

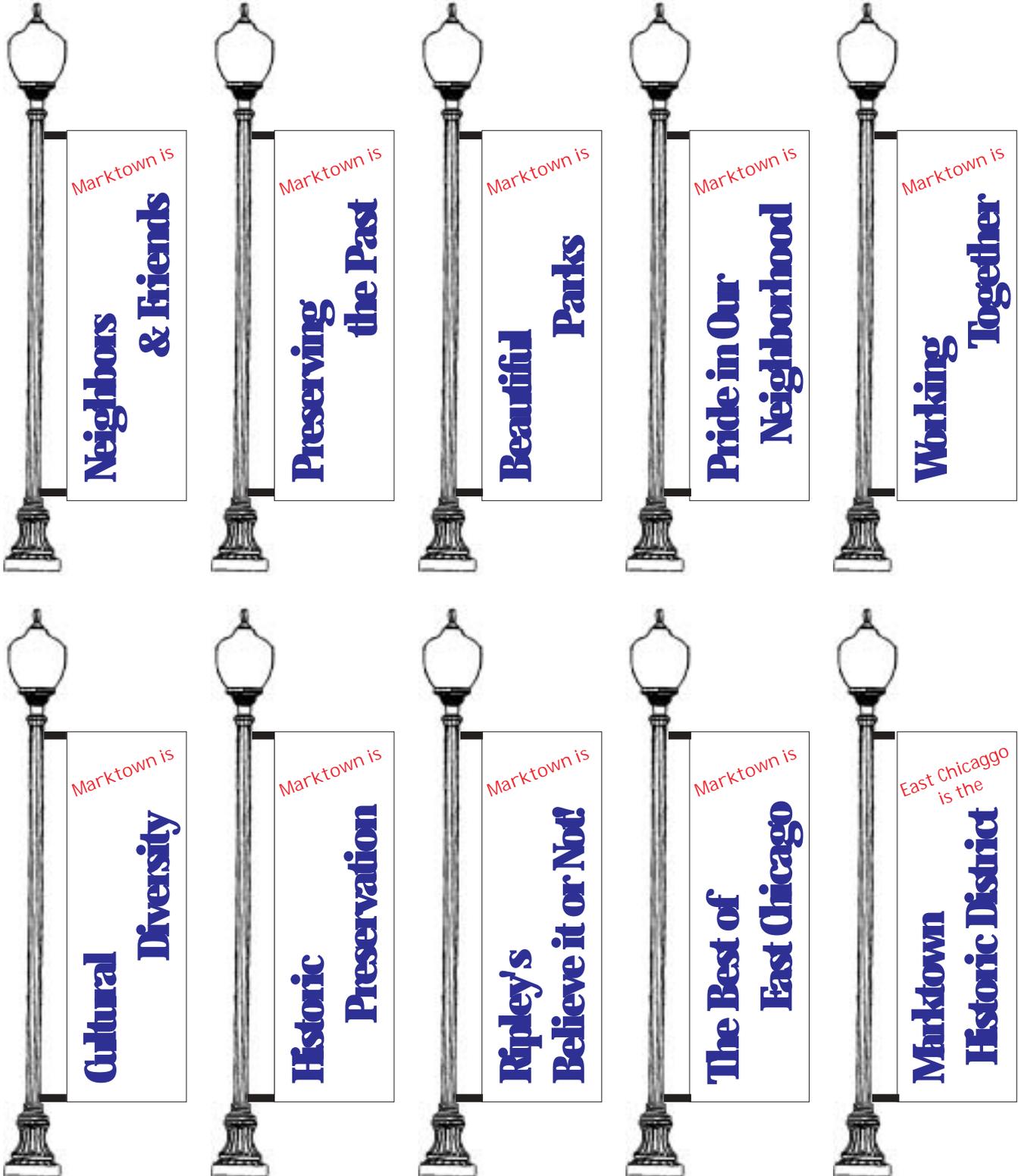


# MARKTOWN UPDATE

A publication of the Marktown Preservation Society

July 2004

## A BANNER IDEA FOR THE MARKTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT



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

## Working together makes a difference everytime!

While some people give lip service to the concept of working together to make the Marktown Historic District a better, cleaner and safer place to live and to raise families, the Marktown Preservation Society works constantly to actually get the job done and done well. Several examples occurred this past month and we wanted to pass the word onto our readers.

