



MARKTOWN UPDATE

A publication of the Marktown Preservation Society

January 2005

Christmas Present



Christmas in Marktown 2004

Farewell to Mr. Adrian Santos - 5th District Councilman

A good friend of the residents of Marktown

Long before Adrian Santos was elected as our councilman in 1995 he was a part of this community. As a retired police officer he was willing and able to serve East Chicago and most especially the 5th District. In doing so, he attempted to make our communities a better, cleaner and yes a safer place to live, work and to raise our families. Sound familiar? He was here at the Easter Egg Hunt. He was here at the Halloween parties and the picnics. He was doing what all good citizens should do. He was attempting to make things better for everyone, and not because he had to, but because he was able to.

When Adrian Santos became Councilman of the 5th District in January of 1996 it was not on a promise of this, that or the other thing. It was as a reward for being a proven leader in this community. After the election he did not rest on his past accomplishments. He forged ahead and helped see that the street improvement project stayed on track.

It was Richard Suchanuk, Adrian Santos, Mayor Pastrick and me who initially put the plans on the drawing board for the New Marktown Community Center. Plans that would have been completed had that team been able to stay together.

As someone who has lived in this neighborhood all of my life, all of these 51 years, I can tell you that Councilman Santos was by far one of the best representatives on the Common Council that Marktown has had in decades.

It should be noted that in the past we have had Marktown residents hold Common Council positions. While the dates are uncertain at this time I do remember when Dennis Karras and James Ginther sat on the council. But since then, representation of the needs of the Marktown residents on the Common Council has been greatly lacking.

Adrian Santos, nay Council Adrian Santos, filled in a large and lingering gap in that representation. For those of us who know him we can tell you that he did not do the things for this community that he did for votes or political favors. He did them to make life in this most isolated of neighborhoods better for all of us.

As many of you may know, I am an early riser, especially in the summer months. I cannot tell you how many times over the past nine years I have been outside working at 6 AM when I have seen Councilman Santos driving through Marktown with a cup of coffee and a note pad making notes on debris that needed to be picked up, or rubbish in the park.

When Marktown was having an event, any event, Adrian Santos was there. Even if he wasn't physically there himself he always contributed to the success of the event, and often without even being asked. When families were truly in need, Councilman Santos would find a way to provide some type of relief, and usually without them knowing exactly where it came from. Why you ask? Because a good samaritan remains anonymous.

We all know that Councilman Santos resigned from office this year following federal charges being filed against him. The main issue was the tree removal and sidewalks in 1998 and 1999. I do not know of anyone who received a sidewalk or had a tree removed during that period of time who thought that it was illegal to do so. After all, tree trimming and removal has been a part of the Parks Department program for decades.

Had I known that we would have lost Adrian Santos as our councilman because of

this I personally would have waged a campaign to stop it at that time. But then again, I don't know of anyone who actually thought it illegal. Did I vote for Adrian Santos because a sidewalk was poured here or there? Or because a tree was trimmed or removed? No. I voted for him for the exact same reason many other people voted for him. Because Adrian Santos was a friend who treated all of us like family. What was good for Marktown was good for all of East Chicago. What was good for the 5th District was good for all of East Chicago. Adrian Santos, despite the fact that he has pled guilty, is a good person, and personally, I am pleased to count him as a dear and trusted friend. I wish him well and would be honored to have him over for a cup of coffee any day of the week. **Paul A. Myers, Editor**



***If it's a good idea... go ahead and do it.
It is much easier to apologize than it is to get permission***

Introducing Mr. Robert Garcia - 5th District Councilman

A man with a new vision for this District and all of E.C.

There's a new councilman in town and we wanted to be the first to introduce him to the neighborhood. His name is Robert Garcia and he will be replacing Adrian Santos as Councilman of the 5th District.

Councilman Garcia is a family man who resides with his life partner Casandra and 18 month old daughter Angaelina at 3733 Parrish Avenue, just over the Dickey Road bridge in Indiana Harbor. He also has a son Xavier (7 years old) and daughter Jacinda (12 years old).

Robert is a 1983 graduate from Washington High School here in East Chicago. He is a student at Indiana University Northwest and while he was enrolled in the Computer Information Systems program, he has begun taking metallurgical classes which assist him as a Quality Control Inspector with the CopperWeld Corporation where he is employed.

But what about his vision for Marktown, the 5th District and all of East Chicago. Well, this is what he had to say:

"It is a new and exciting time in E.C. and I am excited about being a part of that change. We need to start and look at things differently. We need to take off our blinders and face the reality of what has happened over the past several decades. We need to find innovative solutions to both old and new problems.

