



# MARKTOWN UPDATE

A publication of the Marktown Preservation Society

January 2006

## Technology and Historic Preservation: Preserving Yesterday And Today For Tomorrow

**MARKTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT**  
EAST ENGAGE, INDIANA

**TOURS**  
View a list of tours

**GALLERY**  
View a list of photos

**AERIAL VIEWS**  
View a list of aerial photos

**COMMUNITY**  
View a list of community events

**SUPPLY**  
View a list of supply items

**Marktown Historic District**  
A Planned Inland Community

conomic structure and a major encyclopedia at your finger tips.

It is for these reasons that the Marktown Preservation Society, Inc. (MPS) worked so hard to get internet access at the Marktown Community Center. Information, and ready access to it is the key to the educational and economic future of the young people of this community.

But just how does all of this tie into the preservation and promotion of the Marktown Historic District. Thanks to a good friend of Marktown, Robert Bender of Bridgeman, Michigan the MPS has its own web page. Because of this, literally thousands of people from across the nation and around the world have learned about our tiny neighborhood surrounded by steel mills and oil refineries. World class photographers such as David Jordano of Chicago and David Hay Jones of England have not only visited our neighborhood but have immortalized it in their photographic art. Yes ART!

Information technology has made a difference in the world in which we live and it is making a difference in our city and our neighborhood. So get on line and get involved in the future of Marktown. Visit Marktown on line at: [www.marktown.org](http://www.marktown.org) or email us at: [mrmarktown@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mrmarktown@sbcglobal.net)

It is a relatively new term. It is called **Information Technology** and it is making a difference in the lives of people around the world in virtually every field imaginable from health programs to money management. It is so important that elementary school children are not only being taught how to utilize the system but are actually applying it on a daily basis when doing their homework. And yes, it is being used in neighborhoods like the Marktown Historic District to promote the historic significance and restoration of our community.

The most significant aspect of the information technology boom can be found on the internet and in email and web pages. While in the past correspondence from one person to another was sent via post across cities, town and states over a period of days, email provides almost instant delivery of the information at hand. It is better in ways than a telephone call because as long as the recipient has email, it will be waiting for them the next time they log onto their computer.

The other key to the system is the development of web pages. Virtually all of the major corporations in the world now have them. Add to this local organizations and governmental bodies such as cities & states and you end up with a virtual yellow pages of the world eco-

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORIES - NOMINATION FORM

1. NAME  
2. LOCATION  
3. CLASSIFICATION  
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY  
5. LOCATION  
6. REPRESENTATION ON EXISTING MAPS

**MARKTOWN UPDATE**  
A publication of the Marktown Preservation Society - SPECIAL 2004 Edition

*World Changers Help To Change Marktown & The Carnegie Library Historic District*

**WORLD CHANGERS**

A Best of Years of Steel Manufacturing and its successor companies at Indiana Harbor Works, you'll find the Industrial Housing, Chicago architect Maxwell Fry's Stone House, the shops for the original Mail Town Site and an argument for the full restoration and preservation of this most unique neighborhood.

**MARKTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT**

A Planned Inland Community

# AMAZING MARKTOWN AT HOME ON THE FARM



In October 2005 when past Marktown resident Fernando Silva decided to take his family to Buckley Homestead southeast of Lowell for a fun day in the country, the last thing he expected to find was a reference to the Marktown Historic District. But that is exactly what happened.

One of the fall events that the staff of Buckley Homestead sponsors is a corn maze. Throughout the maze was a series of thirty-five questions, each based upon the history of Lake County. For example: What year do you think the last round barn was built in Indiana? The answer: 1936. Another question was: What form of transportation allowed cheap travel & transportation of goods from east to west? The answer: Locomotive. Do you know where the name Whihala came from? **Whiting, Hammond and Lakefront.** That's where! You see, history and historic preservation can be a great deal of fun.