The first example was when a street repair truck was on the corner of Pine Avenue and Riley Road one day. All we had to do was stop by and see the supervisor and the next day they were back out in Marktown in force to patch up some of Spruce Avenue. While we were suppose to have had that street replaced this year, it looks like that too is on the back burner for at least another year.

When local kids decided to paint up part of the pavilion in the Marktown Park, their parents intervened initially and had them paint over what they had written. The next week the MPS stepped in and not only bought the paint but spent several hours painting the entire pavilion. It looks a lot better now than it has in the past few years.

In May Paul Myers decided to whack all of the weeds on Park Street. In June he was asked to mow a previously uncut lawn of School Street. When he was just about done with it he noticed several of the other residents of the street out pulling weeds and cleaning up. It didn't take him long to weed whack the rest of the street and then blow everything into the street so the city could send out the street sweepers to clean up the mess. They were there within an hour of the first telephone call.

So impressed with their response, Paul and Rafael Bejar decided to clean up Prospect and Spring Streets (400 blocks) the next day. They weren't surprised when it only took one telephone call to Monsie Corisby at the Sanitary Solids Division to get the street sweepers out once again. It is what we call working together or teamwork. It is everyone working for the same goal, for the same cause, and it works.

Want to make a positive change in life in Marktown? Just call Paul Myers or Rafael Bejar and they will be more than glad to lend a hand.

***A fool's tongue is like a dog's tail: always wagging.***

***If you have something negative to say, put your money where your mouth is and put it in print for all to see. Let's work TOGETHER for the betterment of Marktown!***



*City equipment gets ready to patch pot holes on Spruce Avenue. All it took was to ask and they showed up the very next day with the manpower and equipment to do the repairs. Well Done!*



*When some of the youth in the neighborhood wrote unpleasantries on the pavilion, their parents made them paint over it. The next week the Marktown Preservation Society bought the paint and repainted the entire pavilion. Now that's working together!*



*When local residents worked with Paul Myers and the Marktown Preservation Society to clean up four streets in Marktown, the city pitched in immediately and sent out the street sweepers to finish the job. All that the residents had to do was get the dirt and weeds into the street and the city did the rest. Now that's teamwork!*

## Property Tax Bills Arrive In Marktown

It didn't take a lot of work to crunch the number and see exactly where we came out in our appeal to the property assessment. After the appeal, and after everything else is said and done, we REDUCED the base amount that we will pay by an overall average of 15%. In some cases the taxes may have remained the same, and in some cases there may have been a slight increase, but from an overall standpoint, we REDUCED the property taxes in Marktown.

If you are a homeowner with a homestead exemption your taxes actually went up. Why? Because the state legislature changed the rules. They adopted the concept that *"everyone needs to pay something."* As a result, even though they increased the homestead exemption from \$3,500 to \$35,000.00 they added a section that said that if your home was appraised at less than \$70,000 you could only reduce your taxable value by 50% by applying the exemption.

As we noted in an earlier article, thirty-five properties in Marktown were not adjusted properly. As a result, we were forced to file the 139L Formal

Appeal forms and all of the support documentation for all of those properties. As the 139Ls were all filed at one time, we can expect that the formal hearings will at least be heard by the same judge. We should be hearing from the Tax Review Court in July or August as to when the formal hearing will be scheduled.

So, just where would we have been if we had not filed the appeals? We were able to figure that out too. Had we used the old tax rate system, the average property tax in Marktown would have been approximately \$450.00 per house (no exemptions included). Had we not been successful in our appeal the property taxes would have gone up to approximately \$1,800.00 per house. Because the Marktown Preservation Society was successful in our appeal efforts we reduced the average property tax to approximately \$390.00 per year. Who do we have to thank for this? Try MPS founder and lifetime resident of Marktown: Paul Myers of Prospect St. While some people in this neighborhood and city are looking out for themselves, the Marktown Preservation Society and Paul are looking out for everyone!

