



# MARKTOWN UPDATE

A publication of the Marktown Preservation Society

July 2005

## *Mittal Steel Comes To The Rescue!*

Good neighbors are just that, good neighbors! Our friends at Mittal Steel are just that - good neighbors. No matter what name they have gone under over the past 100 years - Inland Steel, Mark Manufacturing, Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company, LTV Steel, ISG, Ispat Inland or now - Mittal Steel: they have always been good neighbors.

No, they don't have to donate money or buy things for the neighborhood to be good neighbors, all they have to do is care and participate when needed.

They did that last year when they decided to spruce up Dickey Road with the new planters. No, they didn't do that in response to requests from residents in Marktown. They analyzed the problem, came up with a solution and got it done. That's what a good neighbor does.

And so it was on Thursday, June 9th at about 11:30 AM when the Manager of Safety & Health Steve Thompson heard that an asphalt truck had turned over on the on ramp to Cline Avenue. It wasn't

Mittal Steel's truck and that ramp obviously isn't owned by Mittal Steel, but someone had to lend a hand and that someone was our friends at Mittal Steel.

340 degree hot asphalt was leaking out of the

truck and running down the ramp and onto the side of the road. Just how much asphalt would or could leak out could not be determined. Before the fire trucks or police were on the scene Mr. Thompson had radioed the plant and had a truck load of oil dry brought to the scene to help hold the ever growing lake of blackness at bay. Realizing that this would not contain the

mess completely he called for the heavy equipment to be sent in. A pay loader was driven to the on ramp and an earthen dike was built that held the asphalt in place until the mess could be cleaned up by the parties responsible.

You see, being a good neighbor doesn't necessarily mean buying things or donating money. All it means is pitching in and lending a hand whenever and however necessary to make a bad situation better.

We thank Mittal Steel and all of their employees for not only thinking about tiny little Marktown, but more importantly, doing the right thing at the right time and for the

right reasons. The solutions to the problems at hand are closer than we might think. All we have to do is work together to make the Marktown Historic District a better place for all. TEAMWORK is the solution!



*Top: An asphalt truck overturned on the east bound ramp of Cline Avenue, just west of Marktown on Riley Road. Note the billboard in the background that reads "You Look Guilty."  
Bottom: Asphalt pools at the side of the street*



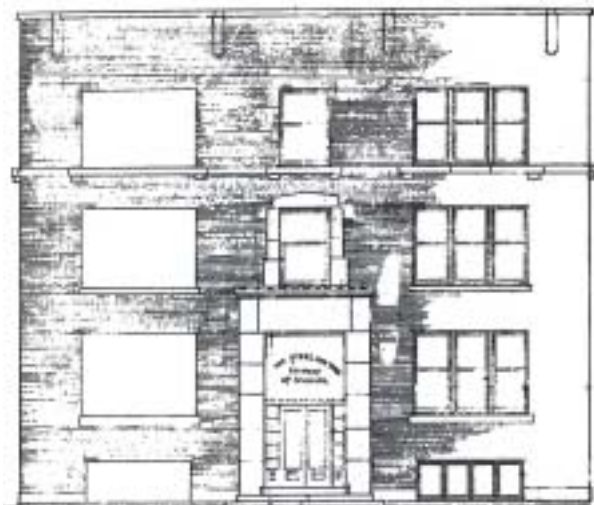
## Howard Shaw and Clayton Mark: the story continues...

In an earlier issue of Marktown Update we noted that Howard Van Doren Shaw, the architect who designed the Mark Town Site, had also designed the home of Cyrus Mark in Evanston, Illinois. Cyrus was the father of Clayton Mark, the builder of Mark Manufacturing Co. and Marktown.

We thought we would share a couple other legacies of the Mark-Shaw relationship with you. The first is the Clayton Mark home in Lake Forest, Illinois. This massive 17,000 square foot home originally stood on 40 acres of prime real estate overlooking Lake Michigan in what was and still is one of the most exclusive neighborhoods in the Midwest.