The 30th question in the maze was in reference to the Marktown Historic District and is shown on the right. Do you know the answer? It's D - all of the above. Marktown was built for workers at the original Mark Manufacturing Co. All of Marktown is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and yes, we do park our cars on the sidewalk and

<h2>QUESTION 30</h2>	
<p>Buckley Corn Maze 2005</p>	
	<p><b>Marktown Historic District in East Chicago</b></p>
<p><b>is a unique neighborhood designed in 1917 for industrialist Clayton Mark. What makes Marktown different from most communities?</b></p>	
<p>(A) It was designed to house the workers from the local industry. (B) The whole community is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. (C) People park their cars on the sidewalk and walk in the street. (D) All of the above.</p>	

walk in the street.

Buckley Homestead, like the Marktown Historic District is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is also a Lake County Park and is located at 3606 Belshaw Road, just southeast of the town of Lowell, Indiana off of SR2. The grounds are open all year round, Monday through Friday from 7:00 AM to dusk and from Noon to 4:00 PM on weekends.

The staff at Buckley Homestead, headed up by Becky Crabb puts together educational, interesting, and yes fun things for the entire family to enjoy ALL YEAR

LONG. While you may have missed the fall hay rides, the corn maze, they're preparing for winter programs and their Christmas program, that doesn't mean there's nothing to do until next fall. Coming up soon will be the spring planting and much, much more. They are only a short drive (OK 30 miles) from Marktown, but it will be well worth the time and effort. So set a day aside for some fun on the farm. For additional information on fun things to do at **Buckley Homestead** visit them at their web site at:

[www.lakecountyparks.com](http://www.lakecountyparks.com).

**Visit our web site at [www.marktown.org](http://www.marktown.org) for additional articles and information!**

# TRADITIONAL BUILDING



## EXHIBITION AND CONFERENCE

Spring, April 5-8, 2006 in Chicago, IL, will be a wonderful opportunity to come together on Navy Pier for the **Traditional Building Exhibition and Conference**. The conference will run over four days (April 5-8) and the exhibition over three (April 6-8). Chicago is an exciting city, an architectural delight, and a perfect setting for this event.

Attendees can take part in tours of historic Chicago landmarks plus over 75 educational workshops and seminars, such as **"Designing and Decorating the Arts and Crafts Home."** For even greater learning and networking opportunities, the AIA Historic Resources Committee's 2006 Spring Meeting and the Association for Preservation Technology Building Codes and Historic Rehabilitation Conference will co-locate with the Traditional Building Exhibition and Conference.

We are very pleased to announce that both the **Marktown Historic District** in East Chicago, Indiana and the **Pullman National Landmark District** in Chicago will be included on the tour schedule for this most outstanding conference.

Representatives from **Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana** will also be providing technical assistance for the conference. Four of the one hour long lectures at the conference will be given by HLF staff members. Their presentations will be:

1. **Preserving Landmarks with Conservation Easements** will be presented by Mark Dollase, Vice President of Preservation Services.
2. **Old Windows aren't a pane, they're a gold mine** will be presented by Bob Yapp, Community Preservation Specialist, author and television celebrity.
3. **Restoring "Houses of Tomorrow"** will be presented by Todd Zeiger, Director, Northern Regional Office
4. **From porticos to patios: Architectural Styles in the U.S.** will be presented by Tommy Kelchner, Director, Western Regional Office.