## Indiana Welcome Center Hosts "Cultural Connections" ---

***an exhibit that includes the Marktown Historic District and much, much more!***

If you haven't been to the Indiana Welcome Center in Hammond to see the Cultural Connections Exhibit, time is running out. The exhibit closed on Sunday, July 11th.

Not only is there an outstanding exhibit on Marktown, but Paul Myers also curated the East Chicago portion of the exhibit. This is your chance to see a great program on YOUR neighborhood.

## Softball Returns To Marktown And So Does Parking!

Softball season is here once again and with it comes the problem of where all of those players and their families are going to park. As we noted last year the Marktown Preservations Society was working with the East Chicago Parks and Recreation Department to get US Steel East Chicago Tin Division to permit us to once again utilize their parking lot during the softball season.

In July, 2003 we helped draft a letter for the Parks Department to US Steel with that request. It is with pleasure that we report to you today that US Steel representatives met with Marktown Preservation Society founder Paul Myers on Monday, July 28th and the deal is just about done.

Division Manager Garry Hu-



man, Director of Security and Fire Services Michael Pace, US Steel attorney Miles Stipanovich and Paul Myers met at the parking lot and discussed the problems at hand. We were overwhelmed when Mr. Stepanovich stepped forward and offered to donate that section of their parking lot to the East Chicago Parks Department. In the process of transferring the property they are also going to fence in the parking area and put in a new entrance to the lot so that the ball players will not have to even go on US Steel property.

We sincerely thank our US Steel neighbors for *"stepping up to the plate"* and making this most outstanding gesture of understanding to the residents of Marktown and East Chicago. That's what we call teamwork!

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

# Historic Preservation Is A Concept For All Of East Chicago ..... And Not Just The Marktown Historic District

by Paul A. Myers

What saved Marktown from the wreckers ball in the early 1970's was by all means historic preservation. As we noted in earlier issues of Marktown Update, had this most unique neighborhood not been placed on the National Register of Historic Places, or at least protected by a municipal historic preservation ordinance, Marktown would have been razed to make way for the Riley Road interchange of Cline Avenue. But are the homes and commercial buildings in Marktown the only historic structures in East Chicago? Are there other buildings of significant importance to the history of East Chicago and the people who have made this city their home for more than 110 years? The answer is YES - there are literally hundreds of homes, commercial buildings, industrial structures, churches and yes, municipal buildings that merit our attention.

About a year ago when it was announced that Walgreens intends to raze the First National Bank Building on the corner of Indianapolis Blvd. and Chicago Avenue the comment was made to me that

*"Isn't it a shame that this building is the last architecturally significant building in East Chicago?"* I was somewhat overwhelmed with the comment. While this is by far one of the most significant buildings in East Chicago it is not by any means the last or only building of architectural or social significance in East Chicago.

So, just where do we go for the answer to this question? Well you could talk to me, Paul Myers. As the Director of Cultural Affairs and Historic Preservation for the city of East Chicago I spend much of my time researching the histories

of these buildings and of their prior residents. If you can't readily find me, then you might want to pick up a copy of the 1996 Lake County Interim Report. The report, sponsored by the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana is more than 450 pages long and includes a detailed explanation of how and why the report was developed and a comprehensive catalogue of the properties that initially merit our attention from an architectural and historical standpoint.

The East Chicago section is divided into several sections: 1) Indiana Harbor Commercial Historic District, 2) Washington Park Historic District, 3) Indiana Harbor Scattered Sites. 4) Marktown Historic District, and 5) East Chicago Scattered Sites. With the exception of the Roxanna

neighborhood, Sunnyside and Prairie Park, virtually all of the other areas of East Chicago abound in historic properties that, at the least, merit our attention in reference to preserving them for future generations of East Chicago residents.

