



# MARKTOWN UPDATE

A publication of the Marktown Preservation Society

August 2007

## Congressman Visclosky Tours Marktown

July 5th found U.S. Congressman Peter Visclosky, Congressional Aide Mark Lopez and Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana's Tiffany Tolbert taking a walking tour of the Marktown Historic District. Congressman Visclosky has been a lifelong supporter of the steel industries in NW Indiana and across the nation and the purpose of the tour was to explain the neighborhood's relationship to the heritage of the Calumet Region and the various steel industries.

During the tour the Congressman had the opportunity to view the



various infrastructure improvements that have been made since Marktown was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. Many of those projects were federally funded through the E.C. Department of Re-development.

So important is the history of steel to the Calumet Region and nation that a steel heritage museum was slated for development on a brownfield site under the Marquette Plan: an economic revitalization plan released in 2005.

## Journey Of Hope Takes Detour Through Marktown

The 20th Annual Journey of Hope made an unexpected detour off of their original route when they realized the Indianapolis Blvd. bridge was closed on Friday, July 27th. As a result they found themselves in the Marktown Historic District trying to figure out how to get back to U.S. Route 20.

Their tour began on June 9th on the west coast of the United States and will end on August 12th. The Journey of Hope is a cross-country bicycle trek beginning in San Francisco, CA and Seattle, WA and ending together with all teams in Washington, D.C. The event raises funds and awareness for people with disabilities. Simply put, the Journey of Hope is a ride with a purpose. Make no mistake; this is not a simple ride. The Journey of Hope is about many things. It is about challenging the norm. It is about serving our com-

munities. It is about finding out more about themselves than they ever imagined. It is about having a dream. It is about a mission. It is about hope.

The true impact of the Journey of Hope can be felt through its programming across the nation. After riding an average of 75 miles a day, you won't find team members napping preparing for the next day's ride. They will be dancing at a friendship visit with a local group that supports people with disabilities, participating in a game of wheelchair basketball, performing puppet shows to educate children

on the abilities of people with disabilities, and learning life lessons that will impact them for the rest of their lives. This journey is service beyond self and the men of Pi Kappa Phi have been dedicated to people with disabilities since 1977. For additional info try [www.pushamerica.org](http://www.pushamerica.org).



visit us on line at [www.marktown.org](http://www.marktown.org)

## Acie Cargill Includes Marktown On New CD

Just when you thought that the Marktown Historic District would go absolutely unnoticed in the music industry, Acie Cargill comes to the rescue and includes us on his new CD simply titled **Northwest Indiana**. Out of all fairness to Marktown, this is not the first noted musician to have found our neighborhood. Apparently, Bill Monroe - the father of American Bluegrass music resided at the Mark Hotel for about five years while he worked at Standard Oil just down the street. We also had a music video made here a number of years ago, but most unfortunately we know of no copies that could be retained in our archive. But let's get back to Mr. Cargill.

Acie Cargill is the grandson of noted Kentucky ballad singer Hattie Mae Tyler Cargill. The banjo style he plays is called the Tyler drop-thumb in which the thumb comes to rest on the index finger and melody notes are thus played with the two nails and two pads (thumb and index finger). This gives a very "plunky" effect and the melody is thus emphasized. This techniques is especially adept at accompanying singing or a fiddle or mandolin.

Acie has been recorded for the Library of Congress playing this old-style. The Tylers were known in Kentucky as preservationists. They had their own tunings, tunes, and songs and they played in old

scales that had been passed through their family for many generations.

Steve Terrell of the Santa Fe Opry called Acie one of America's best song writers. *"Acie records traditional music that he remembers from his boyhood and also songs and tunes that he composes."*

We thank Mr. Cargill for having visited Marktown and for including us in his musical legacy.



