lake Memorial Park). For the safety of all participants, helmets and bike lights are required. Riders without these essentials will not be permitted on the route.

Participation is completely free, and registration is now open at [whamride.com](http://whamride.com).

Participation is completely free, and registration is now open at [whamride.com](http://whamride.com)

*Source: City of Hammond*



# Mayor's Night Out 2025

August 27th	4th District	O'Bannon Elementary School Cafeteria 1317 173rd St.
September 17th	5th District	Jean Shepherd Community Center 3031 Mahoney Dr
October 29th	6th District	Harding Elementary School Cafeteria 3211 165th Street

Subject to change. All programs are on Wednesday from 6:30pm-8:30pm.

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# Church Directory

## **Bethel Congregational C.O.G.I.C.**

815 Michigan St., Hammond, IN

Deacon Lester Stokes

(219) 931-1301

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Friday 7:30 p.m.

## **Greater Works Outreach Prayer and Deliverance Ministry**

4822 Kennedy Ave. East Chicago, IN 46312

Apostle Jose Ruiz (219) 852-0677

Sunday 11:30 a.m.

[www.greaterwksmin.com](http://www.greaterwksmin.com)

## **Hammond Christian Reformed Church**

1910 167th St, Hammond, IN

Pastor Josh Christoffels

(219) 844-3331

Sunday School 9:50 a.m.

Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

Coffee Break Tuesday 9:00 a.m.

Ladies Bible Study Tuesday 6:00 p.m.

[www.hammondcrc.org](http://www.hammondcrc.org)

## **Living Water Missionary Baptist Church**

6511 Jefferson Avenue

Hammond, Indiana 46324

(219) 853-9951

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship 11:15 p.m.

[Waterliving621@gmail.com](mailto:Waterliving621@gmail.com)

## **Mt. Zion Baptist Church**

1047 Kenwood St., Hammond, IN

(219) 931-4337

Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday Prayer 6:00 p.m.

## **New Hope Missionary Baptist Church**

1117 Merrill St., Hammond, IN

Reverend Herman A. Polk, Sr.

(219) 932-5955

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday 8:30 a.m, 1:30 & 7:00 p.m.

## **New Zion Temple Church**

926 Morris Street, Hammond, IN

Bishop Brandon A. Jacobs

(219) 931-ZION (9466)

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday Prayer 6:30 p.m.

Wed Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

[www.newziontemple.org](http://www.newziontemple.org)

## **Saint Joseph Roman Catholic Church**

5310 Hohman Avenue

Hammond, IN 46320

Rev. Jeffrey Burton, Pastor

(219) 932-0702

Sunday: 9:00 am Mass in Church

Monday,

Wednesday

& Friday: 9:00 am Mass in Chapel

[saintjosephhammond@comcast.net](mailto:saintjosephhammond@comcast.net)

## **Testimony C.O.G.I.C. of Hammond**

1022 Cleveland St, Hammond, IN

Elder Patrick Williams

(219) 937-4676

Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship 11:30 a.m.

Friday 7:30 p.m.

## **The Word Made Flesh Ministries**

700 Sibley St. Hammond, IN 46320

Pastor Apostle James E. Ford

Contact: Michelle Ford 708-415-3027

Email: [Wordmadeforhim@gmail.com](mailto:Wordmadeforhim@gmail.com)

## **Trinity Lutheran Church**

7227 Hohman Ave, Hammond, IN

(219) 932-4660

Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

On FACEBOOK

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

[www.trinityhammond.com](http://www.trinityhammond.com)

## **Woodmar United Methodist Church**

7320 Nortcote Ave, Hammond, IN

(219) 844-3030

Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m.

[www.woodmarumc.org](http://www.woodmarumc.org)

*“We come to  
church not  
to hide our  
problems  
but to heal  
them.”*

*~ Dieter F. Uchtdorf*

*Most People  
are either  
Natural Talkers  
or Natural  
Listeners*

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*\*information submitted subject to editing for clarity and space allotted*





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Mayor Thomas M. McDermott, Jr.  
and his staff want to hear your questions and concerns.  
Mayor's Night Out will give you an opportunity to discuss issues  
directly with the Mayor and his staff.

**Wednesday, August 27th**  
**6:30pm - 8:30pm**

**4th District - O'Bannon Elementary School Cafeteria**  
**1317 173rd St. - Hammond**

For more information contact:

Mayor's Office 219-853-6301  
or Special Events 219-853-6378



**MAYOR'S**  
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# NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

**TUESDAY**  
**AUGUST 5<sup>TH</sup>**  
**5-8 PM**



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Wolf Lake Memorial Park  
2324 Calumet Avenue

Visit  
[wolflak pavilion.com](http://wolflak pavilion.com)  
Hammond, Indiana Police Dept FB page



# Jason Hawkins Obituary



Jason Richard Hawkins, 47, of Hammond, Indiana, passed away on July 8, 2025.