I was recently asked why Sunnyside was

not listed in the report, after all, it like the Marktown Historic District was not only built at approximately the same time, but Sunnyside was also built as industrial housing for Inland Steel employees. The answer is quite simple. Sunnyside use to be an outstanding example of the arts and crafts movement in this country. Unfortunately the homes were modernized with aluminum siding and modern windows some 30-40 years ago. In doing so all of the architectural features that made it so unique were removed, thus preventing the properties from ever being considered for landmark



*The 1929 First National Bank building has been the commercial anchor at the corner of Indianapolis Blvd. and Chicago Avenue for more than 75 years. It is one of the most architecturally important buildings in all of Northwest Indiana. Developers working for the Walgreens Company want to raze this building to make way for yet another one of their cookie cutter type drug stores.*

*This is the time that we draw the line in the sand and say No... Not this building, not again and not in East Chicago!!!*

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



*The Riley Bank Building on the corner of Chicago and Kennedy Avenues is slated to become the Riley Center for Cultural Heritage and Historic Preservation. The architectural plans for the restoration and renovation of the building are being completed and the funding is being sought to complete the project. When completed it will host a number of architectural and cultural exhibits and programs while serving as the headquarters for historic preservation in East Chicago.*



*The Grand Boulevard Library which was built at the turn of the last century is slated to become the Carnegie Library Center for the Performing Arts. A commission has been established, an architect is on board and once again, funding is being sought. When completed it will provide a much needed venue for the performing arts in East Chicago while at the same time, saving a most unique link to the historic past of this great city. Music, dance and drama will be taught once again in E.C.*

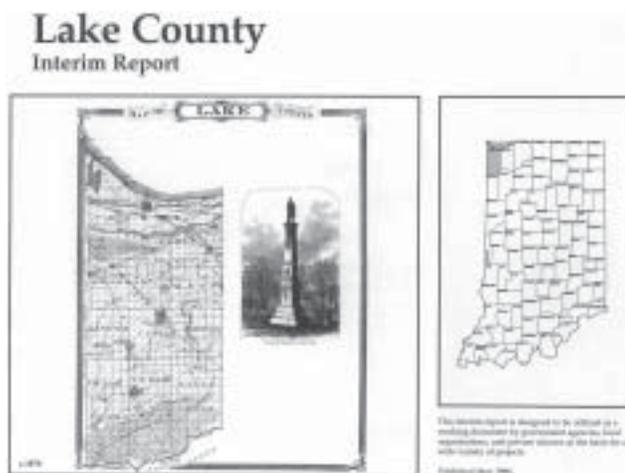
status.

What makes the architecture in East Chicago so unique? There are several factors that need to be considered. The first and foremost is the time period in which much of East Chicago was built. It was during the great industrial revolution of the early part of the last century. More than 60 nationalities of immigrant workers made East Chicago their home, and the home for the next generations of their families. In moving here they brought with them the ideals and concepts of their homelands. As you drive through East Chicago take a close look at the top of some of the buildings. In Indiana Harbor there is a classic two flat apartment building with a massive stone porch and facade. In the header of the porch is carved San. Jose. On a property in East Chicago that is now a church there is a stone

engraved with "Transylvania Hall." The names, stories and histories go on and on.

The old First National Bank building on the corner of Indianapolis Boulevard and Chicago Avenue is not just important to East Chicago, but more importantly is one of the best examples of Neoclassical Bank architecture in all of Indiana. If you have never been in the bank you should take just a moment to walk in and see the outstanding architectural details of the main gallery.

What many do not realize is the number of absolutely outstanding properties that have already been razed in this city. The old fire station on Kennedy Avenue is a classic example. While it was listed in the interim report as "notable" this 1925 Tudor Revival fire house was razed to make way for an empty lot. Could it have been saved? YES! Was their a plausible reuse for the building? YES!! It could



*The Lake County Interim Report of 1996 provides a comprehensive guide for historic preservation for all of Lake County. Not including the Marktown Historic District, there are more than 500 historic properties listed in East Chicago, each one of which deserves the opportunity to be preserved and restored to its former glory.*

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



*While this great little church on the corner of Grand Boulevard has seen better days, it still stands not only as an example of early 20th century church architecture, but more importantly, it stands as a link to the cultural heritage and diversity that is so unique to East Chicago. It's up to you - save it or raze it!*

have been used as a fire safety and training facility for school children or as a fire fighter museum for those that serve and protect us in this great city. But those ideas were never considered at the time that the building was torn down.