## Judge Sonya Morris Invites E.C. Youth To Court

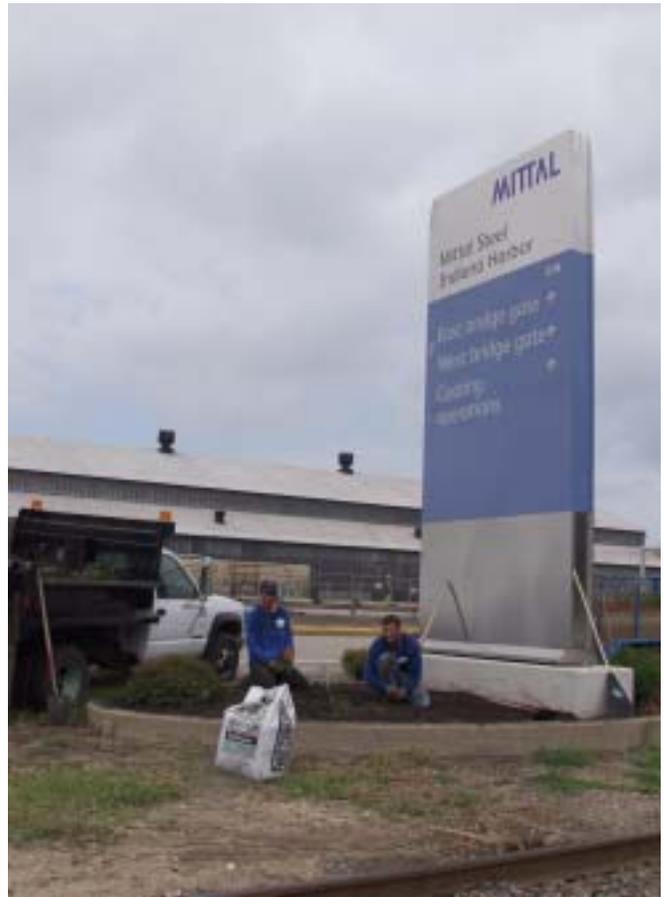


July 19th found well over one hundred youth from across East Chicago participating in **Judge Sonya Morris's Day With Our Youth**. The program included an interactive participation program in the City Court and a tour of the Police Department and city jail by Officer Tanya Edwards of the ECPD. It was most amazing to see the judge interact with the children and young adults. While prizes were given for correct answers during a quiz, everyone went away with a gift bag and a wonderful learning experience.



# Industrial Stewards Abound Around Marktown

Once again it is our pleasure to give credit where credit is due and express out thanks and appreciation for the corporate stewardship of some of our neighbors. Safety Kleen and Mittal Steel West spend thousands of dollars each year in improving their landscape and public image from the street and in doing so, improve the image of the Marktown Historic District. We thank them for their efforts.



# Marktown Youth Help Cleanup Neighborhood

For the first time in several years two public structures in Marktown were graffitied by unknown parties. Without hesitation, Democratic Precinct Committeeman Javier Madrigal purchased the paint and two teenagers from Marktown volunteered to paint over the graffiti. It probably took less time to clean it up than it did to apply it. Additional graffiti was also found on the painted steel sculpture in the park. The city was notified and sent their graffiti removal crew to resolve that problem. WELL DONE!



# Marktown Gardens In Bloom Once Again





# Marktown & The E.C. Comprehensive Plan

## E.C. looks at its future

Friday, July 20, 2007

BY STEVE ZABROSKI - Times Correspondent

EAST CHICAGO | Residents and urban planning experts got down to the nitty gritty on Thursday night in discussions about possible contours of the city over the next decades.

It was the second in a series of community workshops to develop a so-called "comprehensive plan," which would serve as a blueprint for revitalization of the aging former industrial powerhouse. The meeting brought neighbors from across the community together at Heritage Hall to speak their minds.

Are million-dollar condominiums on a reconfigured lakefront desirable? Should former Mittal Steel brownfields be redeveloped as the Midwest's largest industrial park? Can properties along the Grand Calumet River be restored as wild-life habitats with enhanced recreational opportunities?

"We're looking at the whole city of East Chicago and the future of East Chicago," said John LaMotte, principal with Chicago-based The Lakota Group, leader of a five-company team hired to craft a coordinated framework for land use, transportation, housing and infrastructure improvements.

"We're looking at East Chicago within the big picture of the whole region," LaMotte said, "So we can give tools to the city so they can do things in a better way."