Born on October 8, 1977, to Rick and Josie Hawkins, Jason was the oldest of four siblings. He was a proud lifelong resident of Hammond and a graduate of Hammond High School, Class of 1995.

Jason was full of life and never knew a stranger. He lived his life

loudly and for Jesus Christ, never missing an opportunity to share his faith and encourage others to do the same.

He was extremely proud to serve the city of Hammond in the Code Enforcement Office, where he was dedicated to his work and loved what he did. Many who knew

him remember his captivating smile and could always count on him for a good conversation — a gift of gab he often called one of his true blessings from God.

Jason was a diehard Hammond High Wildcat fan, following the football and basketball teams for many years and earning the nickname “Jdigzwildcats” among his friends and community. He was also an avid

Alabama Crimson Tide fan (Roll Tide!) and cheered passionately for the Chicago Cubs. In addition to his love of Hammond High and Region sports, he was a devoted ARW Wrestling fan and loved supporting his favorite wrestler, Nick Diamond. Above all, Jason was a devoted husband and father who loved his family more than anything in the world. He was so proud of his children, their faith, and their journey with Christ. He cherished his wife Angela, his partner of 27 years, and worked tirelessly — even holding two jobs at times — to provide for his family and support his children in all their endeavors.

Jason was preceded in death by his parents, Rick and Josie Hawkins, and his grandparents, Bill and Gertrude Hawkins and Timoteo and Francis Medrano.

He is survived by his loving wife Angela; his four children, Anthony



(Krystal), John, Alyson, and Jonah; and two grandchildren, Kaylee and Giovanni. He is also survived by his two brothers, Matthew (Hillary) and Marty; his sister, Melinda; along with aunts, cousins, and a host of dear friends who truly loved him.

## THE PAV SUMMER SERIES

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## Operation Tidal Wave: U.S. forces attempt risky air raid on Axis oil refineries

On August 1, 1943, 177 B-24 bombers take off from an Allied base in Libya, bound for the oil-producing city Ploiești, Romania, nicknamed “Hitler’s gas station.” The daring raid, known as Operation Tidal Wave, resulted in five men being awarded the Medal of Honor—three of them posthumously—but failed to strike the fatal blow its planners had intended.

Operation Tidal Wave began ominously, with an overloaded bomber crashing shortly after takeoff and another plunging into the Adriatic Sea. 167 of the original 177 bombers made it to Ploiești, whose oil fields and refineries provided the Germans with over 8.5 million tons of oil per year. Whereas most Allied bombing in World War II was carried out from a high altitude, the bombers that raided Ploiești flew exceptionally low in order to evade the Germans’ radar. The bombers lost the element of surprise, however, when one group veered off on the wrong direction, forcing the others to break radio silence in order to direct them back on course. This unplanned adjustment also led to the bombers approaching from the south, where the Nazis had concentrated their anti-aircraft batteries.

The ensuing attack was dramatic, chaotic and costly. The Allies suffered heavy casualties, and smoke from the explosions caused by the first wave of bombers made visibility difficult for

subsequent waves. Survivors reported debris like branches and barbed wire hitting and even ending up on the inside of their planes. Lt. Col. Addison Baker and Maj. John Jerstad were awarded the Medal of Honor for their (unsuccessful) attempt to fly higher and allow the crew to bail out of their badly damaged plane. Another pilot, Lt. Lloyd Herbert Hughes, also received a posthumous Medal of Honor for flying his critically-damaged B-24 into its target. Col. John Kane and Col. Leon Johnson, who each led bombing groups that reached their targets, were the only men who were awarded the Medal of Honor and survived the raid.

Although the Allies estimated that the raid had reduced Ploiești’s capacity by 40 percent, the damage was quickly repaired and within months the refineries had outstripped their previous capacity. The region continued to serve as “Hitler’s gas station” until the Soviet Union captured it in August of 1944. 310 airmen died, 108 were captured and another 78 were interned in neighboring Turkey. 88 of the original 177 B-24s returned, most of them seriously damaged. Despite setting the record for most Medals of Honor awarded to airmen in a single mission, Operation Tidal wave was never repeated—the Allies never again attempted a low-altitude assault against German air defenses.