This is a great opportunity for residents of Marktown and East Chicago to learn more about the importance of historic preservation as it relates to our great city and the Marktown Historic District. For additional information in reference to the conference please visit their web site at:

<http://www.traditionalbuildingshow.com>

# PULLMAN TIME

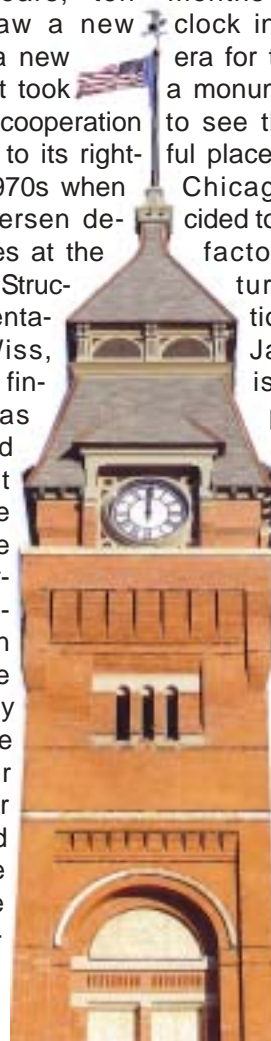


## RESTORATION TIME FOR THE PULLMAN FACTORY CLOCK

Time stood still in the Pullman National Landmark District, and to an extent, it still does. From an unknown date in 1881 until December 1, 1998 the clock atop the Pullman Car Co. main factory building at 110th Street stood as a monument to the great industrial era. It was on a sad night in 1998 that an arson fire was started by a poor soul - homeless and with a diseased imagination that provided the voices telling him to set fire to the building. But all was not lost.

Six years, ten months and seventeen days later saw a new clock installed and the beginning of a new era for the Pullman Historic District. It took a monumental degree of teamwork and cooperation to see this great monument restored to its rightful place. It began back in the early 1970s when Chicago architect Charles Gregersen decided to blueprint the existing structures at the factory. Add to this IHPA's Historic Structures Report and photo documentation conducted in 1994 by Wiss, Janey, Elstner. Specimens of finishes had been harvested as part of the HSR analysis and inclusive paint provided con-

The relatively new owners of the property, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency stepped for the ward and began the stabilization process for the site and the plans to rebuild the masonry structure complete with the clock, flag pole and weather vane. On Tuesday, October 18, 2005 all of their hard word and devotion paid off as the four sections of the clock were put in place at the recently restored Pullman. Well done Pullman. You have set a new standard for historic preservation!



Please contact us via the internet at [mrmarktown@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mrmarktown@sbcglobal.net)

# Marktown Educational Projects Not Limited To Colleges, Universities Or Preservationists

While the Marktown Preservation Society has had the honor and pleasure of conducting literally hundreds of tours in the past decade, we have never had the opportunity to do so for elementary students working on Indiana history reports - that is until Sunday, November 13, 2005.



Kaylee Bluethmann, a 4th grade student at Mt. Comfort Elementary School in Greenfield, Indiana was the first elementary school student to tour the Marktown Historic District for a school project. Her teacher, Mr. Copeland gave each student the task of researching a historic site in Indiana for a report due in mid December.

What brought her from central Indiana to tiny Marktown you ask? To begin with, her grandparents lived on White Oak Avenue decades ago and they now reside in Highland where her father grew up. But to be honest about it, none of the family had ever heard about Marktown.

Mrs. Bluethmann and Kaylee decided to surf the internet and find something in Northwest Indiana so Kaylee could do her report while visiting the grandparents. What a great idea.

Kaylee asked some wonderful questions and took her own photos with a digital camera. She will also be writing her report on a computer. What a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon: sharing Marktown!



## Elections 2006 - WHERE Will WE Be Voting?

Under federal and state laws, the polling places for each precinct must be located in an "accessible facility" for elderly voters and voters with disabilities. The polling places must meet detailed accessibility standards established under federal law.

The polling places must have facilities accessible to elderly voters and voters with disabilities in a way that provides these voters with the same opportunity for access, participation, privacy, and independence available to other voters. These include:

1. Parking spaces marked and available for voters with disabilities as specified by state law.
2. The path to the facility that an individual travels to reach the polls.
3. The entrances to the facility.
4. The paths of

travel within the facility to the space where the voting systems are located.