Lakota, along with architect BauerLatoza Studio and financing expert S.B. Friedman & Co. of Chicago, transportation specialist RQAW of Indianapolis, and civil engineer Huff & Huff of Oak Brook, Ill., have spent the past 16 months creating a comprehensive plan for the city to address its weaknesses and build on its strengths.

Some residents said that marketing the city's ample open space — literally millions of available square feet — for nonpolluting business uses was preferable to following an industrial model of serving the steel and oil industries.

Others suggested reopening public transportation links between Chicago and Gary to supplement the South Shore commuter train.

Most thought that removing abandoned industrial properties and connecting streets through the former facilities would strengthen neighborhoods and bring better retail and entertainment options for people living in the city.

And no one disagreed that some of the available property currently zoned as industrial could be put

to good use harvesting wind and solar energy for the pollution-free production of electricity.

The planning team will be integrating the comments heard from residents on Thursday over the next few weeks into the next draft of the comprehensive plan, which LaMotte said would be brought back for further public review this fall.

In addition to the workshops, the plan must still be addressed in public hearings before the Plan Commission and City Council before becoming official policy.

Maps and illustrations outlining various options for East Chicago in the future developed by the comprehensive plan team can be viewed on the Internet at: [www.TheLakotaGroup.com/ECcompplan](http://www.TheLakotaGroup.com/ECcompplan)



### More About the E.C. Comprehensive Plan:

The East Chicago Comprehensive Plan will be a long-term document that will be used by elected and appointed officials, community leaders, residents, property and business owners, and developers as a guide for planning and development decisions over the next 10 to 20 years.

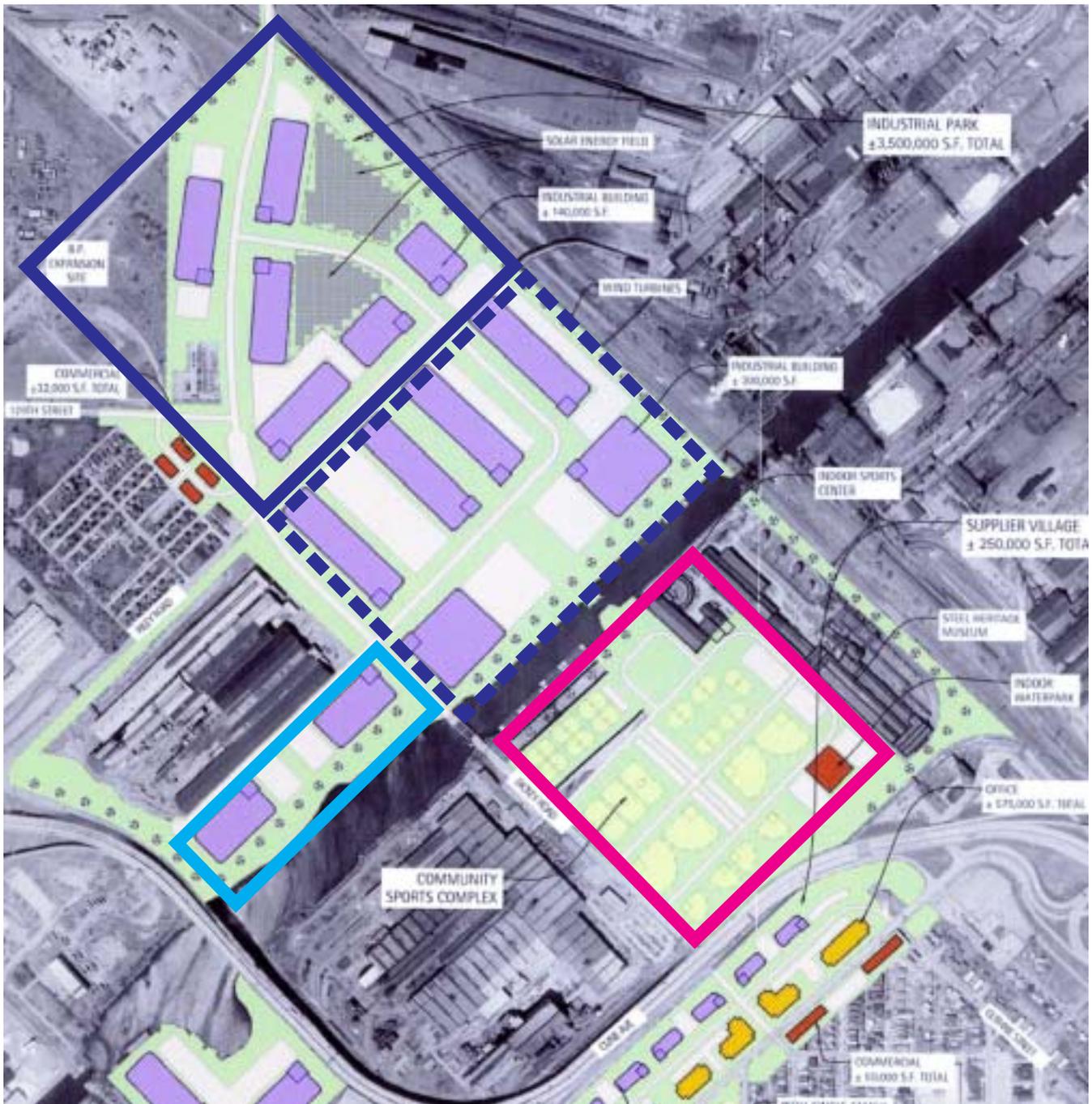
The planning process represents an important opportunity for the City to:

