



MARKTOWN UPDATE

A publication of the Marktown Preservation Society

August 2005

S.T.A.R.S. Participants From Marktown - Gone Sailing!

"You couldn't have picked a better day for it" said Ms. Maria as she prepared to depart for a morning of sailing with five young men and women from Marktown. The date was Tuesday, June 21st and the departure time from Marktown was 8:00 AM. Ms. Maria went on to say, "Just getting some of these kids out of bed at that hour in the summer is difficult enough, but to get them to go sailing, now that can be a problem - until now."

It was a perfect day made even better by Captain Art Thompson of Island Time Charters, LLC located at the Robert A. Pastrick Marina in East Chicago. Captain Thompson is the Master and Captain of the 35 1/2 foot sail boat Island Time. While he resides in Munster, Indiana, he is obviously more at home upon his sail boat.

Those that participated from Marktown for the first of what is hoped to be a continuing program were Marty Unger, Jessie Cavazos, Omar Perez, Sylvia Perez and Brian Dail. They were accompanied by Ms. Maria who sported her deck shoes and sailing cap.

Once on board the boat they were given a few of the basic rules of seamanship by the Captain. Before they did anything else, each was required to don a life jacket.

Marty Unger was ordered forward and given instruction on how to cast off the bow line as the Captain prepared to get underway. They left the marina under power, but once beyond the break wall the engine was turned off and the jib sail was set.

Each of the participants had the opportunity to pilot the boat standing behind the large stainless steel wheel or helm as it is called. "It was exciting and a lot of fun," said Marty. "I've never done that before and I hope I get to go back and do it again."

At one point in their day's event one of the would be pilots turned the craft abruptly and Ms. Maria was heard yelling "Cap Overboard - Cap Overboard." No, it wasn't the Captain that went overboard, it was her sailing cap. The Captain took control of the boat and brought her about to retrieve the errant article of clothing.

Was it a great day for the children of Marktown? You bet. It is all a

part of the ongoing S.T.A.R.S. program brought to you by the East Chicago Parks and Recreation Department. Makes you want to be a kid again, doesn't it?

For additional information on sailing visit: www.IslandTimeChartersLLC.com

Below: Marty Unger prepares to cast off the bow line as Capt. Thompson prepares to shove off.

Left: Captain and crew have donned life jackets in preparation for the morning sail into Lake Michigan



E.C. Parks Department Helps M.P.S. Clean Up Marktown

Once again the City of East Chicago has hired a number of summer workers, all of whom are still students at either high schools or colleges and universities. Over 300 East Chicago residents are participating in this outstanding program. Some serve as interns while others work at the city pools, paint curbs at intersections or help to keep our parks green.

In the July issue of Marktown Update we ran an article titled **"Weed Whacking Our Way To A Better Marktown"** in which we explained our ongoing street maintenance program in Marktown. This past month we were informed that Rudy Byron and his staff have decided to assist the Marktown Preservation Society in cleaning up weeds that grow out of the sidewalks and along the public right of way and the houses.



No, they cannot and should not go onto private property to weed whack, mow the lawn or to perform other maintenance activities. But they can help clean up the street scape and improve the overall curb appeal of the Marktown streets.

Marktown residents David and Ryan Rodriguez were among those hired this summer. David is assisting Sgt. Don in the Marktown Park while Ryan has been assigned to the Maintenance

Division of the Engineering Department under the supervision of Mr. Camacho.

If you see any of the summer workers out on the streets or parks working, beep your horn and give them a big thumbs up for a job well done. We're all working to make this a better, cleaner and safer place to live, work and enjoy life!

Marktown A Part of Whiting 4th of July Parade Once Again

While Marktown hasn't had much of a real parade since our Diamond Jubilee in 1967 that doesn't stop residents of Marktown from attending local Independence Day Parades throughout the region. Probably the best two parades in Lake County are the Highland Twilight Parage and the Whiting 4th of July Parade.

As long as there has been a Mark Town Site (Marktown Historic District) residents of this neighborhood have attended the Whiting Parade. This year's parade kicked off at 10:00 AM on the 4th and went south on Indianapolis Blvd. to 119th Street and then east to the lakefront park.

