



MARKTOWN UPDATE

A publication of the Marktown Preservation Society

June 2003

Oak Avenue Begins - What a Great Start!

Once again the bulldozers, surveyors, engineers and a variety of construction workers have descended upon little Marktown for the next to last phase of the street project that was begun in 1990. Yes, there will be a degree of inconvenience for those of us who routinely use Oak Avenue, but when it is done, it will be great.

As with the other streets, virtually all of the concrete sidewalks, curbs and streets will be totally removed and reinstalled with new concrete. Along with this, as per the Federally approved plan, the fences will be moved back to the lot lines and historic street lights will be installed.



If you are curious about just how much light will be on Oak Avenue when the street is completed later this summer, just drive down Pine Avenue after dark. For those of you who didn't notice, the lighting used on Pine Avenue and Broad

Street is just a bit different than that used on the side streets. The new lighting elements provide a greater degree of light and still maintains the historic design.

Did you know that the in 1992 the Marktown street project received an *Outstanding Achievement Award* from the Indiana Ready Mix Concrete Association? Well we

did! The actual award will probably be displayed at the new community center when it opens.

SPRING COMES TO MARKTOWN

Several years ago the Marktown Preservation Society applied for and received a most generous grant from the Foundations of East Chicago for a planter, plants and a carved wooden sign for the Pine Avenue entrance to Marktown. All of the plants that were initially installed in the planter were perennials, which means that we do not have to replace them every year.

This past year, Dr. Raykovich had mentioned that the City of East Chicago had ordered 10,000 tulips for our city parks and public spaces. We never realized that the Marktown planter was to be included in that planting. But it was.

Last fall we cleaned up the old and dying foliage from the flowers and grass that is in the planter. When we were done, we never gave another thought to the planter until just this past month. While driving into Marktown

in April I noticed a number of new green plant sprouting up in the entire planter as opposed to just the area where the perennials were planted.

I took the time to stop and see just what was coming up. Much to my surprise, and to that of the residents of Marktown, the East Chicago Park Department had taken the time to plant several hundred yellow tulips throughout the planter. What a great gift to the residents of Marktown.

On behalf of all of the residents of Marktown, and those who travel down Riley Road to and from work, I would like to give a special thanks to Mayor Pastrick, Dr. Raykovich and to Joe Valdez of the E.C. Park Department for remembering Marktown and including us in this great project. We should also once again thank the Foundations of East Chicago for funding the planter years ago.



Marktown Featured in Two TV Programs

Who would have thought that tiny little Marktown would be featured in two outstanding television productions? We were and we are pleased to let you know about them.

The first program was a segment on the Indianapolis based program **Across Indiana**. The production crew and host drove up on Thursday, May 8th for the filming. The program aired on Saturday, May 24th at 6:00 PM and on Sunday, May 25th at 6:30 AM. It was a great segment which highlighted the Ripley's concept of parking on the sidewalk and walking in the streets. It appeared on WYIN in Merrillville and was on COMCAST channel 12 here in East Chicago

The second program was from Indiana University Northwest, School of Business and Economics. The one-half hour program was taped at the COMCAST studios in Merrillville. The program is called **Intersection** and is hosted by Professor's

Morton Marcus and Joe Gomeztagle. Marktown resident Paul Myers was asked to be their guest for a segment taped on May 13th. This is a weekly program which deals with business, economics and items of public interest. Discussed was the history of Marktown and the remarkable opportunity that the community has for reinvestment and full restoration. The show aired on channel 15 the week of May 20th.

Video tape copies of both programs are available on loan at the Marktown Community Center, at the East Chicago Public Library or from the Marktown Preservation Society. If you would like a copy and live out of the area, drop us an e-mail.

If you missed the **Ground Breaking Ceremonies** for the New Marktown Community Center on April 11th and would like to see what went on that day, a video tape of the event is also available at the Old Community Center. Stop over and borrow a tape or two on YOUR community!

Steel Exhibit Opens at Visitors Center - MARTOWN INCLUDED -

If you have never been to the Lake County Convention and Visitors Center in Hammond, then June may just be the month you want to stop in. Beginning at the end of May and running through July 6th is an outstanding exhibition sponsored by the various steel industries here in Lake County. Included will be items from Ispat Inland, US Steel and ISG. Two of the Big Three in steel are from East Chicago, and as we know, ISG is the successor company to the original Mark Manufacturing which later became Youngstown Sheet & Tube and eventually LTV and now ISG.