*Source: History.com Staff*

## PNW Nursing faculty member named American Academy of Nursing fellow

Purdue University Northwest (PNW) Associate Professor of Nursing Julia Rogers was named a 2025 fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, one of the highest professional distinctions for nurses.

Induction as an academy fellow is a prestigious recognition of a nurse’s contributions to health care through innovative, evidence-based solutions and advocacy for health outcomes in their communities. Rogers joins a distinguished cohort comprising nursing professionals who are leaders in health care policy, research, administration, practice and academia. Just over 3,200 professionals have been inducted from around the world since 1973.

“I am deeply honored to be named a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing,” said Rogers. “I could not have achieved this recognition without the support of my two sponsors, who played a crucial role in the Fellowship application process: Patti Ludwig-Beymer, professor of Nursing at PNW and Jamesetta Newland, editor of The Nurse Practitioner Journal. Their sponsorship provided the foundation for my career in nursing education, research and practice. I look forward to paying it forward and mentoring the next generation of advanced practice nurses.”

The American Academy of Nursing serves as a professional organization for the advancement of health policy and practice through the



*Julia Rogers, associate professor of Nursing at Purdue University Northwest, was named a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, one of the highest distinctions for professional nurses.*

synthesis and sharing of nursing knowledge. The academy’s mission focuses on achieving health equity through policy in nursing leadership, innovation and science.

Rogers’ scholarship focuses on advanced pathophysiology. Among her teaching initiatives, she leverages augmented and virtual reality 3D visualization learning tools to teach PNW nursing students, which her research has shown helps them better retain information. Rogers also serves as a pulmonary/critical care nurse practitioner, where she bridges academic innovation with clinical excellence while mentoring the next generation of NPs.

Earlier in 2025, Rogers received the American Association of Nurse Practitioners’ (AANP) Award for Outstanding Contributions for the state of Indiana. The accolade recognizes nursing professionals for advancing the NP profession through education, research or policy initiatives. Rogers was named an AANP fellow in 2022.

*Source: Purdue University Northwest*



# 219 Coffee Shop Ribbon Cutting



*Such a great day officially welcoming 219 Grounds to the City of Hammond! Congratulations to Luis and Eva Gomez for creating such an amazing space to enjoy a delicious cup of coffee and tasty treats! Their story is truly inspirational! Glad to have them in Hammond! Also, thank you to Mayor McDermott, Councilman Dave Woerpel, and the Director of Economic Development, Juan J. Moreno for your words today! Stop in, if you haven't already and try their Spanish Latte! Address: 2205 169th St, Hammond, IN 46323, (219) 803-0197*

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# A heart attack while shoveling snow. Then another emergency during cardiac rehab



Kyle Wessels was 47 and shoveling snow when he had a heart attack. (Photo courtesy of Kyle Wessels)

Looking out the window of his home in Troy, New York, on a Friday night, Kyle Wessels made note of his first chore the next day: shoveling snow.

On Saturday morning, he saw that only a few inches of snow had fallen, but it was the wet, heavy kind.

Having grown up in Troy, then-47-year-old Wessels knew the drill. He grabbed his snow blower and shovel and got to work. A lifelong athlete, Wessels was in good shape.

After 40 minutes, he took a break. This was normal.

He went into the house, sweating and overheated, much more than normal. He ripped off his jacket and sweatshirt. It only got worse. Out of nowhere, he felt an intense pressure on his chest.

His wife, Michelle Wessels, usually did grocery shopping at this hour. That morning, though, she was still home. He screamed her name, then dropped to the floor in pain.

When she arrived, he forced out the words, "There's something going on." Michelle called 911. The EMTs arrived in under five minutes.

"You're having a heart attack," one of them said after hooking him up to a monitor.

Kyle could still walk, though barely. Two EMTs held him up by his armpits as they guided him to the ambulance. That's the last thing Kyle remembers about that morning.

One of the main arteries in his heart was blocked, preventing normal blood flow. Doctors inserted two stents to open the blockage. They also put him in an induced coma to let his body heal from the trauma, and they implanted a pump to keep his heart beating properly.

The next thing Kyle remembers is waking up in the hospital, connected to a ventilator, with tubes running out of his arms.

Once he could talk, he asked Michelle about their teenage son and daughter.

"They're in school," she said. "I'm trying to keep things as normal for them as possible."

"Wait, what day is it?"

"Tuesday," she said.

He'd thought it was still Saturday.

Doctors told Kyle the blockage was likely caused by a piece of plaque breaking off. But they couldn't understand why he had plaque buildup in the first place. Kyle had normal blood pressure and cholesterol. He didn't have diabetes, never smoked and rarely drank. He had no significant history of heart disease in his family. Later, when a nutritionist came to talk to Kyle and Michelle about how to make healthy food choices, they were doing most of it already.