Marktown resident Paul Myers took time off from the World Changers project to keep up the tradition that he and

his family have had for years: that of driving their Model A Ford in the Whiting parade.

Paul and his father, Robert E. Myers (deceased), restored the 1928 Model A Ford more than 30 years ago. While it could use some work once again, it still runs good enough to drive in parades and service the community.

Paul can often be seen using the Model A for his routine gardening projects. All of the perennials

planted in the Prospect Street gardens last year were brought into Marktown using the truck.

Says Paul, "While I don't like driving it on long trips, I do enjoy driving it here in the Calumet Region and I love parking it by my home on Prospect Street." It may be an oldie, but it is obviously a goodie!



The 1928 Model A Ford Woody has been a part of the Marktown Historic District for more than 40 years. It can usually be found parked on Prospect Street on weekends during the summer months.

With TEAMWORK all things are possible. Let's all work together to make the Marktown Historic District a better, cleaner and safer place to live and to raise our families.

Field of Dreams Found In Marktown Park

Once again the softball field in the Marktown Park is being used for its true purpose - softball. A number of years ago the field was in disrepair and not used at all. Several years ago the Parks and Recreation Department renovated the field so the Lady Cardinals could use it as a home field. Following that the city began hosting an adult softball league at our park. The 2005 season has once again seen the field being used for the Lady Cardinals and this year for a three night adult league program.

Adult teams are playing on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings and will continue to do so until the end of the season on Aug. 26th. Unfortunately, one of the problems this year is the prolonged drought in the Calumet Region which has left a good portion



of that park absolutely brown. Sgt. Don of the Parks Department has been doing his best with the assistance of summer Parks Department worker David Rodriguez to get the sprinklers turned on on a regular basis so that the parks will be green once again.

Fortunately for all of us, grass does not die - it goes dormant until it is watered. With the summer jobs program for E.C. youth the parks and much of the city are looking greener and better each day.

The Marktown Preservation Society is still working on securing ownership of the parking lot adjacent to the softball field. We will keep you posted on the status of the transfer in Marktown Update. Until then - Play Ball!

If you get a chance stop over at the ball diamond and enjoy a great evening of softball.

Summer Help At The Marktown Community Center

Summer in Marktown means additional summer workers at the Old Marktown Community Center. New this year is a nutrition program headed by East

Chicago's own Maryetta Johnson. She not only teaches the children what foods are good for them, but she makes preparing them even more fun.

If you have not signed your children up for the S.T.A.R.S. program it's not too late. Stop in and see Ms. Judy or Ms. Maria today. Summer is almost over!



Maryetta Johnson is a graduate of Purdue University and is a teacher at Block Jr. High School.



Jose Larios is a graduate of E.C. Central H.S. and is currently enrolled at Ivy Tech - East Chicago



Angela Gonzalez is also a graduate of E.C. Central H.S. and is a Junior at Purdue University Calumet

Talk is cheap. Action is priceless. Take action. Make a POSITIVE change on YOUR block.

Stucco Restoration In Marktown

Whether you are restoring a previously closed in front porch or you are getting ready to paint, the repair of stucco is probably not something that you want to take on yourself. Applying stucco to a Marktown building, or any other type of building as far as that goes, is a true art form.

When the stucco was first applied in Marktown they used horse hair as a bonding agent. It served to tie the stucco together. In the 1940s through the 1960s when horse hair was no longer available they used asbestos. Obviously, asbestos is not used any longer and we doubt that any was ever used to make repairs in Marktown.

Exactly what materials are being used to do proper stucco repairs is relatively a trade secret. Depending upon the weather and the surface area to be

replaced, a stucco job can take one day or several. The process includes prepping the area by cleaning up any loose materials, and then two or three coats

of stucco are applied.

Photos:

TOP: Tom Webber of AA Webber Plastering, Inc. is shown making stucco repairs to a Marktown porch that was recently opened up and restored. Mr. Webber can be reached at 384-5912.

CENTER: Virtually the entire wall of this six room single cottage will need to be replaced. Failure to do so will cause additional damage to the structure and interior.

BOTTOM LEFT: An original terra cotta block used in the construction of the worker homes in Marktown.

BOTTOM RIGHT: A missing section of stucco between two second floor windows.



