



MARKTOWN UPDATE

A publication of the Marktown Preservation Society

March 2005

Snow Snarls Region But Not Tiny Marktown Or E.C.

Like a Currier of Ives painting of the early part of the last century, snow once again blanketed the Calumet Region, East Chicago and yes, tiny little Marktown. Soft gentle drifts of pure white snow covered virtually everything in site. As the winds increased so too did the size of the snow drifts in the yards, parks and streets of our neighborhood, reminiscent of days long ago when a snow fall such as this would close streets, schools and governmental offices for a day or two.

The week of January 20th brought the first major snow storm to the Chicago area in a number of years, and with it came a test; a most important test of the viability of a new city administration. While we did not venture out into the entire city to inspect the piles of snow and freshly plowed streets, we did make contact with virtually every neighborhood in this city and the answer was the same from everywhere in E.C. The streets were maintained during the storm and cleared again on Sunday morning.

From the standpoint of someone who remembers the great snow storm of the 1960s, this wasn't much to speak of. But it was enough to see just how well the city works with a new mayor at city hall. Simply said, it works well, very well indeed.

From a Marktown perspective things went about as well as usual during the entire week of snow. While Judy Hicks and Ms. Maria Perez had to shovel out the community center one morning due to a mix-up in communications at the Parks Department. City workers managed to shovel out the senior citizens and keep the streets plowed even through the thick

of things.

On Saturday night one of our young residents had left to visit her mother at St. Catherine Hospital. Upon her return she recruited the assistance of the Rodriguez boys to clear out her parking place for her. But again, that's what has happened in Marktown for the past 85 years. People pitching in to help people. Neighbors helping neighbors as if they were family.

About six years ago in mid March, the area had been struck by a major ice storm. Marktown suffered a power loss that lasted several days. As a result, the pumps went out at the pump station and our basements backed up with ground water and sewage. It was a disaster. Because of this, the pump house was rebuilt and backup systems were put in place. Fortunately, during the storm of 2005, power wasn't lost and the basements didn't flood.

What did happen though is just as important. The city of East Chicago, the workers, the residents, and yes, the residents of Marktown worked together to make sure that emergency services continued; that the streets were plowed and that senior citizens and others less fortunate were looked after.

As we have said before and will continue to say "*With TEAMWORK all things are possible.*" I thank you for being not just neighbors, but for being good neighbors and friends in this most isolated, yet promising of neighborhoods. Let's all work **TOGETHER** for the betterment of all. Let's make Marktown a better, cleaner and safer place to live and to raise our families. **Paul A. Myers, Editor**



Cultural Connections Exhibit To Include E.C. & Marktown

Born of steel and tempered in oil: the great city of East Chicago, and yes the Marktown Historic District, have a proud and most diverse history of cultural and industrial heritage. That history, heritage and cultural diversity will be celebrated once again at the Lake County Welcome Center in Hammond, Indiana with an outstanding exhibit opening on Monday, March 21, 2005.

While the exhibit includes displays from virtually all walks of life, past and present in Lake County, the East Chicago portion of the exhibit will stand alone. Working together on the exhibit this year are Gloria Dosen of the East Chicago Room of the East Chicago Public Library, Thomas Frank a nationally acclaimed artist, and Marktown's own Paul Myers.

As a part of this year's exhibit, a rare set of 1920 photographs of Mark Manufacturing Company will be displayed. As steel was the pri-



mary reason for the early years of East Chicago, utilizing this never before seen collection of photos as a backdrop or foundation for the cultural diversity of this great city was a natural.

Gloria Dosen will be working on a major display of ethnic clothing from some of the more than sixty various nationalities who have made Lake County and East Chicago their home.

Thomas Frank has produced a power point program that will undoubtedly mix manufacturing and mankind together in a most unique fashion. Drawing upon early movies and still images, this portion of the presentation will be a welcome addition to the exhibit

All in all, this will be a truly remarkable exhibit that you and your family won't want to miss. For further details contact the Welcome Center at 989-7979 or Paul Myers at 397-2239. Hope to see you there!

We Support Our Troops! What About You?

Friday, January 21st marked an important day for the children of Marktown who frequent the Community Center. Mrs. Eleanor Uribe, the mother of a young soldier now serving in Iraq, spoke to them on the importance of supporting our troops abroad. What Mrs. Uribe didn't know was that the children of Marktown had a surprise for her.

