



# MARKTOWN UPDATE

A publication of the Marktown Preservation Society

February 2004

## Marktown Women's Club Hosts Kids Bingo

by Paul Myers

Who would have thought that you could get fifty Marktown Children to show up at the Old Marktown Community Center on not only a Friday afternoon, but one of the coldest days of the year? The Marktown Women's Club did and it was a great time for one and all.

Back in August the Women's Club had a **"Back to School Kid's Fest"** at which the children of our community had the opportunity to win much needed back to school supplies. When the event was over they had a good amount of supplies left over. Now just what do you do with all of this great stuff? Simple, just wait until the spring semester begins and have



a Kid's only Bingo. And that's exactly what they did. Friday afternoon found the two Judy's, Kim Rodriguez and Juanita McCormick over at the center setting up the tables and checking out the bingo cards.

By 4:00 PM the center was filled with more than fifty Marktown children eager to play Bingo and have a great time. Kim Rodriguez made cup cakes and hot dogs were served during the break.

The children were overwhelmed when Ms Maria paid a surprise visit as all of the children jumped to their feet to greet her with hugs and kisses. What a great time for the children of Marktown. A big THANK YOU goes to the ladies.

## Marktown Preservation Society Holds Jobs Meeting

Thursday, January 22nd brought eighteen Marktown residents to the Old Marktown Community Center for the purpose of completing job applications for Gariup Construction Company in Gary. If you have followed the newspapers and prior issues of Marktown Update you know that at December 16th, the Parks and Recreation Department Board tentatively awarded the construction of the new community center to Gariup Construction of Gary, Indiana.

With the tentative awarding of the contract for the New Marktown Community Center in December of 2003 Joe Valdez, Superintendent of the Parks and Recreation Department and Board President Alex Sarkesian pledged to do all within their power to see that the various municipal ordinances which require minority participation and the employment of East Chicago residents on the job site is enforced. Their comments are what lead to the article in the January issue of Marktown Update titled **"Job Opportunities For Marktown And East Chicago Residents."**

Following the release of the January issue of Update, Paul Myers (as a private citizen and on behalf of the Marktown Preservation Society) took the

time to meet with Joe Valdez in reference to making job applications available to not only Marktown residents, but also for unemployed residents of East Chicago. Gariup Construction was contacted and agreed to permit Paul "to distribute and collect job applications for the upcoming construction phase of the proposed New Marktown Community Center" with the understanding that Gariup Construction would review all applications on their individual merit and would contact successful applicants when there is a need to hire new employees for the project.

The meeting began at 7:00 PM with opening remarks by Paul Myers, Director of the MPS and Joe Valdez who reiterated his remarks from the December 16th meeting saying that "I want to see qualified East Chicago residents hired onto this job and I want to see our hiring ordinances fully enforced on this project if at all possible."

Had this project been successful at least one third of the construction cost of the New Marktown Community Center would have returned to qualified East Chicago residents in the form of well earned paychecks as 2/3rds of the cost is labor.

## ***Ms Maria Gone But Definitely Not Forgotten***

About a year ago the East Chicago Parks and Recreation Department implemented a new after school tutoring program at many of the community centers throughout the city. The Old Marktown Community Center found Ms Maria Perez (*no relation*) assigned to the task to tutoring the children of our community.

It was a match made in heaven. Ms Maria fit into our community like mustard on a hot dog. Even though she did not live here she immediately became an integral part of our neighborhood and most importantly a part of our extended families.

Exactly why or how this happened doesn't matter. Maybe it was that fact that as a single parent she not only successfully raised her own children, but she did an outstanding job of it. Not only weren't her children in trouble when they grew up, but they have also gone onto college and will undoubtedly contribute to the betterment of society in general as they move forward and have families of their own.

On Friday, January 20th it was announced that Ms Maria would be transferred initially to Bessie

Owens Center in New Addition and would later have responsibilities at other community centers throughout the city. While an explanation as to why she was reassigned was not given, it wouldn't have done much good for the children and their parents were truly heartbroken at her loss.

Ms Maria has the ability to not only educate and assist our children, but more importantly to inspire them to greater heights. Her teaching methods are outstanding. She even got Paul Myers to come in this past summer and teach a children's form of hand book binding to the children of our community.