It is far easier and less expensive to restore a Marktown home than it is to alter it, and besides, it is a great deal more fun. Make the restoration of your home a fun project for the entire family!

Letters From The Front - Iraq Update

10 June 2005

Dear Mrs. Hicks and Ms. Perez,

I received your letter and pictures from the children. I have them proudly displayed on my wall in my living quarters. I am always very honored to receive mail from my young friends and hope I can keep them a little informed as to what we do here.

I really enjoyed being the letter carrier for Marktown and Mrs. Hicks. I remember you quite well. You had a shepherd but he was always friendly to me after I got to know him. I believe Mr. Timmons was the most legendary letter carrier to deliver in Marktown. When people speak good about you after you leave, well, that says it all.

We are well into our sixth month and looking forward to the next six moving just as swiftly. Its about 108 degrees in the shade today but there is very little going on. Quiet is good I guess, I know it's all right with me.

There are several soldiers from the East Chicago area here with me. I have to remind them from time to time, the mailman should get pictures. I hope you don't mind my humor but it gives me a chance to brag a little. Take care and I hope to hear from you soon. May the Lord keep you and bless you beyond your greatest desires.

Sgt. John Spann -
Somewhere in Iraq



Photos: (TOP) Sgt. John Spann poses with some of the drawings from the children of Marktown that he has on the wall of his quarters in Iraq. Sgt. Spann had been a letter carrier in Marktown for the U.S. Post Office several years ago. (RIGHT) Tomas Canchola in Iraq.

Additional photos, letters and postcards from Sgt. Spann and other young men and women currently serving in Iraq are on display at the Old Marktown Community Center. Stop in and see what positive affects the children of Marktown are having on the lives of these brave soldiers.

23 June 2006 email from the front

Hello Mr. Myers..

It is nice to see that Marktown is getting back on their feet and wanting to do something with it since it is where we live. I know it takes a lot of effort to bring the community together and do something about it. I really admire you for trying to so and for saying what is true. Some of the homes in Marktown make the other look horrible. I wanted to thank you for giving me the opportunity to be in the Marktown news letter and letting the people that they have heroes around them. I finally seen Lenart about 3 days ago. He was here because he was getting ready to go on pass back to the states. He should be there by now. I told him your message and he laughed about it. I can't wait to see the new changes in December when we get back. Take it easy and until later..

Tomas Canchola in Iraq

Editor's Note: We greatly appreciate hearing from Tomas Canchola and are overwhelmed that he has taken the time to write to us. The problems that face Marktown have built up over the past 30 plus years. They will not be resolved in one season or even five years. We can tell you that the more support we get for our projects, the easier it will be to make a difference in Marktown.



Let's all support the young men and women serving in the Armed Forces of United States. For information on what you can do to help - see the ladies at the Marktown Community Center.

11th Annual Pullman Garden Walk - Community Pride In Bloom



Built more than 30 years before the Marktown Historic District, the Pullman Historic District stands as a shining example of historic preservation at its best. On Sunday, June 26th they held their 11th Annual Garden Walk.

Neighbors opened their private gardens to

the public and literally hundreds of garden lovers from across the Midwest visited their neighborhood for this very special event.

Planting and maintaining gardens, whether public or private is a clear indication that people in the community take pride in their neighborhood.

Feel free to contact us via the internet at mrmartown@sbcglobal.net

Carnegie Library Joins Marktown On The National Register of Historic Places

For more than thirty years Marktown has been the only neighborhood in East Chicago listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Well, that is about to change. Joining the Marktown Historic District soon will be the historic Grand Boulevard Carnegie Library which is located at 135th Street and Grand Boulevard in Indiana Harbor.

Designed in 1913 by Argyle Robinson, the Indiana Harbor Public Library, as it was officially named, is a single-story brick building on a raised, or English, basement. It is constructed in the Arts and Crafts style. The building is comprised of the original 1913 library and a 1931 addition with three distinct parts: a center reading room, an east reading room the size of the original library, and a library operations addition.