Just how big is the house? The kitchen is larger than most Marktown homes. The home recently sold for \$9,500,000 and the new owners will be paying in excess of \$85,000 per year in property taxes alone.

The home is undergoing a major restoration including the remodeling of that very large kitchen at a cost of approximately \$250,000. Needless to say, it is a different neighborhood than anything we have here in Indiana.



*Above: the Clayton Mark Estate at 999 Lake Road in Lake Forest, Illinois.  
Below Left: Original drawing for the 1918 Main Office Building at Indiana Harbor.  
Below Right: That same office building in 2005 - still viable to the company.*

The second part of this story is of a much more modest building. Following WWI when the company became known as The Steel and Tube Company of America a new office building was needed at Indiana Harbor Works. Once again Clayton Mark called upon Chicago architect Howard Van Doren Shaw to provide the plans.

The office building at Indiana Harbor Works would not be the first nor the last industrial office complex by Mr. Shaw. In 1911 he designed a four

block area of offices and other industrial buildings for Joseph T. Ryerson at 2538 W. 16th Street in Chicago. Those too still stand today as a tribute to Mr. Shaw and the steel industry that built them.

The Main Office Building on the western side of what is now Mittal Steel is still a most viable and well built structure that, like Marktown, serves its original purpose. You see, there is room in the present for the icons of the past. Let's work together to preserve the rich heritage that is Marktown!



## Letters From The Front - Iraq Update

Letters from the front used to be written and mailed. Today, with the advent of the internet, they are electronically expressed around the world faster than you can sign on or off of your internet service provider. Just as we were mailing out the June issue of Marktown Update we received an email with a subject line that read "**A Marktown kid in Iraq.**" This is what he had to say:

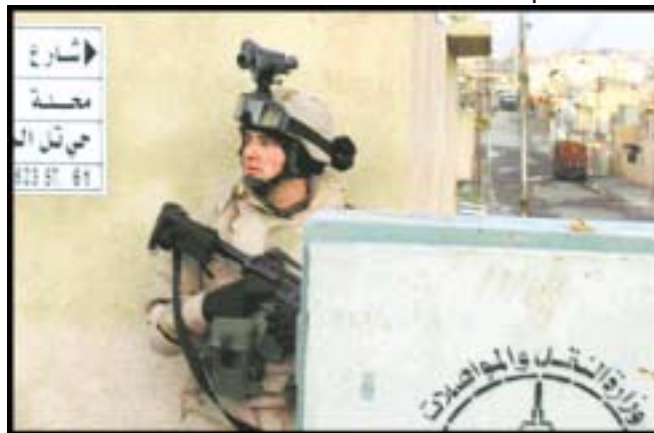
*Hello Paul, 27 May 2005  
I am Spc. Tomas Canchola and I live in the Marktown Historic District at 504 Spring Street. I am currently in Mosul, Iraq with Bravo Company of the 113th Engineer Battalion from Valparaiso. If it is not too much of a problem could you thank the kids from the Marktown Center for all the letters that they sent the soldiers here in Iraq? We really appreciate the fact that they are always thinking about us. Tell them if they have any questions or anything they want to ask us about to please do so. I will return letters and emails as soon as possible. I will attach some photos so the kids can see what it is like in Iraq.*

*Once again - thanks for everything,  
Tomas Canchola  
email address: tomas.canchola@us.army.mil*

*NOTE: While we always give credit to the children from Marktown for writing letters to the brave young men and women in military service, we often forget that it takes a dedicated staff and an awful lot of hard work to make*

**Editor's note:** We've printed all four of the photos that Tomas has sent and Judy Hick and Maria Perez have made sure they are posted on our wall of fame at the Community Center. Below is one of the photos that he sent us. We hope our readers enjoy it.

Tomas lives at 504 Spring Street in one of the WWII brick four-square houses. It is right next door to Jose and Clara Madrigal who lost their grandson Luis Perez in Iraq last year. Just down the street from both families is Staff Sergeant Henry A. Padilla and his wife Sandra and son Omar. Sergeant Padilla served in Iraq for a year-and-a-half and was featured in the October 2004 issue of Marktown Update.