"If I had to think of two issues that are most important it would have to be public accountability and the property tax issue. While they are separate issues, they are also obviously connected to one another. The tax rates are high because there has been absolutely no accountability. Just look at the number of city employees, especially those in do nothing jobs. That's why the taxes are so high. Even after we began receiving \$20,000,000 in casino gaming dollars every year, we transferred the debt payment side of the city budget to the annual expense side and just kept hiring people and signing inflated contracts for things that anyone in their right minds would have questioned. We absolutely have to clean up this mess and the sooner the better.

"If I had to look at projects that need to be

addressed in Marktown I would have to say that the completion of the street project that was begun fifteen years ago would have to be top on my list for this next year.

"I know that the residents were promised a new community center in the past, but until we finally figure out exactly how much debt this city has to resolve, a major project like that will have to wait a bit longer.

"One of the concepts that I think all of the members of the Common Council would agree on is that we want to maintain the city services that we now have. We want to keep all of the community centers open, the parks properly maintained, the garbage picked up and the safety services provided by the Police Department, Fire Department and EMS on line and functioning to the best of their ability.

"Again, from a Marktown perspective I would like to take a second look on how they are going to dispose of the materials that will be removed from the Indiana Harbor Shipping Canal. If placing them at the proposed location on Indianapolis Blvd. is bad for Marktown - then it's bad for ALL of East Chicago.

"While I was very pleased to see Marktown included in the Marquette Greenway, I don't like the idea of moving Cline Avenue over to Dickey Road just north of your neighborhood. That just isn't going to work.

"As a Common Council, we as a legislative body, will have to address the municipal budget and the increased levy. From what I understand, the Marktown Historic District is the only neighborhood in all of East Chicago that managed to work together to lower their reassessment. That means lower taxes and all of those that participated in that appeal deserve a round of applause and your gratitude.

"I guess the bottom line is that I am here to serve the residents of Marktown, the 5th District and all of East Chicago. Like I read in your newsletter this past month "With Teamwork - all things are possible." I want to be a part of the team that provides a better life for all of the residents of East Chicago, the 5th District and yes, Marktown!"



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

THE MARQUETTE GREENWAY AND MARKTOWN.....

"Make no little plans: They have no magic to stir men's blood and probably themselves will not be realized. Make big plans; aim high in hope and work, remembering that a noble, logical diagram once recorded will never die, but long after we are gone will be a living thing, asserting itself with ever growing insistency. Remember that our sons and grandsons are going to do things that would stagger us. Let your watchword be order and your beacon beauty."

And so Congressman Visclosky's visionary plan for the future of the Greater Calumet area was unveiled, and with it the hopes and aspirations of generations to come as we transform the 100 year old industrial complex along the shore of the great Lake Michigan into the playground of the Midwest and the nation.

Over the past six months a series of public meetings were held in order to allow the residents of the Calumet Region the opportunity to voice their opinion as to what they wanted and didn't want in

this proposed new plan. While some came with a list of things they wanted to complain about, others came prepared with ideas, concepts and yes written reports and plans as to what they thought would enhance the quality of life for generations to come. As we noted last month, the Marktown Historic District is a part of that plan.

While we have said that our neighborhood is surrounded on three sides by steel mills and an oil refinery on the fourth side, that really isn't all that true. To the north of us is nearly a 1/4 square mile of land that has never been developed. Just to the west of us, adjacent to the softball fields is another stretch of land that has stood vacant for decades. Under the Marquette Greenway, all of this and a great deal more will be converted over a period of years into one of the largest parks in Northwest Indiana.

The proposed name for it is Heritage Park, and as you can see from the map, it will nearly completely encircle tiny little Marktown with park lands. Even the section of land east of

Will something as grand as Millennium Park in Chicago be included in the plans for the Marquette Greenway's Heritage Park? Only time will tell! But what we need to do is think big, bigger than big. Think GRAND!



Wetlands such as this can be added to the presently blank landscape. The area slated to be Heritage Park was natural wetlands as late as the 1950s. Wouldn't it be nice to have park lands like this in our neighborhood?



Let the Marquette Greenway unlock our vision for generations to come. The future of Marktown and of all of the greater Calumet Region lies within this plan.

.....A CLOSER LOOK AT THE SHIP CANAL PLANS



East Chicago - Indiana Harbor Ship Canal

Riley Road where the YS&T Co. No. 1 Tin Mill had stood is included in the plans for the new park.

One of the concepts brought forward by a Marktown resident was a series of museums, one in each of the five host cities; Hammond, Whiting, East Chicago, Gary and Portage. Don't look now but the plans for the Gary museum, the Discovery Center, were unveiled in November. And there, on the map you can see the proposed **Industrial Heritage Museum** in East Chicago, just down Dickey Road and over the Indiana Harbor Ship Canal from Marktown.