The 6,500 square foot exhibition hall will be filled with everything from artifacts of the mills to contemporary photographs, some of which were taken by a former Marktown resident, Dennis O'Donnel of Images Photographic in Highland. And yes, there is a section of the exhibition that deals exclusively with the Marktown Historic District. So load up the kids and give them a great chance to learn something about the history of the Calumet Region and of Marktown. The Center is located on Kennedy Avenue just south of 80/94. It is open seven days a week and is a great 1/4 tank trip for the entire family.

Mayor Pastrick Said He Would - And He Is!

It doesn't take a lot to see changes in Marktown or in East Chicago. Last year when Mayor Pastrick brought Dr. Raykovich and other key members of the city administration to Marktown, he promised to get things done in a big way, and those things are happening. The new street signs went up April, work has begun on the tennis and basketball courts, and the park is once again green. Dr. Raykovich made comment at a meeting this past month that the new sprinkler system for the Marktown Parks will begin shortly and will be completed in four separate systems. Well done and thanks Mayor!



Need to e-mail us? You can contact Paul at pmyers@eastchicago.com

What's This 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. Their 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 concept 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 value in Marktown was approximately \$10,500 per house. That's right, only \$10,500. The same census reports that the average value of a home in the Pullman Historic District in 1970 was also \$10,500.

The 2000 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 \$110,000.00!!!!

What happened to Marktown? Better yet, what happened in 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, 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 value, 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 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. 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 ruin.



How easy would it be to restore Marktown? Very easy compared to Pullman. We are a smaller community with a common 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 next issue

of UPDATE comes out, or just 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 "DEVASTATION"

How to be a Preservationist in the Marktown Historic District

Picnic under an old tree. Turn off the TV. Read an 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 history channel.** Reenact the civil war. Ask grandma.

MAKE A PHOTO ALBUM OF POSITIVE ASPECTS OF OUR NEIGHBORHOOD. Take an historic riverboat ride. Climb a mountain. Walk across an 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!

We're Back and WE are Ready to Help Make Marktown a Better, Cleaner and Safer Place for ALL OF US!!!

Back in 1996, when Richard Suchanuk was Precinct Committeeman, we established the Committee for a Better, Cleaner and Safer Marktown Historic District. When Mr. Suchanuk moved from our neighborhood we set the committee aside and moved on without it. Due to the problems that we have seen this past year we decided to bring it back and in a BIG way. Our first meeting is several years was held on Saturday, May 17th at 7:00 PM at the Old Community Center.

Jesse Cavazos, Chairman of the Committee began by greeting those present. An agenda was presented and followed throughout the meeting. Copies of a Mission Statement and Strategic Plan were distributed to those present and are available at the Old Community Center for those who could not attend.

So, what is the Committee planning? For the 4th of July we are looking at having a bicycle parade for all of the children in Marktown. We will ask that they decorate their bicycles or carry a flag in the parade. The parade route will probably be around the Old Park behind the Community

Center. We will also be replacing the yellow ribbon on the park trees with red, white and blue ribbon.

One problem that we also need to address is that of residential fireworks. I can not imagine how many residents have complained about having massive amounts of fireworks fired off in back yards and streets. What we are encouraging is that everyone bring your family sky rockets and fireworks to the Old Park at sunset and that we all share in the fun of watching them being fired off in a controlled and safe location. Sounds like a great idea and a lot of fun!

The city of East Chicago, together with the Foundations of East Chicago and the Second Century Corporation have put together a major banner project here in East Chicago. You can see them

throughout the city. You might like to know that phase two of the plan will include a banner in reference to the Marktown Historic District. When they get to the next phase of the project don't forget to keep an eye out for the one that says **MARKTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD - HISTORY**. Wow! Who would have thought of including Marktown in such a great project!

Several years ago the Committee held a tour of the Pullman Historic District in Chicago for the residents of Marktown. A number of residents have requested that we do it again, and while we have not set a date we are planning a tour for July or August of this year. Look to future issues of **MARKTOWN UPDATE** or a flyer in your mail box for details.