*projects like this happen. Special thanks must go to Judy Hick and Maria Perez of the East Chicago Recreation Department for always guiding the children of Marktown in the right direction. Well done ladies!*

## Weed Whacking Our Way To A Better Marktown

Tired of unsightly weeds growing up out of the sidewalks and the foundation of your home? Is there a vacant home or two on your block that has the same problem and no one is there to take care of it? Do you want all of the sidewalks and curbs to be weed free this summer? If you say yes to any or all of these questions then the solution is but a telephone call away.

For the fourth consecutive year the Marktown Preservation Society is pleased to provide this service free to the residents of Marktown. There is only one catch. We have to do the entire block. All you have to do to avail yourself of



this service is to have one resident of any particular block call Paul Myers at the Marktown Preservation Society at 397-2239 and we will schedule a block party clean up on your street.

It doesn't take all that long and the more residents that actually cooperate and participate, the easier it gets. While we are willing to assist homeowners inside their yards, our policy has always been that we do not go on private property WITHOUT the owners permission. And what is the fee for this great service? Just say thank you when it's done and we will be well paid.

## Marktown Street Project Moves Forward Spruce Avenue Bids Are In

Wednesday, June 15th found four regional general contractors at the Council Chambers at City Hall as the Board of Public Works opened the sealed bids for the last phase of the fifteen year street improvement project for the Marktown Historic District.

City Engineer Ernie Jones personally opened the sealed bids and read aloud the bid information. The following bids were submitted:

Walsh & Kelly	\$719,571.00
Gariup Construction	\$689,000.03
Superior Construction	\$655,285.95
Rieth Riley	\$527,115.10

It should be noted that while this portion of the project was bid at the same time that Oak Avenue was, the delay in the project required that it be bid once again. Rieth Riley was the successful bidder on the Oak Avenue portion of the project two years ago. Their 2005 bid for Spruce Avenue is approximately 10% higher than it was in 2003.

We should also note that the newly revised city ordinance mandating minority participation and East Chicago resident participation in all contracts exceeding \$100,000.00 will be enforced on this and all other jobs meeting that basic cost requirement. One unfortunate part of this is that the contractors are all union shops which means that even if you

reside in East Chicago, and you are not a member of one of the craft unions required for the job, you still are not eligible for employment.

We do understand that a new nonprofit group named East Chicago Contractors Association has been formed with the primary purpose of providing training for those seeking union membership in the trade unions. The organization is headed by Mike Gonzalez.

There is one last hurdle that the Spruce Avenue project will have to make it over before the contract can be awarded. On the north side of the street is a series of telephone poles that carry the Comcast, Ameritech and NIPSCO service to the community. Under the American Disabilities act, once the city decides to replace the existing sidewalk in which the poles are presently placed, those poles will have to be relocated in order to accommodate handicap accessibility on that particular sidewalk. All three companies and the city of East Chicago are working on resolving this problem. The best solution is to take all three services underground along Spruce Avenue. Unfortunately, to do so will require an additional cost nearly as great as the construction cost for the street itself. We will keep you posted on the outcome of this project in MARKTOWN UPDATE!

## Marktown parking plans to be subject of hearing

By BOB KASARDA  
Times Staff Writer

Thursday, February 8, 1990

EAST CHICAGO - Chicago architect Charles Gregersen said he has a plan that would alleviate parking problems in the historic Marktown neighborhood while maintaining its character.

City Engineer John Garcia also has a plan, but roads in the area need to be updated to handle today's traffic and maintenance needs.

The main problem in the area is that the streets are only 16 feet wide, forcing many of the residents to park on the sidewalks. The sidewalks

were not built to handle the weight of cars and many have cracked, he said.

There is only about eight feet to work with between the street and the houses in solving the problem, he said.

The public will have a chance to learn about and comment on the plans during a meeting scheduled for 6:30 tonight at the Marktown community center, 3509 Spruce Avenue.

Garcia said he intends to introduce a "functional" plan that would allow interested homeowners to construct driveways. He also has a plan to allow parking on only one side of the street.