One of the other truly great buildings in East Chicago is the old Wickey house on 145th street just north of City Hall. This is East Chicago's only example of a Queen Ann house that is still standing. Built in 1890 it was also one of the first homes in E.C. with electricity. Will it be saved? Will it be



*Who in this city does not want to see the classic homes in Washington Park maintained in their classic setting for generations to come? We need to celebrate our architectural heritage and not take it for granted any longer!*



*This is by far one of the most unique two-flat homes in all of East Chicago. While the stonework has been painted for several years, the detail of the original building has not been lost. Carved in the header of the front porch support is the name San. Jose, making this building a most unique link to our cultural diversity.*

restored to it's former glory? Only time will tell.

Does historic preservation pay for itself? Absolutely and in more ways than most people can imagine. Historic preservation brings people together. It can unite them in the heritage that is integral to their community. Property values can and do increase with each and every property restored. But the problem that we face is that before the concept can even be considered some people, ignorant of the facts, have stepped forward to denounce something that they don't even



*This row of classic Chicago Two-Flats is one of the most unique neighborhoods in this city. The classic line of these homes may be in jeopardy if just one property owner decides to do something inappropriate in this most unique neighborhood.*



*It doesn't take a great deal of imagination to find a use for this grand old union building located on Broadway and Grand Avenue in Indiana Harbor. How about a union museum and offices for various nonprofit organizations in East Chicago? Not a bad idea and a great way to preserve the past for future generations.*

know about. So let me leave you with a quote from Marktown's National Register Nomination: "...Marktown presents a living lesson in history and culture from the pioneer growth period of the Calumet Region. This region, which is America's industrial heartland, is quite young compared to other great regions of this nation. Sometimes in such areas the concern for history is lost. But here there is the opportunity to preserve the Marktown community as a living and useful landmark of genuine architectural

Every building in Marktown deserves to be restored to its former glory. All of the homes and all of the commercial building as well. Along with this we also need to work with those in other historic neighborhoods in East Chicago to see to it that our cultural and architectural heritage are preserved for generations to come!

***We have but three choices; we can burn bridges, we can build bridges or we can restore bridges. Before we build or burn, let's work together to preserve those few precious bridges that we have. Marktown and hundreds of other buildings in East Chicago are but bridges unto the past. Let's work together to preserve and restore them before it is too late!***



*This classic brick six-flat is an outstanding example of early 20th century residential architecture. Built during the rapid expansion of Indiana Harbor during the early 1900s the housing was designed for supervisors at Inland Steel, located just down the street. Much of the original stained glass is still intact.*

*and cultural significance for the Calumet Region, the state and the Country. The Marktown area is an important cultural resource which should be restored to accurately present the intentions of the original design."*

The same applies to a good number of buildings in this great city. They should be considered as important cultural resources and not as potential empty lots. They should be preserved today for future generations of East Chicago residents and not razed out of ignorance or apathy.



*How about an idea for the restoration of the old Marktown Market Square? While those of a lesser mind would like to see it torn down, those that understand Marktown and historic preservation can see this not only being fully restored but more importantly an active part of this community once again. How about a convenience store and a laundry mat. Two of the apartments could be restored and used by the Salvation Army for families in East Chicago who have need for emergency lodging due to fire or natural disaster. Now that's an idea!*

If you would like more information on historic preservation or a copy of the East Chicago section of the Lake County Interim Report, please feel free to give Paul Myers a call at 397-2239 or stop by his home at 405 Prospect Street in the Marktown Historic District. Let's all give historic preservation a chance!

## **What's This Historic Preservation Stuff All About? by Paul A. Myers**

Several years ago a Marktown resident wanted the Marktown Preservation Society to solicit funds from local industry so that we could purchase baseball bats, balls and gloves for the children of Marktown. We explained to her that the Marktown Preservation Society wasn't set up for this type of activity. Her response was "Well I guess I need to find out what this preservation stuff is all about."

It is difficult if not impossible to sum up the concepts of Historic Preservation in a one page article, for Historic Preservation can mean something different to virtually everyone who is involved in the field. It can mean that you want to restore and preserve your family home. It can mean that you are interested in the work of a particular architect and you want to see his work preserved.

While we will be addressing what Historic Preservation means from a brick and mortar (OK stucco and fences) in later issues and meetings, lets just talk about the numbers.

In 1970, according to the U.S. Census, the property values in Marktown were approximately \$10,500. The same census reports that the average value of a home in the Pullman Historic (Chicago) in 1970 was also \$10,500.