We often refer to this building as a Carnegie Library due to the original funding source for the building. In 1901, at age 66, steel magnate Andrew Carnegie sold his corporation and retired to a life of distributing his massive wealth. One example of his philanthropy was the 55 million dollar funding of 2,509 libraries, 1,679 in the United States. He spent 2.6 million dollars in Indiana. Carnegie believed that libraries *"allowed those who were able and willing to educate themselves and be successful, much like himself."* Alan McPherson's *Temples of Knowledge* is the definitive publication on Indiana's 164 Carnegie libraries. He theorized that Indiana has more Carnegie libraries than any other state because Indiana's *"library fervor,"* between 1900 and 1929, coincided with the "heyday" of the Carnegie Era.

Lake County had nine Carnegie libraries, the most of any Indiana county. Hammond, Whiting, and

Crown Point were early grant recipients, constructing their libraries between 1904 and 1908. Gary constructed a main library in 1910, the Hobart Branch in 1915, and the Bailey Branch in 1918. Lowell was the last recipient, constructing a library in 1920. Hammond and Gary Main were monumental structures that represented the size and demand of their growing cities, while the remaining libraries were a size

representative of a typical, small town Carnegie. The Indiana Harbor, East Chicago, and Lowell libraries were designed in what McPherson called the Prairie-Craftsman tradition of which fifty of the state's Carnegie's were designed.

Crown Point, East Chicago and Whiting still operate as libraries, Hobart Branch is a museum, Lowell is a business, and Gary Bailey Branch is vacant. Hammond and Gary Main have been demolished.

So, why place this grand old building on the National Register of Historic Places? There are several reasons. 1) Notoriety - being on the National Register gives you *"bragging rights."* Not every old building qualifies. It must have an out-

standing social or architectural history. 2) Preservation. Once on the Register, it is very difficult to raze the building utilizing state or federal dollars. 3) Funding - There are a number of tax credits and other financial tools that can help in the restoration of the building once it is placed on the National Register.

And what will it be used for? Once restored it will become a center for the performing arts where residents can learn everything from classical guitar to drama and dance.

DID YOU KNOW??? *When the Indiana Harbor Library was first built, Grand Boulevard was called Grapevine Street?*



The Grand Boulevard Library as it appeared just a few years after the 1931 addition by Carl D. Norris.



The Grand Boulevard Library as it appears today. Unlike the First National Bank building, this grand old historic structure will most likely be restored and converted into the Carnegie Center for the Performing Arts.

Visit our web site at www.marktown.org for additional articles and information!

Every Marktown Home Had One: A Pantry That Is!

Every Marktown had some very basic amenities. From hot water heat, laundry tubs, electric lights, and yes pantries. Howard Shaw, the architect of Marktown, included pantries in virtually every home he designed from the most elegant to the most modest and Marktown was no exception.

Different pantries were located in the kitchens of each of the five original floor plans. In the six room duplex they were at the head of the basement stairs. In the four room duplex they were just around the corner as you enter the kitchen. With the seven room duplex they were adjacent to the basement staircase.

Pantries served a very important purpose in the original housing plans. You see, they didn't have kitchen cabinets as we know them today. The kitchen had a gas stove that was vented directly into the chimney. The kitchen sink was rather large and had a place for dishes to dry. Add to this a place for the ice box and that was the typical arrangement.



We Call It Teamwork And Community Pride

I don't know what they call it in other neighborhoods but in the Marktown Historic District we call it teamwork and community pride. As we reported last month, a new planter was installed at Broad Street and 129th Street at the intersection of Dickey Road. As we noted, it was teamwork that got the planter installed in June and the eight new trees planted last fall. But that isn't the end of the story.

With 2005 being one of the driest years on record how do we get this part of the park watered? As we noted two years ago, the East Chicago Fire



Department donated several sections of 1-3/4 inch fire hose to the Marktown Park when they were having difficulties in repairing the sprinkler system.

With those hoses in storage it didn't take a lot of work to get Tom Allen of Allen Landscape in Highland to donate a special sprinkler that attaches

to that very same 1 3/4 inch fire hose.

While we have no intentions of leaving the water on for prolonged periods of time, it is nice to see that the trees, planter and park are all doing so well. All of this is possible because of teamwork and yes, community pride!

INTERNET ACCESS MOVES FORWARD

NSI, the information technology contractor that is working for the City of East Chicago has donated two computers to the Marktown Community Center. This past week they also moved

forward with the next step of getting Internet access to those computers. An antenna has been installed on the roof the community center.