He opposes allowing homeowners to continue parking on the sidewalks because of plans to construct antique-style light posts in the area.

"It is my opinion that car bumpers and light poles conflict, and accidents are likely," he said.

Gregersen said he does not see any feasible alternative to parking on

the sidewalks. The entire Marktown neighborhood is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, which restricts destruction to the landscape, such as building driveways.

The city also has no right to tell the people of one area that they must park on their property.

He proposes reconstructing the sidewalks to handle the weight of cars.

The proposed light posts will not interfere with the parking because they will stand near the houses and off to the side at the property lines, he said.

Marktown resident Paul Myers said he understands that the area can't be kept entirely in its original form, but he prefers Gregersen's plan because it is probably what the original architect, Howard Shaw, would do if he were here today.

**NOTE:** This article is reprinted to give our readers and residents a historic perspective to this project.

# Being Civic Minded And Caring About This Neighborhood Isn't Easy!

I don't like writing articles like this but as this may be one of the last issues of Marktown Update, I feel that I am at least entitled to step forward one more time and say what needs to be said. Let me begin by saying that virtually everything that the prior administration did in this neighborhood was a two edged sword. They gave with one hand and took with the other. They gave us a listing on the National Register of Historic Places and they took from us code enforcement.

They gave us a rebuilt park and took from us the maintenance of that park. They gave us a five year street improvement plan that fifteen years later still is not completed.

Undoubtedly one of the prime examples of this is the property at 417-419 Spring Street. You know which one it is. It was occupied by "Crazy" Joe Rodriguez and his wonderful son Joey.

How bad was this property? So bad that one owner across the street torched his own property



just to collect the insurance money because he could not sell it for what he had paid for it just a few years earlier. That's how bad it was. One half of the house was sold to Rafael Bejar who took a month just to clean out the junk. The other half was sold to Joe's son Joey who will do absolutely nothing to remedy the problems at hand.

Thirteen of the twenty homes on the 400 block of Spring Street are now vacant because of this. Do you get the point? What good are new streets, nice parks or even a new community center if we have been stripped of our dignity and our ability to have each and every home in this neighborhood properly restored and occupied.

The answer to this and virtually every problem that faces this neighborhood is the concept and acceptance of historic preservation. Only through this second form of oversight can our investment and reinvestment in this neighborhood be guaranteed.

**Paul A. Myers, Editor**

## Marktown Restorer Dodges Detractors

An egg flew by Paul Myers as he walked through what may be suburban Chicago's most overlooked landmark: Marktown.

A subdivision in East Chicago, Indiana., Marktown was designed as an English village of workers' cottages by renowned architect Howard Van Doren Shaw, better known for designs of Lake Forest estates and Hyde Park churches.

Here you can buy a Shaw-designed home for \$12,000, 20 minutes from the Loop. The drawback is that the neighbor-

hood is surrounded on three sides by steel mills and on the fourth by the world's largest oil refinery, which twinkles on the horizon at night like an industrial land of Ox.

Eat Chicago doesn't have a local review process to protect landmarks. The subdivision's 100 buildings and 200 housing units, built in 1917 as part of a project that never was completed, are in varying states of repair.

Myers, founder of the Marktown Preservation Society and executive director of the new Howard Van Doren Shaw Society, said the hurled egg probably was intended for him. He says he's not popular with everyone as he goes around the subdivision trying to enforce existing building codes.

He's lived in Marktown all



his life. He runs a karate school but preservation is his passion.

He fixed up his six-room cottage to be more like the original design, and helped get the neighborhood on the National Register of Historic Places, which saved it from the path of an expressway bridge. He is campaigning for a local preservation ordinance to pro-

tect the buildings. The challenge, he said, is educating people: "It's easier to restore the houses than change them." Alf Siewers

Note: Who threw the egg? Crazy Joe Rodriguez, that's who. This article first appeared in the Chicago papers in the early 1990's and was syndicated nationally.

