

MARKTOWN UPDATE

December 2002

New Community Center Planned for Marktown Historic District

The first new major construction for the Marktown Historic District in nearly 85 years is slated to begin in the first half of 2003. Fifth District Councilman Adrian Santos stated *"Ever since my election as your councilman seven years ago, I have been working with the Mayor, the administration and the residents of Marktown to see that they have a new community center. Finally, the time is right. The funds are available and the plans are being finalized for what is to be a most remarkable facility."*

The current community center is one of two buildings which were built in 1920 by the Mark Manufacturing Company as two-room school houses designed to serve our neighborhood. The first building, which sat northwest of the current center served kindergarten, first and second grades. The current building had also been a two room school building serving third through sixth grade. At sometime before WWII, the building was converted to a much need community center.

Enough of history, what about the new building? Well, what a building it will be! The 12,000 square foot center will cost approximately \$1,500,000.00, not including any equipment or furniture. The exterior of the building will be finished in brick and stucco and will parallel the overall design of our community.

The building will include an indoor basketball gymnasium which can also be used for other sports and activities. Along with this we will have a large multi purpose area (30X40 foot) with an adjacent kitchen.

An arts and crafts area is planed along

with two secondary rooms which will be used for recreation, meetings and a myriad of other activities.

To keep the center up to date and the children of our community well informed, a computer lab with nine computers is also in the plan. Both the Kellogg Corporation and Microsoft have been contacted in reference to donating the computers and software for the center. We have also spoken to the city administration about having AT&T Broadband internet and cable access provided to the new facility.



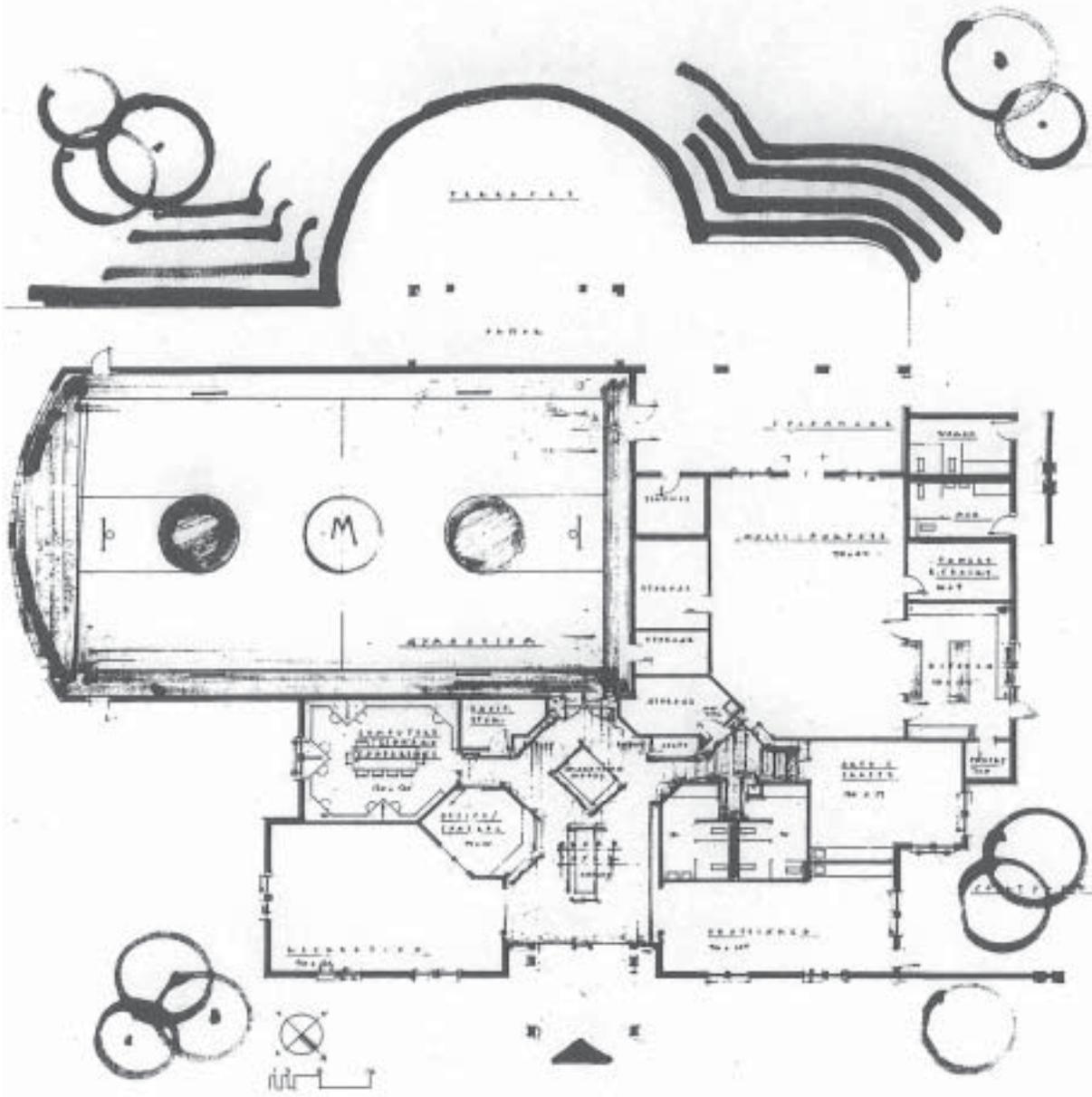
*Fifth District Councilman
Adrian Santos
Marktown's elected representative
in city government*