5. The space in the facility where the voting systems are located.

While a ramp was built at the Old Marktown Community Center just a year or so ago, neither the ramp, door nor the parking meets the standards for required under the Help Americans Vote Act (HAVA).

When the report was released in November 2005, the Marktown Preservation Society, Inc. immediately



contacted city, county and state officials to see to it that all of our residents will be able not only to vote, but more importantly, to be able to vote in Marktown as we have for the past eighty-eight years.

**With TEAMWORK all things truly are possible.  
You don't have to be elected to be a leader in a community.**

# Marktown Booklet Available Once Again

The Marktown Preservation Society, Inc. is pleased to announce that our publication titled simply "Marktown" is once again available to the public, and as before IT'S FREE!

The items in the booklet first appeared as a series of articles that were published in Marktown Update in 2003 and 2004. The articles were requested by people so often that we decided to print them in booklet form in mid 2004.

In the fall of 2004 we had 1,000 copies of the 50 page booklet professionally printed. Within ninety days our entire inventory was depleted. And at what price did we sell them? ZERO - they were and still are absolutely free.

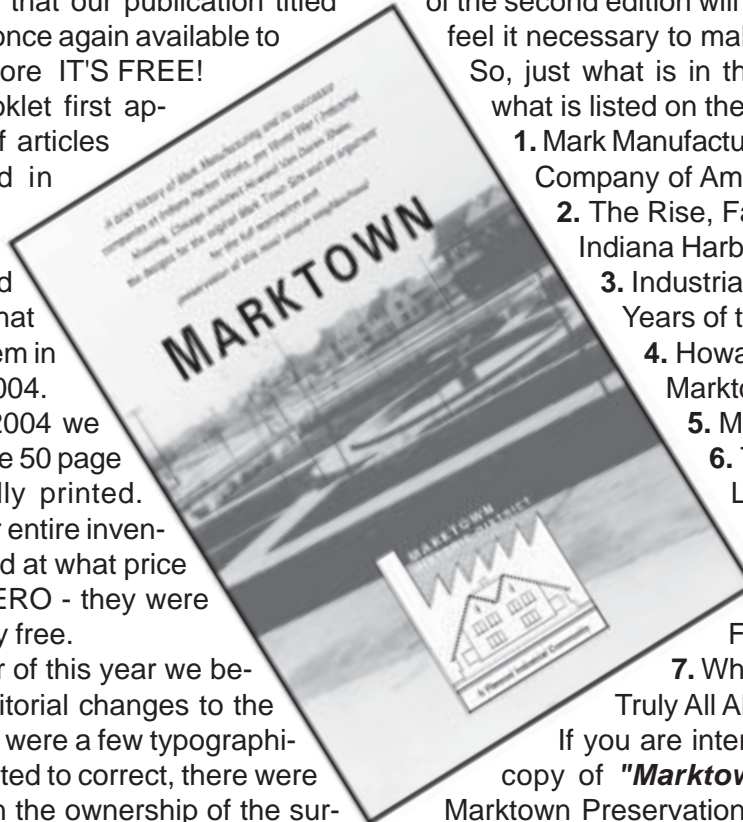
In the summer of this year we began making some editorial changes to the booklets. While there were a few typographical errors that we wanted to correct, there were also some changes in the ownership of the surrounding steel mills and things are changing in

Marktown. While we doubt that the first time reader of the second edition will note the changes, we did feel it necessary to make those changes.

So, just what is in the booklet? Well, here is what is listed on the index:

1. Mark Manufacturing & The Steel and Tube Company of America
2. The Rise, Fall and Resurrection of Indiana Harbor Works
3. Industrial Housing in the Early Years of the 20th Century
4. Howard Van Doren Shaw Marktown's Architect
5. Marktown By Design
6. The Future of Marktown Lies in Our Historic Past and the Realization that Historic Preservation Is The Key To Our Future
7. What Historic Preservation Is Truly All About And How it Works!