## From Yard To Driveway To Yard - A Marktown Story

It is an interesting story that hopefully will be repeated time and time again. Despite what many say, Marktown is fully restorable and this one example is but simple proof. Marktown is more than just the homes, it is the context in which they were built. It is their proximity to each other and the open green spaces between each home. While they are individual homes, they are part of a set, part of a bigger picture. They are a part of a very important plan and they are about the history of East Chicago and the industrial age of the past.

A number of years ago one of our neighbors was having problems with a neighbor across the street. The children of the neighbor were found setting on the hood of their new car on several occasions, and no matter what they did the parents just would not intervene to stop it from happening. Sound familiar? Children disrespecting other peoples property isn't limited to renters or to Marktown. It happens when parents don't teach their children to respect the property of others.

Their solution was to begin parking their car in their yard. That's right, we see it more and more. Some of our neighbors just don't understand that for the most part you are not gaining any parking space in doing this. If you put in a drive way you have lost a parking space on the street.

This past spring things changed. The neighbor with the disrespectful children had moved some years ago. The threat to their automobile was gone and the need to protect their car just wasn't as great. Somewhere along the line they decided to put the lawn back in and begin gardening again.

The yard went from grass to parking lot to grass in just a few short years. Do you get the point. The vast majority of the problems that face this community are reversible. This neighborhood can be restored and preserved as quality homes for gen-

erations to come. What we need to do is understand that Marktown is not just affordable housing. It is a rich part of the industrial history of the Calumet Region, the state of Indiana and yes, that of the United States of America.

Let me leave you once again with two very important quotes:

"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."

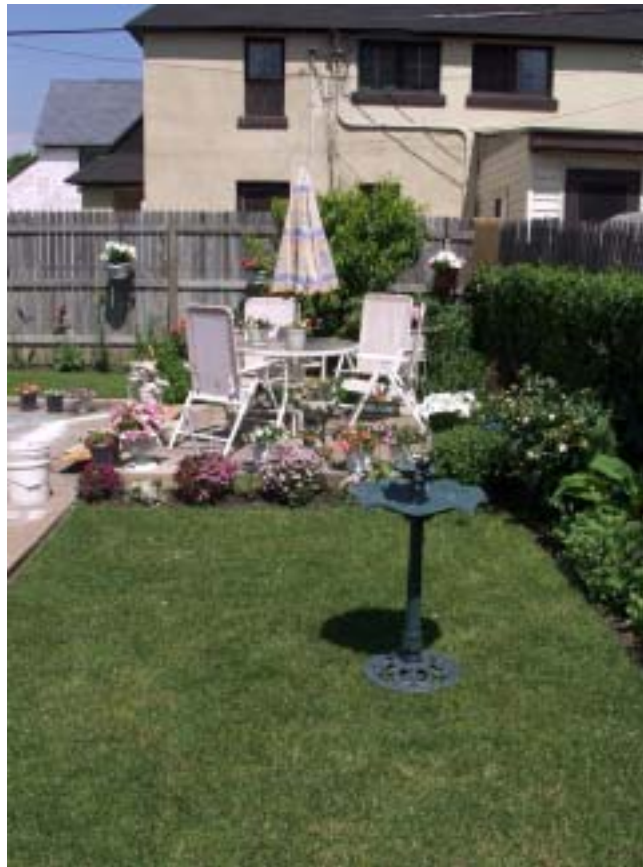
*Daniel H. Burnham,  
Architect and Author of  
The Plan of Chicago  
C. 1909*

"...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 ar-

reas 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.**"

*Richard Morrisroe - City Planner 1974  
National Register of Historic Places  
Marktown Historic District Nomination*

Whether Marktown is restored in the future or not is unclear at this time. The important thing to remember is that it will take the residents of this community to lead the way into our future - not outsiders.



## Marktown's Market Square Gets New Planter & Sign

It takes planning, paperwork and a good deal of patience to apply for, receive and then expend funds from grants, but then again - if that's what it takes - that's what we'll do. About a year ago we announced that we had received a grant from the Foundations of East Chicago for a second planter and sign for the Marktown Historic District. Once we made that announcement someone was nice enough to attempt to stop the planter from being installed. It appears that they were under the impression that they could acquire the funds for their own projects. Not the case.