The 200 U.S. Census shows that the average price of a home in Marktown is \$20,500, while at the same time the average price of a home in Pullman was \$110,000! That's right -- \$110,000!!!!

What happened to Marktown? Better yet, what happened to Pullman? The answer to both questions is the same -- HISTORIC PRESERVATION. In city after city and in town after town, with absolutely no exceptions, Historic Preservation of neighborhoods like ours has turned the tide in property values, and at the same time has reversed the tide of gangs, crime and drugs. As the value of the homes increases, the criminal element disappears.

OK. You're a skeptic. You say, "So our property values go up to \$110,000. What about our property taxes? Are they going to go up at the same rate as the property values? NO! Not if we work together. We can actually increase the property values, eliminate blight, gangs, drugs, have 100% occupancy and still keep our property tax at virtually the same level OR LOWER. How do we do this? The first thing we have to do is quit our bickering and

WORK TOGETHER!

How did Pullman manage to turn things around in the past three decades? That's simple. The first thing they did was WORK TOGETHER! They not only placed their property on the National Register of Historic Places, but they also established an Historic Review Board and set standards for preservation that everyone could live with comfortably.

How difficult was it for Pullman? Believe it or Not, it wasn't all that difficult and no one was forced to make changes. They made changes because that was the only logical and financially feasible alternative to the problems that faced their community. You see, about thirty years ago the neighboring community of Roseland wanted to tear Pullman down and turn it into an industrial park. Today, Pullman is nearly totally restored and Roseland is in

ruins.

How easy would it be to restore Marktown? Very easy compared to Pullman. We are a smaller community with a common exterior finish of stucco and a unified architectural plan. The windows and doors were all of the same architectural style and we have many of the original plans for our community. So what's the next step? You can wait until the future issues of Marktown Update to find out, or just



*The Pullman Historic District in Chicago stands today as an example of what historic preservation can do for a neighborhood. All they had to do was give historic preservation a chance and work together!*

give me a call and we can discuss what WE need to do as a community.

The following is a quote from the 1975 National Register Nomination for the Marktown Historic District:

"...Marktown presents a living lesson in history and culture from the pioneer growth period of the Calumet Region. This region, which is America's industrial heartland, is quite young compared to other great regions of this nation. Sometimes in such areas the concern for history is lost. But here there is the opportunity to preserve the Marktown community as a living and useful landmark of genuine architectural and cultural significance for the Calumet Region, the state and the Country. The Marktown area is an important cultural resource which should be restored to accurately present the intentions of the original design."

**Let's start and think "RESTORATION" and not "DEVISTATION."**

*(This article was originally printed in Marktown Update - June 2003)*

# Work done at Community Center not quite what was needed!

by Paul A. Myers

It's what we've learned to expect in Marktown and in East Chicago. Everyone wants to take the credit and no one, absolutely no one wants to take the blame or the responsibility when things go wrong; and so it is with the recent renovations at the Old Marktown Community Center. In May 2004 when the Marktown Preservation Society fully realized that we are absolutely not going to get our proposed New Marktown Community Center at any point in the foreseeable future, we wrote a letter to Mayor Pastrick and sent copies to the Parks Board and Parks Superintendent Joe Valdez as to what needs to be done at our current facility.

Within a week of having sent the letter it was announced that the center would be closed for three weeks so that repairs could be made. It was most convenient for those in charge to close the center during the critical sign up period for much of the STARS sports programs. In doing so they have effectively excluded the children from Marktown once again.

At least one Parks Board member was outraged that anyone would question their ability to oversee what was needed at any of their facilities. What a shame. I doubt if the individual has ever even been in our current community center and seen just how bad it has become. Comment was also made that if we keep complaining about things that they will just shut it down and be done with it. Now that's an intelligent idea. I guess they are trying to say "If you aren't satisfied with what we want to give you then we will take it all away - because we are in charge here - not you!"

How absolutely unfortunate that everyone wants to take credit for what did get done, but not one of them wants to stand up and fight for what needs to be done. First of all, the repairs that were detailed in the letter to the Mayor should be made immediately. Secondly, we, as a neighborhood should stand up and fight for not only the New Marktown Community Center that we were promised last year, but also for the completion of the street project that was begun fourteen years ago.