- Create a clear, documented vision for the community's future.
- Establish a short- and long-range development framework.
- Create development concepts for key sub-areas.
- Attract land uses and development more compatible with community goals and needs, infrastructure, environmental conditions, and character.
- Improve the City's land use, physical conditions, and quality of life.
- Integrate neighborhood plans into a larger community-wide vision.
- Preserve and enhance the community's historic character and structures.
- Maintain an efficient transportation system.

The next step in the process is to create a draft Preliminary Plan, which will be reviewed at a future community workshop.

### Marktown And The E.C. Comprehensive Plan:

And what about Marktown? On the next page you will find one of the three proposal for lands adjacent to the Marktown Historic District. The Urban Land Institute Plan called for the linking Marktown to Indiana Harbor through a beautification plan for Dickey Road while the Marquette Plan called for new parklands and a steel heritage museum. Hopefully, these concepts will be included in the final plan.



Proposed site for new playing fields and park. This is one of the most contaminated properties on Dickey Road and will require major remediation if it is to be used for any purpose what so ever.



The property just north of Marktown has never been industrialized or built upon. The natural wetlands were filled in in the 1950. Doesn't it make more sense to put the new parks on this property than the other section of land just east of the canal on Dickey Road?



This property, adjacent to the No. 2 Sheet Mill on Riley Road and the Indiana Harbor Ship Canal has never been developed in the past. What makes better sense: the industrialization of the land or a quality of life based project.?



If they truly must industrialize this sections, what about the truck traffic down Riley Road? What about some nice landscaping to soften the edges the industry and the street?

# Marktown: It's about people, place and history!



*Jim & Mame Wilson*



*Jerry Patton & Lillia Bruns 4/1942*



*May & Leona Bruns circa 1925*



*Who is the little one?*

The restoration and preservation of the Marktown Historic District is not just about the homes, street scapes and parks It's about the people past, present and future.

Last month we featured photos of a present day Marktown family enjoying the Marktown park on Pine Avenue. When these photos were taken that park was still dune and swale. They are an important link to our past and help to show the viability of this neighborhood for the future generations to come. Let's work together to make Marktown a better place for all!



*Mrs. Bruns, Leona Bruns, Marion Wilson, Irene Wilson & someone?*



*Relatives of Lillian Bruns 1920s at 513 School Street.*



*Living room of 516 Grove St. in 1946 (Millman Family)*

**Marktown Update** is published each month by the **Marktown Preservation Society, Inc. (MPS)** from their office at the residence of Paul A. Myers. It distributed free of charge to all of the residents of Marktown. It is also distributed to more than 400 non residents via the U.S. Mail. An index to all of the past issues, as well as PDF electronic copies of each issue are available at the official

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