When Javier Madrigal, Kim Rodriguez and several other Marktown parents heard that Ms Maria was reassigned they immediately stepped forward and began walking a petition door to door in our neighborhood. While the petition has not been presented to Parks Superintendent Joe Valdez at the writing of this article, we can only hope that he will understand our communities needs and permit Ms Maria to return to our community at least 3 days a week.

## ***No Matter What You Do - You're Wrong!*** ***an editorial by Paul Myers***

I find it truly amazing that no matter what you do, you're wrong! It didn't use to be that way in Marktown, but most unfortunately that has been the case for the past two or three years. Let me give you a few examples.

Several years ago I decided to paint the trim of 413/415 Spring Street. I purchased the paint, got out the equipment and spent several weeks scraping paint, glazing windows, priming and then painting all of the trim. I no longer finished the job when someone came up and told me I should have painted my mother's home at 405 Spring Street instead. I couldn't believe it. Had I painted 405 Spring Street first they would have undoubtedly told me I should have painted 413/415 first. Go figure.

About two years ago I decided to restore the exterior of 402 Liberty Street, the home that I grew up in. I took out the proper permits and began by trimming back a Mulberry Tree and removing the roof. Over the next two days (Saturday and Sunday) my detractor called the police no fewer than three times in an attempt that I be cited or fined for placing the debris on the city street for removal on Monday.

You would think that after two days of complaining that they would have just given up, but unfortunately they didn't. On Monday morning her son-

in-law was there complaining to the building department and anyone else who would listen. Fortunately his complaints were in vein and I was permitted to complete the project.

This last month the same thing happened again. When I learned that Ms Maria would no longer be the tutor at the Marktown Center I volunteered to fill in for her on a temporary basis. I greatly enjoyed working with the kids and I think that they began to know and to understand me as an individual. Wouldn't you know it, but at a public meeting on Tuesday, January 27th there she was again. And what did she have to say? "*We don't want three white people teaching our kids!*"

I'm sorry, but this is totally inexcusable and unacceptable, whether in public or private. Until the election in May 2002 this neighborhood didn't have problems like this.

Let me give my detractors a bit of advise in the form of a classic saying:

*We make a living from what we get.*

*We make a life from what we give.*

*What we have done for ourselves dies with us.*

*What we have done for others and the world is immortal.*  
It works for me. You might want to try it for yourself.

***Need to e-mail us? You can contact Paul at [pmyers@eastchicago.com](mailto:pmyers@eastchicago.com)***

## Zoo Trip Enjoyed By One And All

Friday, January 2nd found nearly seventy children and a number of Parks and Recreation Department employees and volunteers headed to the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago for an evening with the animals for the Park's annual Zoo Lights program. While Marktown was not as well represented as we would have liked, those that did attend had a great time. Judy Hicks, Marktown Team Leader was accompanied by Ms. Maria Perez (no relation) and Parks and Recreation volunteer Paul Myers. The children from Marktown that participated included Vanessa Vidaurri, Celine Guajardo and Angela Van Boven.

The weather was outstanding as the temperature reached into the high 50's, and while it

did rain for a short time during the field trip it did not dampen the spirits of those who participated.

When asked why more children from Marktown did not participate Judy responded "Most of them just don't think it's cool to go to things like this." How unfortunate for the children in our neighborhood to think this way. It was a great time. The zoo was lit up with holiday lights. The animals and the children were all on their best behavior and everyone had a truly wonderful time.

We thank the Parks and Recreation Department, under the direction of Superintendent Joe Valdez, for planning such a wonderful experience for all of the children of this great city.



## Marktown Student Obtains Internship In Indianapolis

Marktown's own Brooke Hewson is making waves wherever she goes. Brooke is the daughter of Deborah & Steve Hewson and the granddaughter of Ruth Plesha. Brooke graduated from Bishop Noll Institute summa cum laude in 2000. Following graduation she attended Saint Mary's College at Norte Dame and is currently a senior majoring in political science at Purdue University Calumet with a 4.0 grade point average. She is on the Dean's List of Honor Students and is very active with a number of student organizations including: President of Political Science Association, Member of the Political Science Honor Society, a Senate Member of Student Government and a member of the Social Justice Club.

This past summer Brooke worked as a part time employee for the East Chicago Parks and Recreation Department where she worked in the Recreation Department.

What is Brooke up to today? Well



she is packing her bags and heading to Indianapolis where she will attend the Indiana State House Democratic Internship Program 2004. Brooke applied for the internship on line at Indiana's Web Site back in August '03.