The building will be constructed just behind the current facility. A new parking area will be constructed and will include a place for the school bus to pull in, a flag pole and a fountain. The rear elevation of the building will be complete with a stage area overlooking the park and washrooms that will be accessible only from the outside of the building.

While initial plans for the building were announced several years ago, the forward momentum for the project did not

begin until Mayor Pastrick and Dr. Timothy Raykovich met with our residents earlier this year. Since then, a committee of residents has met several times with the East Chicago architectural firm of Detella, Palnera & Puckner.

The next step in the process will be community approval of the plans. A meeting is tentatively scheduled for the second week of January 2003. Announcements for the meeting should be in your mailbox or door the week before that meeting. If the plan is approved at that meeting, we should be breaking ground in May or June of 2003.



MARKTOWN COMMUNITY CENTER
 EAST CHICAGO, INDIANA

DETELLA, PLANERA & PAUKNER
 R.J. PRIESOL ASSOCIATE ARCHITECT

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

This past month a detailed review was conducted in reference to property tax exemptions in Marktown. One of the results of this review is that we can now identify which homes have exemptions, and more importantly, which owners are probably entitled to exemptions, but have not applied for them.

Property tax exemptions are financial tools that can be used by home owners to reduce or possibly eliminate property tax payments on owner occupied properties.

There are six potential exemptions that can be applied for. They are:

1. Mortgage
2. Homestead
3. Over 65 years of age
4. Disability
5. Disabled Veteran
6. Equity Line of Credit

With the current appraised value of property in Marktown, utilizing any one of these exemptions can cut your property taxes in half. If you are eligible for two exemptions, you will probably not be paying property tax at all. Please note that this is for OWNER OCCUPIED property only and not rental units.

Applicants must own the property prior to March 1, 2003 for the 2003/2004 taxes. The deadline for filing is May 10, 2003. If you have any questions in reference to property tax exemptions, please contact the Lake County Auditor's Office at 755-3152 or Paul Myers at 397-2239.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA PLANNED

The Marktown Women's Club is pleased to announce that the annual Breakfast with Santa is scheduled for Saturday, December 21. More than 125 children have signed up for the event. Each child will be served a continental breakfast and will receive a gift from Santa. Parents are encouraged to participate with their children. Children must be present to receive their gifts!

GRANTS AND NO INTEREST LOANS AVAILABLE TO MARKTOWN HOME OWNERS

The office of Housing and Redevelopment, under the direction of John Artist, has a most unique program for owner occupied properties in Marktown. Funds are provided for a grant of up to \$15,000 and/or a 0% loan with a term of up to 20 years to owner occupants of one to four unit residential properties, with one-year residency and are qualified below income limits. Loans are based on repayment ability. Contract sale purchasers are excluded.

All properties must be brought up to City Code, Energy Conservation, Exterior Beautification, Lead-Based Paint Reduction and Historical Preservation standards. If the grant cannot accomplish the above, the loan must be taken to complete the work. The program is applicable to residential structures only and several Marktown residents have taken advantage of this program in recent years.

For handicapped residents who need a wheelchair ramp to provide them access and egress, an emergency grant program is also available. At least one Marktown resident is now able to take his wife to the doctor's office a lot easier because of this most unique program. Applications can be picked up at the Department of Housing and Redevelopment at 4920 Larkspur Lane, East Chicago, Indiana.

NEW SEWER PUMP HOUSE SERVES COMMUNITY WELL

This past month when the power went out for an hour, the new pump house at the corner of Broad Street and Spruce Avenue did exactly what it was supposed to do. An alarm was sent to the Utilities Division and within five minutes a crew and auxiliary pump was on its way to Marktown. Craig Nelson and the Sanitary District did a great job!