If you are interested in obtaining a free copy of "**Marktown**", please contact the Marktown Preservation Society or visit our web site at [www.marktown.org](http://www.marktown.org).



## Gingerbread Men March On Marktown

Being creative isn't anything new for the staff and volunteers at the Marktown Community Center. When the decision to decorate the Christmas Tree with Gingerbread Men was made it didn't take a lot to have a handful of ideas and a team of volunteers begin to work with the Marktown children on this project.

Custom made gingerbread men garlands were designed and laid out so that the children would have relative ease in cutting them out, decorating the individual characters and assembling the garlands.

When it came to baking something for the tree, a special recipe was found for making ornaments. The children helped to mix the batter and each waited eagerly to decorate their own personal baked ornament.

And exactly what is the legend of the Gingerbread Man you ask? That too was answered when Ms. Maria and the children went onto the internet and found the text for the original story. And now that you have the story

and the wonderful illustrations, what do you do with it. First and foremost, you have the children read it to each other. Then you print it out so it can be included in the display at Washington Park. What's next? Print it out and teach the children how to bind it into their own personal 2005 Christmas memory. Sharing ideas and projects builds character and team participation.

The Marktown Gingerbread Man Tree joined with the various trees from across East Chicago, and yes, we won the annual competition! The children of Marktown that participated all had a wonderful time creating ornaments, binding books and sharing in the spirit of the season. Wait! Did I say the children? Everyone had a great time and we need to thank Ms. Marie, Ms. Judy, Mrs. Juanita McCormick, Mrs. Nancy Fink, Mrs. Kim Rodriguez, and yes, even Paul Myers got into the Christmas spirit once again. What a great way to end 2005: A Gingerbread Man march on Marktown!



**Historic preservation saved this community from the wreckers ball in 1975 and should be the foundation of our future for generations to come.**

# Sunnyside - Yesterday and Today

While the Marktown Historic District may be one of the most important pre WWI industrial housing developments, it is by no means the only such neighborhood in East Chicago, the greater Chicago area or the nation. It is with pleasure that we begin a journalistic journey to some of the other historic neighborhoods of the Great Industrial Era.

**Sunnyside in East Chicago** is one such neighborhood. Unlike the Mark Town Site which was laid out in an adaptation of the English Garden grid system, Sunnyside has a serpentine street plan, and like the Mark Town Site is void of alleys. Probably the best early description of Sunnyside comes from the Calumet Region Historical Guide:

"**SUNNYSIDE**, at the end of 141st Street, a residential subdivision, is Inland Steel's housing development, covering 15 acres. The two-family houses are more or less standardize, each unit having six rooms. Original frame construction has disappeared under a sheathing of fireproof material, which lends itself to a wide variety of tints. The lawns, stretching without break, give a parklike effect, and scattered around are hundreds of trees, Carolina Poplars and silver maples, well grown and well cared for (about 750 of these trees were set out). House residents must keep automobiles in the community garage just outside the subdivision.

"Garbage and ashes are removed, lawns are watered and owed, shrubbery and trees trimmed, and streets cleaned and kept in repair by the company, which

retains full control and management.

"Although there was an abundance of ordinary labor to be had, Inland found it difficult to maintain an adequate force of supervisors. Men working and living in well established industrial communities were reluctant to expose their families to the rough pioneer conditions prevalent in Indiana Harbor in the early years. For this reason the Indiana Harbor Company, another subsidiary of the steel company, in 1920 built one hundred duplex houses to accommodate two hundred families in what we know today as Sunnyside addition of Indiana Harbor. The six-room apartments were rented to employees at a reasonable rate, and the company provided domestic coke for heating purposes at a price much lower than that offered by private firms."