While the internship will only be for ninety days, they already have her work cut out for her as she has been assigned to the legislature division where she will be handling press releases, articles, announcements on bills and a variety of other tasks.

When asked what her inspiration is she replied: "My mom, I have to thank her for everything.

*She's my role model. She's shown me how to fight, to stop at nothing - let nothing and no one hold me back; aim for the highest star and do not stop until I reach it. She's more than my Mom - she's my blood, my strength, my very best friend."*

I am sure we will be hearing a great deal more from Brooke in years to come. Well done girl.

***The printing of this newsletter was made possible through the generosity of Mr. Dan McArdle.***

# *History of Marktown - 1917 to 1967*

*from the Marktown Golden Jubilee Program*

*Saturday, July 15, 1967*

Marktown stands on what was once swampy marshland. In 1907, the East Chicago Engineering Department surveyed and laid out what are now known as Riley and Dickey Roads, both of which bisected Berry Lake. At that time Berry Lake extended from the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks almost to Forsythe Avenue, now Indianapolis Boulevard, and was an excellent spot for fishing, hunting ducks and geese, and for trapping muskrat. In order to transport the stakes and measuring pile for sighting a line from one spot to another, Lester Oenheimer Sr., and Charles Jeppson, who were working for the summer, would tie a piece of tough cord around their necks and then swim or wade from bog to bog. Upon reaching the bog, they would pull in the cord, to which was attached a rope that secured the stakes and measuring pile.

In 1913, representatives of the Mark Manufacturing Company of Chicago purchased a 92-acre site located on the west side of the Indiana Harbor ship canal from squatters who had built shacks along the lake shore and were carrying on a prosperous fishing business. It was not until July, 1916 that construction of the new mill began. Mr. Fred Schmidt, a resident of Marktown since 1921, was one of the construction workers.

At the same time that the mill was being constructed, the building of a "model city" called Mark Town Site was begun on a piece of property west of the steel plant at Dickey Road and 129th Street because the Mark Manufacturing Company realized the community could not provide housing for their employees. Mr. Mark sent architect Howard Shaw to Europe to study the industrial communities there and it was after them that Marktown was modeled. Unlike these stereotyped succession of houses, however, the homes were to be of different sizes and provisions were made for schools, shops, recreation, and club facilities. The townsite consisted of some 200 white stucco single and duplex type homes, a hotel, garage, and four store buildings with apartments above. There were also baseball and football fields, a tennis court and a playground for the children. The property was rented for low rates and the company kept the buildings repaired and decorated, and mowed, watered and reseeded the lawns. This prac-

tice was carried on when the Mark Manufacturing Company and the Iriquois Iron Company incorporated in 1918 to form the Steel and Tube Company of America, of which Mr. Mark was Chairman of the Board, and also when Youngstown and Sheet and Tube Company purchased all the holdings in June 1923. In 1942, the buildings were sold to individual buyers, with the residents of Marktown having first option to buy.

Colonel Walter J. Riley was the agent for Mr. Marks and was so interested in the progress in the construction that he made almost daily trips from Indiana Harbor in order to observe the work. He also included those who worked in the offices of the subdivision in the annual dinner and theatre parties that he gave for the employees of his bank.

The early residents of Marktown encountered some difficulties because there were no paved roads in the district, and once one arrived here the streets were so deep in mud that it was impossible for the wagons to be driven in. This made it necessary for the wagons to be left on Dickey Road and for the furniture and personal belongings to be carried in. One woman tells of wishing that her parent's piano would be dropped in the mud and ruined so that she would not have to take any more piano lessons. The outside steps of the homes had not yet been build, so planks leaning against the house were used as a means of entrance.

The residents of Stiglitz Park, located on the west side of Indianapolis boulevard, raised horses and cows which often wandered into Marktown to graze, and occasionally some of the more enterprising residents would

milk one of the visiting cows. There were horses in Marktown, too, but these were used to pull the wagons and other construction equipment, and were housed in barns located on what is now a ball diamond.

Before 1917, several homes had been built across Dickey Road in what was known as North Harbor and the occupants of these homes received their mail and voted in Marktown after its completion.

The hotel rooms were rented exclusively to men, but the dining room was open to everyone and was a lovely room in which the patrons were served by white-



*Mr. Roller --- front center  
1st Manager of Mark Hotel*

***A new motto for Marktown: Try to leave things better than you found them!***

jacketed Filipino waiters. There was also a large room in which several churches and other groups held their meetings. The first managers of the hotel were Mr. and Mrs. Roller.