Even though we had the Parks Superintendent's

permission to install the planter we then had to go before the Parks Board and discuss the issue again. By the time we were done with that it was far too late in the year to proceed with the planter.

The day that we met with Parks Superintendent Rudy Byron about planting the flowering crab trees in the Marktown Park on Arbor Day we also discussed the

installation of the second planter.

Immediately after that we contacted Northwest Industrial Specialists in East Chicago and Allen Landscape in Highland and finally set the project in motion. It takes about 3-4 weeks to get the signs custom made and 6-8 weeks to schedule the landscape crews for the job.

The final result is that two of the three public access corners of the Marktown Historic District now have beautiful signs and planters heralding our location. Our special thanks goes to the Parks Department and the Foundations of East Chicago for making this planter a reality. You see - with teamwork all things truly are possible!



## Another Marktown Wedding!

Yes wedding bells were heard once again in Marktown this summer. The date was May 28th and the location was once again Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Indiana Harbor. The bride was Carol Lopez of Hammond and the groom was Marktown's own Jeremy "Jay" Rodriguez. Jeremy is the second son of Kimberly Unger Rodriguez who is the only daughter of Mary Agness (McGrath) Unger and Fred Unger.

The best man for the wedding ceremony was the eldest of Kim's sons Ismael Rodriguez. The maid of honor was Julie Rodriguez (no relation). The eldest of Carol and

Jay's daughters, three year old Serena served as the cutest little flower girl you ever wanted to see until it was time to toss the rose pedals on the white runner. She decided to keep the pretty pedals for herself. Leave it to a child to steal the show every time. Their youngest daughter, 15 month Joclyn was present at the wedding and was doted after by all of the aunts, uncles, cousins and nephews.

The reception was held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Lansing, Illinois and obviously, a good time was had by all present. This is starting to look like the old **Marktown On The Party Line** articles. What will we do next?



## Hang In There - The Lanundry Is Nearly Dry!

Long before gas or electric clothes dryers were invented the ladies of the house would hang their wet laundry on clothes lines to dry. In the winter months they would hang it in the basement and in the summer months they would hang it on clothes lines. Life in Marktown was no exception.

During this period of domestic history in Marktown clothes lines were strung from house to house and from house to clothes poles. While there are but a few clothes poles left in Marktown, there are a number steel porch hooks

and window hooks remaining in the neighborhood.

Before the homes were sold by the company to the residents in the late 1940's there were no fences between the houses. Clothes lines were strung from

home to home and the laundry was hung to dry over gardens and lawns.

One of the problems that we had at that time was that if the wind came out of the North the ladies would scamper out to get the laundry down before the air pollution would send them back to the laundry tubs to begin again.

Shown here are a number of hand sewn quilts made by the grandmothers and great grandmothers of Paul Myers. The photo was taken most recently and the clothes lines run through 3 yards.



## Summer Program Kicks Off At Marktown Community Center

The East Chicago Parks and Recreation Department under the direction of Parks Superintendent Rudy Byron and Recreation Supervisor Jose Bustos (*formerly of Marktown*) have announced their summer plans and programs for the children of East Chicago.

This years program is a continuation of the S.T.A.R.S. program of last year. S.T.A.R.S. stands for "***Students Targeted At Reaching Success***" and that is exactly what it does. This is a summer day camp program in our community, and unlike similar programs elsewhere, it's FREE! All you have to do is make sure your

children have signed up specifically for S.T.A.R.S. The S.T.A.R.S. program will run from June 27th through August 12th.

Programs include chess, basketball, tennis, drama, volleyball and softball, soccer, girl talk, reading and mathematics, character building and fitness and nutrition. There will also be golf, fishing and volleyball included in the program. While reading and mathematics are included in the activities it should be noted that there is no studying in this program - it's learning through experience.

The goal of the camp is to help the youth of our neighborhood

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 - all in an atmosphere of fun.