The Committee will also be working to assist the Marktown Women's Club with the plans for the Annual Marktown Kid's Fest. We are sure that the ladies could use everyone's assistance to make this event successful.

One of the problems brought up at the meeting was unkept lawns on vacant properties. The Committee

will be conducting a survey of the problem lawns after which we will formulate a plan to resolve the problem. OK, we're going to get them cut and cleaned up even if we have to do it ourselves.

It was nice to see that the meeting was run well and that it didn't turn into one of those notorious complaint sessions. If you would like to help make Marktown a Better, Cleaner and Safer Place, please join us for our next meeting on June 14th at 7 PM. Hope to see you there!

The Officers of the Committee

Chairman	Jesse Cavazos
Vice-Chairman	Jose Madrigal
Secretary	Kim Rodriguez
Asst. Sec. & Treas.	Ruth Turpin

***The only thing that will permit the triumph of evil is for good people to do nothing!
Get active! Get involved! Let's work TOGETHER to improve Marktown!***



OPPORTUNITIES ARE GUARANTEED! JOBS ARE NOT!!!

Let's start by making this simple. No one can guarantee you a job. High Schools, Colleges and Universities can not guarantee you a job. All they can do is prepare you for the next step. Corporations, government agencies and business men and women can not guarantee you a job. All they can do is to afford you the opportunity of employment, provided you have several keys to the front door. What are those keys? That's simple. The first is a true desire to be gainfully employed and be willing to WORK for an honest wage. The second is the knowledge needed for the job or ability to learn what is needed. The third is to spend the time to do the job right.

I don't want to think of the number of meetings I attended this past month when residents stood up and said "We need jobs for these young people." What I didn't see was the young people standing up and saying "I finished High School (or earned my G.E.D.) and I need a job." Desire obviously comes first. YOU need to really want to work before you go any further.

WHERE ARE ALL OF THE JOBS?

Well, believe it or not, the four casino's in Lake County Indiana actually employ more people than the steel mills and at a higher wage and great benefits. You might want to start there. *Harrah's* in East Chicago can be reached at 391-7777; *Horseshoe* is at 977-7777; and *Majestic* can be reached at 977-9999.

WHAT IF I CAN'T GET ON THE BOATS?

If you live in East Chicago and have either worked in construction or have a true interest in the construction field, stop by the Human Relations Department at Heritage Hall. You don't have to have someone take you in and introduce you, all you need to do is show up with your Social Security card and a photo I.D. If you have any type of experience in the work force, write up a brief resume and take that along also. You see, back in 1986, the Common Council

approved E.C. Ordinance No. 3442 which requires 50% of their skilled and non skilled jobs on new construction projects over \$100,000 be filled by actual residents of East Chicago. Even if you are not skilled, contractors are encouraged to provide training to give you the skills necessary to earn an honest wage. I know of at least one person from Marktown who was initially employed with a contractor on the new Public Safety Building. They provided him with all of the training necessary, and most importantly, when the job was over they kept him on and found additional work for him on other jobs. What a great deal!

WHAT IF I CAN'T OR DON'T WANT TO WORK CONSTRUCTION?

No problem! We spoke to Terry Hill, the *Business Specialist* and *Job Developer* for **WorkOne Express** in East Chicago.

To start the process just call 398-2601 for an appointment. You'll need a photo ID, social security number, proof of residency, citizenship/alien status, selective service acknowledgment (if applicable) and school status. They will also need a copy of your birth certificate and proof of income. They will also want to know if you have a disability, or if you are on public assistance. Basically, they want to know all they can about you.

WorkOne Express is located at 720 West Chicago Avenue and they will not only help to evaluate your possible placement in the work force, but they also offer educational opportunities and job placement services. Along with this they have a **Discovery Lab** where you can **Explore Your Potential**. This is yet another **FREE PROGRAM**. For information on the **Discovery Lab** or **WorkOne Express** just call 398-2601.

Happy hunting! **JOB HUNTING** that is. Remember, you have to **LEARN** before you can **EARN!** Stay in school or go back to school, that's the rule!

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