The first grocery store, owned by Mr. George Blade, was a crude shed built onto the back of the hotel. Prior to that time, his store had been in one of the two buildings located on the present site of the Northern Indiana Public Service Company power plant on Dickey Road.

The first Post Office was at 3020 Oak Street, the home of Mrs. Dora Sheffield, and consisted of a counter and office equipment in the living room. After the post office was moved to the store building, Mrs. Sheffield retired and Mr. T. F. Hein, the manager of Marktown, asked Margaret Canon to become the postmistress, which she did. Mrs. Canon, now Mrs. Otis Burner, moved from the subdivision this year.

Another unusual feature of the "model city" was the fountain and park located in front of the store building, around which Dickey Road and 129th made a circle. It was a lovely spot in which to relax, but several automobile accidents occurred there, so for safety's sake the fountain and the greater part of the park were removed and the road was straightened in 1929. The store building was occupied by the post office, Blade's grocery, Lukins' drug store, managed by J.G. Jones' Edwards barber shop and pool hall. The repair crews, managed by Mr. Adam Redman, kept their supplies in a small building behind the stores. At present the building is occupied by a barber shop, construction company of-  
fice, grocery store, library and restaurant.

At the present time the school building houses a kindergarten and first and second grade, but when the school was first opened in 1920 there were five grades. The first teachers were Miss Haines, Miss Walker and Miss Sutton. Miss Sutton is Mrs. Harold Weaver, who was a well known East Chicago Girl Scout executive until 1966. For many years there was a local P.T.A. Chapter. The building next to the school is known as a community or recreation building and it is here that community meetings and parties are held. It was also in 1920 that Mr.

Mark purchased two buses and provided free transportation to Washington School for the children, and half-hour trips to Michigan and Guthrie Streets for the adults, also free of charge. The first driver was Mr. Lloyd Bunting. Mr. Mark held annual Christmas parties at the hotel and gave each child who lived here a lovely gift. The popular forms of adult entertainment were baseball games, street dances and pitching horseshoes. At one time Rev. J.M. Fildley Brown was director of recreation and supervised volley ball, tennis, baseball and track meets.

In 1920 the first Boy Scout troop was chartered in Marktown. The Scoutmaster was Charles Fuller and the assistants were Harold Bissonette, Sumner Van Inwegan and Joseph A. Malandrone. The first Cub Scout troop was chartered in 1931 in Marktown with David Taylor as Scoutmaster and Fred Paulsen and Raymond Shy as assistants. In 1925 The Girl Scouts were organized under the leadership of Miss Ardell Smith, but it was not until 1935 that the Girl Scout Brownies came into being.

During the depression the women of Marktown cooked and served dinner at the Marktown School in order to make sure that the children of those families which were without employment would have at least one nourishing hot meal a day. Because there was little money to spend on entertainment, the adults attended dances held at the Boy Scout house (now Riley Park) and it cost only 25 cents for the evening's entertainment.

The residents of Marktown have always been active in local and civic affairs, so it was only natural that during World War II, the community had a well-organized home defense unit which conducted safety inspections as well as policing the streets during blackout drills. The men and women took a different first aid course and a group of women rolled bandages. Many of these same women are now making cancer pads. The residents gave parties for the boys who returned home from the service, at which time they were also given gifts as a small token of appreciation. In 1942, a service flag and an honor roll plaque located at Park Street and Dickey Road were dedicated.



*Redman and Jones*

***Life begins when you begin to serve. Serve your neighborhood. Serve Marktown. Volunteer to help make Marktown a Better, Cleaner and Safer Place to Live and Raise a Family.***

The teenagers were also a civic minded group, either volunteering help or readily doing any task they are requested to do. They wished to contribute to the plans for the Golden Jubilee celebration, so held a bake sale and two paper drives.

The garage, which was operated by Mr. John Muldoon, is now a construction office and a bar and grill. The Shy family built the Mill Gate Inn, but are no longer connected with the business. Another landmark that is very familiar, although some distance from Marktown, was Barbour's Lunch-room which was situated at the foot of the steel mill bridge from 1928 until 1956. Several homes and garages have been built in what were empty lots and the small baseball field.

In 1952 the Civic Club was formed to act as agent in helping solve local problems. During its duration the children were given large Easter, Halloween and Christmas parties. After it was dissolved, the Men's Club was organized to carry on some of the functions, but it too, has disbanded.