In preparation of this the Marktown Community Center hours have shifted to the summer schedule. They are now open from 7:00 AM - 5:00 PM Monday through Friday. Breakfast and lunch will once again be served on a daily basis. Breakfast from 8:00-8:30 AM and lunch from Noon to 12:45 PM. If you haven't signed up your children - NOW IS THE TIME!

## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Someone recently asked why we don't list the notice of the passing of present or former Marktown residents in Update. Despite the fact that we would really like to do so, we just can't. If we begin, we must continue. If we attempt it, we are bound to miss someone.

We grieve at the loss of any present or past resident of this community. This past month I attended a memorial service for a past resident that I had just had the pleasure of speaking to about a month earlier. We spoke of Marktown past, present and fu-

ture. We spoke of what Marktown had been and what it should and can be again.

Marktown is life itself, with all of its trials and tribulations. Marktown Update is a good news publication and the passing of friends is just never good news.



# opinion

log on to [opinion.nwintimes.com](http://opinion.nwintimes.com)

Friday, June 17, 2005 - The Times

## The eyes have it

**The issue:** Suspicious activities should be reported to the police promptly  
**Our opinion:** Citizens and police working together make a powerful anti-crime team

If you're concerned about crime in your town and want to make an impact, we ask you to consider the arrest earlier this week of a rape suspect in Valparaiso.

In a textbook quality example of community oriented policing, an alert citizen took action after finding a suspicious item in her yard. She notified police and they responded promptly.

As a result, 18-year-old Arturo Garcia-Torres, of 53 Roosevelt Road, Valparaiso, is facing charges of rape, attempted rape and burglary. A court will determine his guilt or innocence, but the case built through citizen and police cooperation, including an alleged confession, would appear to warrant a trial.

The police investigation began Monday, when Mary Adkins, who

### Your opinion, please

Do you think people are reluctant to get involved? Share your thoughts at [www.nwintimes.com/youropinion](http://www.nwintimes.com/youropinion)

was mowing her lawn, found a cell phone on the ground.

The phone reportedly contained the name, Rey Garcia, Adkins asked her children if that was one of their friends. A friend of her stepson recalled that police had been looking for a Hispanic man early Sunday morning. Adkins then called police. Detectives used the phone to find Rey Garcia, who reportedly said he had sold the phone to his cousin, Garcia-Torres.

Police believe Garcia-Torres lost the cell phone and some change while fleeing the scene of a break-

in and attempted rape on Garfield Street early Sunday morning. Their investigation linked him to the Garfield Street attack and a July 2004 break-in and rape of a Valparaiso University student. Just 36 hours passed between the time of the attempted rape and the arrest of Garcia-Torres.

We commend the Valparaiso Police Department for quickly investigating ownership of the lost cell phone and for understanding that the phone was more significant than another item for the lost-and-found department. And we especially commend the alert citizen, Mary Adkins, for asking questions about the cell phone and notifying police.

Crime withers and dies in the neighborhoods where citizens and police work together.

*If this works with breaking, entering and rape, then it can work for virtually all of the problems facing Marktown and East Chicago. The only way to resolve the problems in this community is by working together and being involved. It worked two years ago when the Marktown Preservation Society and Paul Myers worked with virtually all of the property owners of Marktown in the informal and formal appeals of the property assessments. It worked in 1990 when we designed the Marktown Street Improvement Project. It worked in 1974 when we placed Marktown on the National Register of Historic Places and saved it from being razed. It worked in 1955 when Chester Williams led the fight to prevent Marktown from being zoned industrial and torn down.*

*The Marktown Preservation Society is the ONLY Indiana nonprofit corporation in this neighborhood that is recognized by the Indiana Secretary of State. We are here to help ALL of our residents work together to make the Marktown Historic District a better, cleaner and safer place to live, and to raise our families.*