While it will take several years to actually begin the construction phase of the museum or the new Heritage Park, the first step is always the planning phase. Just what will go into Heritage Park? It's up to all of us, but we have come up with a basic plan for success. Try this.

A recipe for Heritage Park:
Take 400+ acres of land with access to Lake Michigan on the north and bordering on the

The Indiana Harbor Ship Canal which has served heavy industry and manufacturing for more than 100 years will be gradually converted to a recreation waterway - a Water Trail!



Indiana Harbor Ship Canal on the east. Plan well, let your imaginations soar and then add to it the following ingredients...

- walking, jogging & bicycle trails
- our own version of Millennium Park
- natural settings with lakes and ponds
- ample parking
- tennis courts
- baseball fields
- soccer fields
- basketball courts
- large scale public sculpture - lots of it
- a Marktown Interpretive & Nature Center
- lots of trees, bushes and flowers
- picnic groves and shelters

And don't forget, just down the street on the opposite side of the canal will be the **Industrial Heritage Museum** which will also celebrate the history of the Marktown Historic District.

This is what people with vision have planned for the open lands adjacent to our neighborhood. This is a plan that when completed, will enhance the quality of life for generation to come. With this plan our future is guaranteed.



Large scale public sculpture such as those at the Skokie Sculpture Park in Illinois add an element of art to any setting. The sculpture portion of the park should be extended into the present Marktown Parks.

More than 400 acres of land adjacent to the Marktown Historic District are designated as park lands under the Marquette Greenway Plan. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity!

Christmas At The Old Marktown Community Center



They came with bells on! Ms. Judy (Hicks) Ms. Maria (Perez) and Ms. Leslie (Guajardo) decorated the Marktown Christmas tree at the East Chicago Greenhouse. The theme for the Marktown tree this year was "Christmas Bells." The several hundred Christmas bell ornaments were hand made by the children of the Marktown Historic District specifically for this project.

A total of nine Christmas trees were decorated by the various community centers throughout the city, each with its own theme: from poinsettia to nut crackers. While the Roxanna Center took first place in the competition, the dedication each child put into the various ornaments cannot be judged. Each is a work of art to them and their families. A well done goes to all of the participants.

Defining the problem is only the first step in resolving it. Finding a viable solution is the second step, and when it is easier to do it yourself than it is to get someone else to do it, then you do it yourself! And so it was when members of the MPS realized that virtually everything that was posted near the desk at the Old Marktown Community Center was stapled or tacked directly to the wall. The problem is that it was unsightly and difficult for the Recreation Leaders to post things in this fashion.

What was the solution? Bulletin boards! Going to the Parks and Recreation Department and asking that they purchase \$400.00 in bulletin boards is like asking them to supply internet access to the building. When it is easier to do it yourself than it is to get someone else to do it, you do it yourself! They are a Christmas gift to our neighborhood from the Marktown Preservation Society.



Marktown Community Center Receives Three Computers thanks in most part to Susan Duncan, a researcher at the University of Chicago. While looking for a place to donate the computers, Susan learned of Marktown's technological needs through the Legacy Foundation. Susan is not new to Marktown. She and husband, David Klein, organized the 2003 "Tale of Two Cities, Pullman-Marktown" bicycle tour. With the computer issue resolved, the Marktown Preservation Society (MPS) will now work on getting a high-speed cable connection so community members can have access to the internet. What some in the neighborhood might not understand is that via the internet, there is a world of educational opportunities awaiting young and old alike. These three computers are but the first step to unlocking the educational future for the children of Marktown.

On the internet and want to reach us? Try: mrmarktown@sbcglobal.net

The Parks Department Giveth...

Wednesday, December 8th brought two full crews of Parks Department workers to the very north end of the Marktown Baseball Park. In particular, they were at the corner of Broad Street where it intersects at Dickey Road and 129th Street. The project was simple: plant eight new flowering trees in the Marktown Park. Included in the planting were five Redbud trees and three Autumn Brilliance Serviceberries.

The planting of the trees was done in a way as to provide a green screen from the traffic and industrial landscape just north of the Marktown Historic District. While the trees only bloom in the spring months, the foliage will last all summer long.

Gloria Dosen, city historian and resident tree hugger, was instrumental in bringing Tree City U.S.A. status to East Chicago. Under the funding for the



program, Professional Forester Gina Darnell has been contracted to evaluate sites for tree planting throughout East Chicago. As a part of the process she not only selects the type of trees best suited for each site, but has also provided detailed planting instruction to Parks Department workers. Along with this she has conducted workshops in reference to tree maintenance and the proper way to trim and prune trees.