Due to a housing shortage during and immediately after WWII, Inland Steel built 100 new housing units adjacent to the original subdivision. Inland rented the new units to both salaried and hourly workers at \$95.00 per month. In 1963 Inland turned over the operation of the development to the Purdue-Calumet

Development Foundation which at that time was located at the First National Bank in Indiana Harbor. In the early 1970s the neighborhood underwent a renovation program which virtually stripped it of its historic architectural features and much of its original charm. Sunnyside, like Marktown stands today as a shadow of its former glory and as a tribute to E.C.'s proud and varied historic industrial past.



**Top:** Sunnyside in about 1917. Note the concrete lamp post. It is identical to that used in the Marktown Historic District that same year.

**Bottom:** The same intersection in 2005. All of the original architectural detail is now gone. Add to this the absence of the original lighting and the addition of the fences and we can all see that the architectural detail of what was will never be again.

**Below:** An early photograph of Sunnyside as it appeared in about 1926. Note the open lawns and garden like setting.



# The New United States National Bank

## East Chicago's First Skyscraper

The opening of the new seven story home of the United States National Bank of Indiana Harbor at East Chicago on Saturday, November 12, was featured by two unusual occurrences.

First the crowd that came to visit and inspect the bank's new home is said to have been the largest ever assembled under one roof in Lake County. Fifteen thousand people visited the bank that day, and had school children unaccompanied by their parents been admitted, the attendance, as estimated, would have exceeded 25,000.

Second, the quality of flowers received from local and out-of-city banks and business houses is said to have been the largest number of floral pieces ever assembled under one roof in the county. More than 250 baskets of flowers testified to good wishes for the day. So abundant were these flowers that they were distributed among 26 Protestant, Catholic and Jewish churches in the city, the Carmelite Orphanage, the Catholic hospital in Hammond, and the Catholic and Methodist hospitals



U. S. NATIONAL BANK BUILDING

in Gary.

The new home of the United States National Bank is the tallest building in the city of East Chicago, and is owned by Colonel Walter J. Riley, founder and president of the United States Bank. It replaces the original banking home, which was erected in 1915 when the institution was founded as the First State Trust and Savings Bank.

The original capital and surplus were \$50,000. Today the capital and surplus and

earnings are in excess of \$250,000, or more than five times the original figure. All of the increased capital and surplus has come out of the earnings.

The exterior of the bank is of Indiana Bedford limestone, which gives it a striking appearance, especially at night when the building is illuminated by powerful flood lights.

Three floors are devoted to banking purposes -- the main floor, which housed the banking room and office quarters, the basement, and the mezzanine floor. The five upper floors of the building are devoted to modern office suites, which have the advantage of OTIS high-speed elevator service.

Designed by Joseph Scheitler, architect and bank specialist, the new banking home presents many unusual features, both as a beauty and utility. Imported Italian marble is used for the walls, and the floors are of terrazzo with brass strips. The decorated ceilings are of Celotex, making for sound absorption qualities. Massive bronze chandeliers illuminate the banking room.

### THREE INTERIOR VIEWS OF THE NEW BANK



SAFE DEPOSIT VAULTS



MAIN BANKING ROOM



CASH VAULT

## From the Editor

What a pleasure it is to publish Marktown Update every month. What many may not know is that there are a lot more people active in making this publication possible each month, and most if not nearly all of them are your friends and neighbors here in Marktown.

What is most amazing is that we actually have the next month's issue just about done when we go to print with the current month. That's right. This column is being written just one day after the December 2005 issue went to press on November 11th.

Due to printing and postage costs we have to limit most issues to just eight pages even though we have a great deal more to share with you each month. That is why we also include flyers in the copies for our Marktown residents.

These are exciting times in the Marktown Historic District, and what we do in the next year will decide our ultimate fate. Let's all work together for MARKTOWN!

## Property Tax

Just to keep you up to speed with the property tax situation. As you know I was successful in our initial appeal of the property assessments last year. That kept our property tax relatively low as opposed to raising it to approximately \$3,000.00 to \$8,000.00 per house.