Who would normally be standing up for what needs to be done in Marktown? Traditionally that would be the Democratic Precinct Committee Person, but that just isn't going to happen. And why? Because she has managed to not only get four of her family members full time jobs, but now she has managed to get other family members summer jobs. Oh yes, and don't forget - her daughter-in-law that works for the School City will soon be working for the Parks Department so she can be in charge of our Community Center. How can we ever expect our precinct committee person to stand up for us when she has so much to lose if she does?

So, back to the renovations at the Center. They closed the building down for three weeks. What did they get done you ask? They painted the walls. They replaced a few of the lights. They put in a few new bookcases and they mopped the floor. They said they wanted to strip, wax and buff the floor but the machines that they needed for that were (of course) being used that day at other community centers. Isn't that a shame. This floor has NEVER been stripped, waxed and buffed in the 20 years that it has been down,



*The Marktown Community Center after the most recent repairs. While those responsible for the work did not come nearly close to our expectations, I suppose we should be satisfied with a coat of paint, some new lights and a few new book cases. Maybe if we had all been permitted to work together on the proposed New Marktown Community Center, we wouldn't have to settle for the leftovers and scraps.*

and it won't be done now because the OTHER centers need to have their weekly buff job.

I would also like to point out that during the three week period in which the center was closed, they never put in a 6 hour day or even worked a five day work week at our center. They had other things to do you know. More important things than us.

While we are on the subject of the Community Center repairs, isn't it a shame that not only wasn't the handicap accessible ramp not built to the ADA standards, but to think that the materials were so sub-standard that it is already coming apart.

If you want to see the original letter sent to Mayor Pastrick, we've posted it at the Community Center. If they have taken it down before you get there, stop by my home and I will be more than glad to give you a copy. Isn't it about time that we start speaking up for ourselves and make POSITIVE things happen in this neighborhood once again.

# Overwhelming POSITIVE RESPONSE To The Last Issue Of Marktown Update

by Paul A. Myers

If you haven't noticed from what and how I write some of the articles in Marktown Update, I truly love this neighborhood and the great city of East Chicago. To an extent that is due to the fact that not only have I chosen to make Marktown my home for all of my adult life, but equally as important, because I can see the absolute potential for this neighborhood if it were totally restored. Many of the concepts that I have brought forward in Update can help us resolve the problems that face this most unique community.

While hand carrying Update through the community the first week of June a number of people stopped me and actually thanked me not only for Marktown Update, but more importantly for what I have done for ALL of the residents and property owners in this most unique and isolated of neighborhoods. I can not tell you how much this has meant to me.

Within days of actually delivering that issue I began having people stop at my home and tell me just how great the last issue was. I was astounded. I thought it was a good issue but I didn't think it was all that great. One of the articles that most people enjoyed the most was titled **"RESPECTING YOUR NEIGHBORS AND THEIR PROPERTY: An important concept in Marktown and all of East Chicago."** Even city officials commented on how true the concept of respecting your neighbors is if we are to restore civility to Marktown, East Chicago or any other part of the Calumet Region or the Nation.

I would like to mention that there was one negative comment made to me in reference to the article. I was delivering the article to my Marktown neighbors over on Lilac Street when a woman drove up and got out of her van. She yelled at me **"Why do you hate my children? You need to leave them alone."** I asked her what she was talking about and she replied **"That article you wrote in your newsletter. You know what I'm talking about. And we never lived in public housing in Chicago."** I laughed and said, **"Well, I guess the article wasn't about you then was it? And as for leaving your children alone, maybe they can start and leave**

**things alone that they or you don't personally own. I haven't bothered your children but they certainly have bothered a good number of people in this neighborhood."**

The very next week I was driving down Grove Street when a resident stopped me and complained about what had been written on the park pavilion in paint. I asked her if she knew who did it and she said **"YES, and I spoke to the mother and she had her kids go paint over it."** She then asked a great question. She said **"What can I do about this?"** to which I replied, **"Mam, you've already done it. You did exactly what was needed. You started by talking to the person ultimately responsible for the actions of her children."**

You see, it works. Just like the two articles about last year about Mr. Kelling's concept of **Fixing Broken Windows**, once you define the problem the solutions will become obvious. If the Marktown Preservation Society can work with the property owners in reducing the assessed value of their properties by 85%, then we can do just about anything.