It should be noted that the trees were placed in a fashion as to be most compatible with the new planter scheduled to be installed by the Marktown Preservation Society early next year. The trees will serve as a backdrop to the planter, while the planter will enhance the flowering trees. You see, *"With teamwork --- all things are possible!"*

...And The Parks Department Taketh Away!!!

It was about two days after the September Special Election and the Parks Department had sent a crew of workers to the Marktown Park to TRIM branches on the parks trees. They were working their way from Riley Road to Broad Street and were between Spring Street and Prospect Street when I came out of my home. One of the Parks Department workers saw me watching and walked over to a 25 year old flowering crab tree. Without hesitation he bent over with his chain saw and dropped the tree to the ground with one cut. I yelled to him to stop and then started over to the park. He saw me coming, turned and ran over and cut down the other tree.



I asked him what he thought he was doing and he replied *"My boss told me to cut these down!" "Why?"* I asked and he replied *"Cause they get in the way of the mowers when we cut the grass."* My reply was simple *"Don't all trees get in the way of lawn mowers?"* I went on to tell him that the residents of Marktown had planted these trees in the early 1980s when the park was being redeveloped. I told him that my grandfather

and I had personally planted these two flowering crab trees. His reply shocked and upset me. He said *"Why don't you call (expletive deleted) Pabey in January and ask him to buy you some new ones."*

I was livid. How dare anyone come into this or any other park and destroy it for political revenge. The residents of Marktown worked together for well over a year on the plans for this park. We toiled together in the planting of many of the ornamental trees

such as these, and now, because a worker decides to do so, they trees we planted were cut to the ground.

I called the Parks Department and reported the incident. The crew was removed immediately and will probably not be back in our park again.

But what of replacing the trees. I found out the next week that the head of the Planning Department, Kimberly Julkes, threw a grant application for \$20,000.00 of trees in the garbage on the grounds that *"I don't know what Pabey wants to do so there is no reason to send in the application."* What a shame this administration has to end in this fashion."



Memories From The Past: Marktown Up Close

Dear Paul,

November 4, 2004 on the corner.

I am very happy you got the Marks Branch Library sign back and are enjoying it. I know it took a lot of strength for my mom to give up that sign. She misses my dad so badly and the sign was a good memory of a special time in my parents life. She would always walk out to the garage look to the left and their it hung for many years. My mom and dad use to sit in the garage with the door opened in their broken down lawn chairs reminiscing about the old days in Marktown.... all the friends and family there, all the dearly departed ones as well.

I too have many memories of that quaint little town. I won the first blueberry pie eating contest back in the 60s when they started having their annual summertime picnics. My brothers and sisters and all my cousins were all very close back then we used to run back and forth from one park to the other. To us one was the big park and one was called the little park. My grandma David's house was right across the street from the small park so we went there a lot. We also used to climb the little building that was

Most of my younger years was hanging out with Kathleen Mullally. The Mullally's used to own the little restaurant and I always got free food and pop their. My grandma and grandpa Kasper always gave me money to spend at Steve's Grocery Store on lots of candy. Steve also used to give me a lot of free candy.

I spent most of my younger years there at my grandparents house or my Aunt Inez's house. I could write a book about all my memories there but now I mostly cry about them because dads gone at such a young age. Actually most of my family from Marktown are now gone. But I think its wonderful what you're doing with keeping Marktown memories alive. Keep up the great work. I know my mom has tons of pictures of Marktown and its early families and picnics. Its fun going through them.

Have A Great Day
Jackie

Let's all pitch in to keep our park and neighborhood clean!

This past September when the East Chicago Parks Department began the annual process of re-assigning the work crews for the winter months, the Marktown Park was once again forgotten. While they did manage to remove the tennis nets and drain the renovated sprinkler system, they have not come back on any regular basis what so ever to pick up debris and other items that are either blown into our parks or that are drug into the park by the children of this neighborhood. It is as if to say "We're done for the year - you take care of this mess."

Matthew and Marc Vidaurri stepped up to the challenge of cleaning up the mess. It didn't take these two youngsters long to pick up the vast majority of the debris and bottles that had made their way into the park for the past two months. We thank them for their assistance in making the Marktown Historic District a better, cleaner and safer place to live and to raise our families. Now all we have to do is to educate those who litter that this is our park and not their personal garbage can. Let's all work together to keep our parks and our streets clean.



Mathew Vidaurri (left) and Marc Vidaurri (right) took the opportunity of a warm Sunday afternoon to "pitch in and clean up" some debris that was carried into the Marktown Park. Said Mark "What we need to do is to teach some of the newer kids in town to respect our parks and this neighborhood. It's neat when it's all cleaned up!"



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With TEAMWORK, Everything is Possible!