**Once again the name of our organization is Marktown Preservation Society, Inc.**

**The key words are Marktown, Preservation, Society and yes, Incorporated!**

**Let's do it. Let's see to it that every home in Marktown is fully restored and owner occupied!**

# **FIRE HYDRANT WARNING**

We have had a few rather hot days this past month and as a result some of the younger people in this community have placed the lives of others in jeopardy. On several occasions fire hydrants have been turned on to provide a degree of relief to children in this community. In doing so we are jeopardizing the lives of others in East Chicago. When a fire hydrant is turned on it drops the water pressure for the entire city. Valuable water pressure is lost which may be needed to fight a fire and to save a life. PLEASE, do not encourage or assist in this activity. The life you save may be your own. If you see that a hydrant has been turned on, please contact the East Chicago Police Department IMMEDIATELY!

# **PARKS DEPARTMENT SPRINKLERS**

For as long as there has been a Marktown Park there has been a sprinkler system. For as long as there has been a sprinkler system children have played in the water. Unfortunately if children play with the actual sprinkler heads the system will probably be damaged to some degree. We encourage the children of this community to have fun in the water but we must ask that they respect the sprinklers and play in the water as opposed to playing with the actual sprinklers.

Parents are asked to please supervise their children at all times but most especially when the park sprinklers are on. The green park you save is OUR green park. Let's work together to keep it watered, green and looking great all summer long.

# 4th of July Fireworks Safety

To help you celebrate safely this 4th of July the Marktown Preservation Society offers the following safety tips:

- Always read and follow label directions.
- Have an adult present.
- Buy from reliable sellers.
- Use outdoors only.
- Always have water handy (a garden hose and a bucket).
- Never experiment or make your own fireworks.
- Light only one firework at a time.
- Never re-light a “dud” firework (wait 15 to 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water).
- Never give fireworks to small children.
- If necessary, store fireworks in a cool, dry place.
- Dispose of fireworks properly by soaking them in water and then disposing of them in your trash can.
- Never throw or point fireworks at other people.
- Never carry fireworks in your pocket.
- Never shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers.
- The shooter should always wear eye protection and never have any part of the body over the fireworks.
- Stay away from illegal explosives.
- Respect your neighbors property.
- Think twice about when and where you light fireworks.
- Let the safety of yourself and others be your watchword.

Let's make this a safe and sane 4th of July for everyone. The 4th of July is a time of national celebration. Let's all celebrate with dignity and respect. Before you buy fireworks, think about buying and displaying the flag of the United States of America. Fireworks should be an afterthought.

# ***How to be a Preservationist in the Marktown Historic District***

Picnic under an old tree. Turn off the TV. Read a historic novel. Tour a house museum. OR TWO.

**Sleep in a Historic Hotel. Go ghost hunting. Drive a scenic byway.**

Don't litter. Hike an ancient trail. Stroll in the park.

Canoe a canal (but not this one). Collect old stuff.

Share. Delve into your family tree. Write it down.

**Pass it on to your children. Go back to your grade school.**

**Help restore your neighbors Home.**

Get involved. Know your community. Admire its homes.

Donate a dollar. Or more. Learn about your

community's founders. **Find out about the history of**

**your house and of the Marktown Historic District.** Shop on

an historic Main Street, like Whiting's or the Crown Point Square and

Court House. Vote. Wander the streets of another historic

district like Pullman, and see what they have accomplished.

Look up at the second stories. Turn on the TV. **To a his-**

**tory channel.** Reenact the civil war. Ask grandma.

**MAKE A PHOTO ALBUM OF POSITIVE ASPECTS OF OUR NEIGH-**

**BORHOOD. Take a historic riverboat ride. Climb a**

mountain. Walk across a historic bridge. **TAKE**

**PICTURES. Ride a steam train. Dance a Virginia**

Reel. Buy an old house. Research how it looked when it

was first built, and work diligently to restore it. **PROTEST A**

**DEMOLITION.** Better yet, stop demolitions before they start!

**Learn lessons from the past.**

Respect our nation's and Marktown's heritage!

Leave it for our children.

**CELEBRATE MARKTOWN'S HERITAGE AND HELP  
TO RETURN IT TO IT'S FORMER GLORY!**