Marktown Update is not just a newsletter. It is a printed vehicle for positive change in Marktown, and ultimately in East Chicago. If we can make a difference here, then we can help to set a new standard and make a difference everywhere. Dishonesty, corruption, nepotism and croneyism in government at any level can no longer be tolerated. From free trees to the chosen few to ghost payrolls and inflated salaries, we the residents, the property owners, the citizens of Marktown, East Chicago, Lake County, the state and the nation have to take a firm stand to make a positive change in OUR government.

I will stand behind what I write. Unlike others I will not go door to door spreading vicious lies and demeaning and derogatory comments about others. I will stand behind what I say and I will put it in print so that all of my neighbors and friends know exactly where I stand on issues at hand. Together, all things are possible. Let's all work together to make Marktown a better, cleaner and safer place to live and to raise our families.

# STARS PROGRAM RETURNS TO MARKTOWN and with it the new ECPL Bookmobile!

Once again the East Chicago Parks & Recreation Department has stepped forward with their STARS Summer Day Camp program. **STARS** stands for **S**tudents **T**argeted **A**t **R**eaching **S**uccess and that is exactly what they hope to achieve - success. The program is open to school age children from 5-18 years old and yes it is also here in the Marktown Historic District. The program starts early with breakfast and continues through lunch and into the afternoon hours.

Every day will be filled with educational activities that will assist the children in reaching their academic standards in reading and math. The program goal is to help

our youth build strong character by experiencing a variety of cultures, learning new sports, learning more about themselves and acquiring important skills to handle various life issues.



*Dr. James Rajchel, Director of the EC Public Library stands next to the new bookmobile while at the Marktown Community Center this past month. If you don't have a library card, isn't it about time you sign up and get one. The bookmobile will be at the Community Center on Tuesday & Thursday mornings from 9:00 - 10:00 AM all summer long. See you there and keep*

Just to let you know, the STARS program is not a baby sitting service or a walk away program. Parents should plan on attending some of the activities and being involved with their child during parts of the program.

A new addition to the program is the newly acquired East Chicago Public Library Bookmobile. If you or your child does not have a library card, they can be applied for on Tuesday or Thursday right here in Marktown. Stop by and check out a book or two!

## IT'S OUR TURN TO LEND A HAND

In May ISG Indiana Harbor Works Traffic Department spent hundreds of hours cleaning up along Riley and Dickey Roads. As we noted in the last issue of Update, they didn't even own the property that they were cleaning up. To show our support for their efforts we decided to step up and lend a hand.

After weeding the Marktown planter at the edge of the Marktown Park we decided to move down the street and do a little work for ISG. It only took an hour or two to weed, prune and mow the property, but when it was done, the entire area looked great. Now that's what we call working together!



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

## Images From The Past: Marktown Up Close



Who is that desperado on the horse? It's no desperado and that ain't no horse. It's Marktown Preservation Society founder Paul Myers at about the age of three (1956) and that is a great little pony and not a horse. The photo was taken by one of the traveling photographers who went from neighborhood to neighborhood taking photos such as this. They would bring the cowboy hat, chaps and what ever else it took to entice children and parents to participate in the photo.

Paul was kind enough to loan this photo to us for this issue of Marktown Update. It is also but one of a number of photos from the archives of the Marktown Preservation Society that are now on display at the Indiana Welcome Center as a part of the Cultural Connections exhibit that runs through July 11th.

If you have photos of life in Marktown that you would like to share with our readers please give Paul a call at (219) 397-2239 and I am sure we can find space for them in your ...Marktown Update.

*Paul hasn't lost that gleam in his eyes or that sheepish smile. He has however lost most of his hair. Go figure.*



## New Marktown Community Center Construction Update

# ***ON HOLD!***



Marktown Update is a monthly publication of the Marktown Preservation Society which is dedicated to the restoration and preservation of the Marktown Historic District.

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***With TEAMWORK, Everything is Possible!***