Two days later, on a Thursday in March 2023, Kyle was able to go home. He had lost 31 pounds, leaving him so weak

that he had to use a walker for a few days.

Michelle sprang into action. With a full-time job and two active teens, she focused on taking care of everyone.

"I didn't have time to be scared or nervous," she said. "My thinking was, 'We're doing what the doctor said, and we're going to be fine.' I had to be the positive force."

Kyle, on the other hand, had all the time in the world "to rest and think."

"I realized how some things are out of your control," he said. "I had some dark days. It was a very humbling time."

He reached out to friends. He became connected with fellow heart patients. Hearing their stories helped.

That April, Kyle was excited to start cardiac rehabilitation at the hospital. He quickly built up his strength and stamina and felt great. He also returned to work part-time.

In late June, just a few weeks shy of completing rehab, Kyle was on the rowing machine when one of the technicians came running over. A monitor showed that Kyle's heart rate was accelerating.

"Come with me right now," the tech told Kyle, making Kyle sit in a wheelchair, then rushing him down the hallway to the emergency room.

At first, Kyle didn't understand. He felt fine. Then came the horribly familiar feeling of profuse sweating. He poured water over his head from the bottle he'd been sipping from.

Before they could get to help, Kyle slid out of the wheelchair

and landed on the ground. He had stopped breathing.

Medical staff rushed to stabilize him. They shocked his heart with a defibrillator. Then he was rushed to the catheterization laboratory for a closer look at the problem.

Kyle had experienced a type of irregular heartbeat called ventricular tachycardia. V-tach causes a fast heart rate that starts in the heart's lower chambers, which prevents them from filling completely with blood between contractions. That compromises blood flow to the rest of the body.

In the cath lab, Kyle received two more stents in the same artery as the first two. The cardiologist said the V-tach was caused by a pinching in the complex placement of the first two stents.

Kyle was discharged four days later. For the next 90 days, he used a wearable cardioverter defibrillator to monitor his heart rhythm; if something went wrong, the device would deliver an electrical shock to the heart to restore a normal rhythm. He ended up receiving an implantable pacemaker and cardiac defibrillator to do what the wearable device had done.

These days, all is well.

He and Michelle are even more mindful of their diet, such as Kyle having completely cut out fried foods. He also walks more. Kyle is as active as ever – golf is his top passion – though he is reluctant to push himself to the max physically.

The one activity he's vowed never to do again? Shovel snow.

Source: *American Heart Association News*



Indiana, Sheriff's Department  
**Warrant Division**  
For Lake County of Indiana.



**WANTED**

Name: ..... COLLINS, AMY NICOLE

Alias:

Sex ..... Female

Height ..... 5'3"

Weight ..... 200 Pounds

Eyes ..... Blue

Hair ..... Blonde

Marks/Scars/Tattoos ..

Wanted For: ..... POSSESSION OF  
..... METHAMPHETAMINE

Name #: ..... 060N08772

Date of Birth ..... 1/19/1983



**WANTED**

Name: ..... EMERSON, BRYANNA MARIE

Alias:

Sex ..... Female

Height ..... 5'0"

Weight ..... 143 Pounds

Eyes ..... Green

Hair ..... Blonde

Marks/Scars/Tattoos ..

Wanted For: ..... POSSESSION OF  
..... METHAMPHETAMINE

Name #: ..... 19N014839

Date of Birth ..... 5/10/1994



**WANTED**

Name: ..... HUDSON, MARCUS ALLEN:

Sex ..... Male

Height ..... 5'10"

Weight ..... 140 Pounds

Eyes ..... Brown

Hair ..... Black

Marks/Scars/Tattoos ..

Wanted For: ..... AGGRAVATED  
..... BATTERY

Name #: ..... 910085432

Date of Birth ..... 4/5/1971



**WANTED**

Name: ..... HENDERSON, TARA MARIE

Alias:

Sex ..... Female

Height ..... 5'5"

Weight ..... 156 Pounds

Eyes ..... Blue

Hair ..... Brown

Marks/Scars/Tattoos ..

Wanted For: ..... ESCAPE/ UNLAWFUL  
..... POSS OF SYRINGE / FALSE INFORMING

Name #: ..... 990011340

Date of Birth ..... 11/4/1979



Anyone with information concerning this subject please contact: Lake County, Indiana, Sheriff's Department Warrant Division  
(219) 755-3057 Report A Crime HOT LINE (800) 750-2746

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