As you know, over 30 properties were clerically omitted from the adjustments under the informal appeal. We filed the 139L appeals on each of those properties and met with the Department of Local Government Finance on behalf of the owner several months ago.

While we were relatively successful with that appeal they were not able to apply the adjustment and past adjustments for the current set of bills that you just received. For those of you who were included in that process you will receive a check or credit later in 2006. If you have any questions, please call me - Paul Myers at 397-2239.

## Election 2006

Every election is important and the elections this spring and next fall are absolutely no exception. Unfortunately for many, there are some new changes and the Marktown Preservation Society is working to resolve them.

To begin, everyone who votes in person at a polling place will be required to provide a state issued photo ID. If you don't have one, you will need to get one soon and please don't wait until the last minute. We have included instructions on this matter in both English and Spanish. We thank Purdue University Calumet for having provided the Spanish translation for us.

If you show up to vote and do not have a proper ID, you will be able to cast a provisional ballot and will be given 10 days from the date of the election to go to Crown Point and validate your ballot with a proper ID. People have given their life for your right to vote. Exercise that right at every election!

## When Sgt. Spann Came Marching Home Again Hurrah - Hurrah

For many of the thousands of young men and women from the Calumet Region who served in Iraq this past year, the war is now over. Mid December brought the vast majority of them home just in time for the holidays. With their return home, many of those that received letters, drawings and provisions from the children of Marktown have made it a point of stopping off at the Old Marktown Commu-



nity Center to say hello and to express their thanks and appreciation to the children of this neighborhood. One such visitor was Sgt. John Spann, who while on leave in October, stopped by to say hello.

Sgt. Spann is not new to Marktown. No, you see several years ago he was our mailman. While with his unit he also served as a training officer for the younger, less experienced troops. And yes, one of those was Marktown's own SPC Erendia Ayala of Park Street. Small world? Smaller than you can think. Do you remember the article in the September 2005 issue of Marktown Update about our connection to 911? It was written by an prior Marktown resident who was at the Pentagon on that fateful day. Her name is Captain Sharon (Fernando) Reinke.

After reading the article while in Iraq, Sgt. Spann began corresponding with Capt. Reinke and over the past months they have shared their thoughts on the impact of this war on the residents of Iraq, the soldiers that served there and the fate of both nations. Marktown Update is please to have been a part of the process of supporting those who serve.

**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.**





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1 January 2006

Fellow Marktown Residents,

2006 is upon us and with it is yet another set of elections. The election laws have changed at both the state and national level. From a national perspective the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) now requires that all polling places be totally handicap accessible. As you will not in the article at the bottom of page four, the Marktown Preservation Society and I have been working to see to it that our polling place for Marktown remains at the Old Marktown Community Center. Hopefully we will be successful in doing so. It should be noted that thirty-four of the thirty-six polling places in East Chicago face similar problems in relation to meeting the HAVA requirements.

Beyond HAVA we face yet another challenge. The State of Indiana will now require that all persons voting at a polling place or in person in Crown Point show a state or federal photo identification card. If you do not have a current photo ID card, please take the time to read one of the two attachments that details the requirements of the Indiana Department of Motor Vehicles for obtaining either an Indiana Driver's License or an official state resident ID. We have taken the liberty of including the requirements in both English and Spanish.

The Marktown Preservation Society, Inc. and I want to make sure that everyone maintains their right to vote in this and all elections in the future. If you have any questions in reference to HAVA or the mandatory photo ID, please feel free in calling upon me.

Most respectfully  
Your friend and neighbor,

Paul A. Myers



 **2005 Marktown Community Center Christmas Tree**   
displayed at Washington Park Greenhouse.  
**We won FIRST PLACE in the tree decorating contest this year!**



**One of the many hand made Gingerbread Men that were crafted by the children of Marktown with the assistance of Ms. Judy and Ms. Maria. Making recreation fun is what it is all about at the Old Marktown Community Center.**