The next step is to install

a special relay antenna on the platting line tower of Mittal Steel on Riley Road. Once that is done we should have free Internet access for the Marktown Community center. Teamwork in action!

The printing of this newsletter is made possible through the generosity of Mr. Dan McArdle, a former Marktown resident and a true friend of this community.

The Arcade Garden Club Of The Pullman Historic District



The Arcade Park Garden Club was established in 1991 with three members. Currently they number more than 60 dedicated and talented members continually working to help beautify the Pullman Historic District.

Their efforts have been well received. In 2002, the Rose Garden won third place in Mayor Daley's

citywide Landscape Awards Program for Community Landscapes. Two years later, in 2004, Mayor Daley's Landscape Awards program presented the First Place award for Community Landscapes for the Gateway Garden "in appreciation for your efforts made towards beautifying the environment through landscaping."

Marktown: A Different Kind of Paint Job And a Different Set of Problems

It is a difficult situation. While many of us were preparing to make a world of difference in this community with the painting of Prospect Street, the youth of this neighborhood decided to make a totally different statement on the opposite side of our neighborhood and in a very opposite kind of way. While graffiti is not new to this neighborhood, it is seldom if ever that we see it appearing on a private residence.

About fifteen years ago we began having a graffiti problem. Some of the young residents of Marktown began spray painting gang signs on the park pavilion and maintenance building. We resolved the problem back then with a very positive approach. But the real question is "why do they do it?"

Let's take a look at the problem from the past. When young people spray gang signs on a park building they are trying to say that they own the property and the neighborhood. That the city doesn't care and neither does the neighborhood.

When we resolved the problem with the park pavilion those many years ago we took back our park. We let them know that it isn't theirs. Personally, I would think that if they are so proud of their gang affiliation that they would actually paint it on their own home so that everyone knows where they live. I would also think that they are so proud that they would actually do it in broad daylight. You know, maybe call a press conference. Have a photographer or two standing by and then reading a resolution or something stating "This is our neighborhood and we are in charge - this is gang land."

What is amazing about Marktown is that virtually nothing goes unnoticed. Without having even asked who sprayed the house on Oak Avenue the names of those who did it came forward within a day of the event.

Guess what? None of their parents own a home in Marktown. They are all the children of tenants of out of town property owners. Sound familiar. As someone who has rented to people I can tell you that you never know if they are going to be a good neighbor until after they move in. Personally, I have never rented to anyone who I didn't think would be a good neighbor. And if per chance they prove to be a

detriment to this community I have had absolutely hesitation in evicting them. Unfortunately, many out of town property owners only look at Marktown as a relatively easy income. They don't live here and what their tenants and children do in or to this neighborhood just doesn't appear to bother them.

If the graffiti on the Oak Avenue home had been sprayed on a private residence or even on parks property I am quite sure that it would have been removed immediately. But unfortunately, the owner of the Oak Avenue home has a track record of just not caring about things in this neighborhood. If he did the parking lot at the old Market Square building would

be cleared of the unlicensed cars, the broken down fence and the brush and weeds that impede the view of motorists entering and exiting Marktown on Spring St. would be gone.

If he did care he would have had the old Mill Gate Inn town down more than twenty years ago. It is obvious to all that he just doesn't care about this neighborhood.

So, how do we resolve this problem. The short range solution is to convince the little gang bangers wanna-be's that defacing public or private property is wrong. If they want to tag a house, then they should go tag their own. Even if we gave the names of the people to the owner of the property, it would be up to him to prosecute and the witnesses to testify. The chances of that ever going to court are between slim and none.

The long term solution to the problem is two fold. First: If Marktown is ever to be a truly great neighborhood again, each and every home needs to be owner occupied. Plain and simple. Empty houses are not homes and they are not good neighbors. Owner occupied residences generally equate to pride in their home and in their neighborhood. Secondly: We need to take greater pride in our neighborhood and work together to see that each and every home in the Marktown Historic District is fully restored to its original condition with open lawns, consolidated paint colors and gardens virtually everywhere.

Paul A. Myers - Resident and Preservationist