Mr. Clayton Mark Sr., passed away in 1936 and his sons continue to manage Clayton mark Steel Manufacturing Company in Evanston, Illinois. We who live in Marktown are grateful that Mr. Mark was able to reach part of his goal of housing 7,000 people. Many residents have been here 30, 40 or more years, there are several three-generation families and one four-generation family --- Mrs. John Pollack, Mr. Albert Pollack, and Mr. Frank Pollack and daughters. Mrs. George Holzbah was brought here by his parents in 1918 and is still a resident.

This brings us to 1967. The town which was featured in "Ripley's Believe It Or Not" as the only town

in the country where the cars park on the sidewalks and the people walk in the streets is not too greatly changed. Television, bowling and more extensive traveling have replaced the former diversions --- walks to Indiana Har-

bor and to the canal bridge to purchase fish. The children's game of sitting at Dickey Road on Sunday afternoons counting cars and guessing their makes. But in spite of these changes, the neighborly feeling is still very much in evidence in time of trouble or good fortune. That this is a close-knit community can be attested to by the great interest in the Golden Jubilee and the many hours of hard

work that were exerted in order to make the celebration possible.

The festivities of the Golden Jubilee celebration opened in the morning with a parade led by a color guard and band, and included guests of honor and children with decorated bicycles, tricycles and buggies. Prizes were given in each category. After the parade free doughnuts and coffee were served. Races, a tug-o-war, and a pie-eating contest were followed by an Indian dance program.

Throughout the day game booths and pony rides were available for children and food stands for everyone. At the Hospitality Center former residents signed a guest book, there was a display of pictures and old articles, and the souvenir booklet was sold.

Late in the afternoon a more formal program was planned. At this time comments were made by guest speakers including

city and state notables, and a showteen performance was presented. Certificates of Recognition were given to the City of East Chicago, Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company, the family of Clayton Mark Sr., George Holzbach,



*One of two Mark Subdivision buses donated my Clayton Mark - drive Kenneth Redman*



*The original Marktown Garage which services company and Marktown resident vehicles. Now Michels Bar & Grill*

***Unless History Lives In The Present It Has No Future***

and the former Marktown resident or residents who had traveled the greatest distance in order to attend the Golden Jubilee. The celebration closed with a street dance.

Money to defray the expenses were obtained through ads purchased by companies, a donation from the Men of Marktown of the "thank you purse given to them by the residents for their hard work in clearing the streets during the blizzard in 1966, and bake sales, a bingo game, a pancake breakfast, a smoker sponsored by Marktown, and a teenage paper drive.

Mrs. Henry Barnett, Historical Chairman

### ***About the Marktown Golden Jubilee in 1967***

Several years before Marktown was to celebrate its 50th anniversary Democratic Precinct Committeeman William (Bill) Hess began working with the residents of Marktown on the plans for the celebration. As chairman of the event he was assisted by Mrs. Dan Cherogan and Mrs. Frederick G. Schultz who served as co-chairman. The Golden Jubilee Officers also included Treasurer Winston McDaniel; Mrs. Lucine Hess, Secretary Mrs. George Johnson; Assistant Treasurer Mrs. Dan Cherogan.

Other committees included:

***Refreshments*** with Mr. Fred Unger as Chariman, his wife Mrs. Mary Agnes Unger, Mrs. & Mrs. James Bruner, Mrs. Dan Cherogan, and Mr. Nick Ozarek.

***Ways and Means***  
Mr. Winston McDaniel, Nick Ozarek, Mrs. Fred Unger, Mrs. Marty Lewis, Mrs. William Morrison, Mrs. Joseph Derkacy, Mr. Ralph Reel and Mrs. William (Bill) Snyder.



*First teachers at the Mark School center -- Reah Weaver*

### ***Parade Committee***

Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Tonagel, Mr. & Mrs. William (Bill) McShane, Mr. & Mrs. Tom Setler, Mrs. Micky Varro and Mrs. James Clark.

### ***Special Committee***

Mr. Charles C. Hendley, Jubilee Engineer, Mr. Dennis Karas, Jubilee Advisor and Mr. Michael E. Connelly, Jubilee Attorney

### ***Street Dance***

Mr. Winston McDaniel, Mr. Leroy Dudek, Mr. Dan Cherogan and Mr. Fred Unger.

### ***Teens Committee***

Mrs. James Clark as adult assistant, Ms Debbie Setler, Ms Marsha McShane, Mr. Danny McArdle, Ms Janice Balog and Ms Patty Cox.

### ***Childrens Recreation***

Mr. & Mrs. Tom Setler, Mr. & Mrs. Alan Burrell, Mr. James Mullally, Mrs. Rose Johnson and Mrs. Gordon Morrison.

### ***Historical Committee***

Mrs. John Barsich, Mrs. Ray Meger, Mrs. Myrtle Fernando, Mrs. Russell Constant, Mrs. Henry Barnett, Mrs. George Johnson, Mrs. Mary Rodman, Mrs. Harry Smith and Mrs. Tom Wier.

The ***Ripley's Believe It Or Not*** illustration was a direct result of the actions of the Golden Jubilee committee and the hard work of Mrs. Dorothy Barnett. As a

part of the event a program was printed with a number of early Marktown photographs and the historical article included in this publication. To raise funds for the publication advertisements were solicited from local merchants including Main Sporting Goods, Marktown Barber Shop, Jim Mullally's Restaurant, Marktown Food Market, Carl's Hardware and Matchen Florist which was then owned by Bill Raykovich.



*Children at play in the original wading pool. The pool was located in the Old Park where the pavilion stands today.*

***Let's Work Together To Preserve Marktown's Unique History And Architecture For Future Generations***

# A Thoughtful Note From a Reader

*December 22, 2003*

Mr. Paul Myers,

I'd like to thank you for including us in the Marktown newsletter, etc. Don't think we have ever met, but I graduated from Roosevelt High School with Alice Williams, Class of 1950.

My folks first lived in the 4-plex at 416 Spring Street. That's where I was born, December 1932. Dad couldn't get his '28 Model A Ford started (below zero that day) so he walked across town to the Clark's. They had a phone and called Dr. Jones in Whiting who managed to get there in time to deliver me.

My brother Warren and I delivered all the newspapers for many years in Marks. My folks later moved to 411 Broad Street in one of the three big brick and stucco houses.

Anyway it was almost like one big family, everyone knew each other by name in those days. There are a lot of stories to tell, and I'm sure you've

heard a lot of them. But thanks for your efforts, and especially for not being intimidated by some of the characters who would ruin the community.

I read where a certain group would like to see you resign or be fired. Ha! Year's ago we had to deal with kids from "Stiglitz Park," the Harbor and elsewhere. Some came down to a good ol' fist fight. Keep up the good work and make sure that Marktown is restored so that others down the road will know what a truly wonderful place it really was and can be again.

Jim Springsteen

We thank Mr. Springsteen for taking time out to send us this wonderful note. While I do not remember Jim, I do remember his parents. They were a wonderful couple who always enjoyed life in Marktown and East Chicago.

Paul Myers, Editor



## New Marktown Community Center Construction Update

Keeping you informed is what Marktown Update is all about and since that is the case we thought it only appropriate to keep you posted on the progress of the New Marktown Community Center with a construction progress report each month. Once the new center is completed we will probably replace this section of Update with a monthly article titled "**Community Center Happenings**" which will let our residents and readers know what is about to happen or what has happened in the new center.

Where are we in the construction process? As we reported last month the contract was tentatively awarded and we are only waiting for the legal details to be worked out. On Monday and Tuesday, December 29th and 30th, the Common Council approved Ordinance **No. 0-03-0037, an ordinance of the Common Council of the Civil City of East Chicago appropriating gaming special revenue fund monies for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2004 and ending December 31, 2004** in the amount of \$19,150,000. Somewhere in all of that money are the funds for the New Marktown Community Center.

What's next in the process? As it was pointed out over 18 months ago, the land on which the community will be built is owned by the School City of East Chicago as opposed to the Park Department. The two organizations are currently working on the resolutions which will transfer the land to the Park Board. It is unclear as to whether or not the project will be able to proceed as planned without the transfer of the land. It should be noted that in 1967 and in 1983 when extensive work was done on the Old Community Center, a transfer of title was not needed. Hopefully the decision to proceed will be made and the contract will be able to be signed shortly.

The next step will be for the general contractor and the subs to put together the working drawings, order the steel and begin the excavation. One of the first steps that they will take will be to fence in the construction site so that the children of the neighborhood will be kept out of harms way during the process. We hope to see the fences going up in March or early April. We will keep you posted on the progress on a monthly basis in Marktown Update!

***Collecting information is the first step towards wisdom.  
Sharing information is the first step towards community.***