Over the past few weeks the children were encouraged by Parks & Recreation Department staff Mrs. Judy Hicks and Ms. Maria Perez to write letters to those who stand in harms way to secure the freedoms for others that we too often take for granted.

After the letters were presented Mrs. Hicks said "I don't know who was affected the most, the children of Marktown by the presentation of Mrs. Urebe or Mrs. Uribe when she was presented with the letters."

Judy went on to

say "We have a tradition in Marktown of supporting those who serve in the armed forces. We've done it for decades and we will continue the tradition as long as there is a Marktown and a military."

Judy and Ms. Maria will be putting together a memorial to all of those from this community who serve in the armed forces. If you have a family member or friend currently in military service, please make it a point of dropping off a photograph and their mailing address at the Old Marktown Community Center. The display will start in March and will be celebrated during Memorial Day in May.



If you would like to write to someone in service or contribute to the care packages that the children will be sending overseas, stop in and see Ms. Judy or Ms. Maria or give them a call at 391-8370. Let's all support the troops. Let's all work together!

**Great things are done by a series of small things brought together.
Vincent Van Gogh - artist**

Don't Call It a Cleanup



Coalition For A Safe Environment Speaks In Marktown

Wednesday, January 26th brought Dr. Betty Balanoff, and Marktown's own Jose Bustos to the Old Marktown Community Center for a meeting to discuss the status of the Waterway Management District's plan to dredge the Indiana Harbor Ship Canal. At the December 2004 meeting of the WMD, Paul Myers requested that if the plan moves forward, that air monitoring stations be placed on the east and west side of Marktown. It looks like that may not be necessary, as the January 2005 meeting saw the appointment by Mayor Pabey of a number of new board members and the unprecedented removal of their corporate council and executive director.

What does all of this mean? Basically, the project is now on hold until the new board at least hires an executive director. Betty Balanoff and Jose Bustos still took the time out of their busy schedules to explain to a number of Marktown residents exactly what has and is going on with this project. The Marktown Preservation Society is working with the national and local preservation organizations to leverage our historic status into a moratorium on the project. We'll keep you posted on our progress.

A Note From A Visitor Of Our Web Page

Hi Paul,

I recently ran across your website about Marktown. Good job.

In 1975 I was awarded a grant from the Indiana Committee for the Humanities to produce a video about Marktown. As you might expect video was very new in those days. The five part series (30 minutes per episode) was video taped in Marktown and other portions of East Chicago and Market Square in Lake Forest Illinois. The completed work is entitled, "Marktown, A Historical Perspective"

I donated the completed work to the East Chicago Public Library. It may still be there in the archives. Some of the interesting portions of the video include a canoe trip up the little calumet from Roxana to Marktown with the grandson of the man who operated a fishing shack on the site of YS&T before it was built, along with archival photographs.

Good luck. Perhaps ICH has a copy of the finished work. Some interesting people worked on the project including Barbara Bohusz of NBC and Jack Ginay, an award winning producer with WTTW-TV, chanel 11.

From Pago Pago, American Samoa - John Wasko

Editor's note: After receiving this email on January 13th we put in a search request for the video tape with the Indiana Humanities Council and the E.C. Public Library. It appears that the Indiana Humanities Council somehow disposed of their copy seventeen years ago. The East Chicago Public Library is currently looking for the box of tapes that were donated. We'll keep you posted in Update!

Below: The famous Rainmaker Mountain at the entrance to Pago Pago Harbor.



Look up, not down... Ahead...never back... Each day, a small step forward.

Valentine's Day At The Old Marktown Community Center

Leave it to Ms. Maria and Ms. Judy to come up with something new for Valentine's Day at the Old Marktown Community Center. What started out as a joke about leaving one of the artificial Christmas trees up for Valentine's Day became a reality when the recreation leaders and the children from Marktown began making red hearts and ornaments to decorate the center and the Valentine's Day tree. Have we started a new tradition? Only time will tell.

J u a n i t a McCormick, who as we all know just loves doing crafts, came up with some great patterns for cutting out lace hearts and other decorations. Before we knew it, the entire center was decorated in a most unique and personal fashion.



While Valentine's Day was actually on Monday, February 14th, the decision was made to celebrate the event the previous Friday, February 11th. The gala event began at about 4:30 PM and lasted about two hours. The evening began with the participants writing letters to the military service personnel. Mrs. Uribe arrived and shared some of her son's military memorabilia with the kids. Recreation Department Supervisor Jose Bustos told of his time in the military. Roberto Garcia, shared in the festivities. Special "We Support the Troops" wrist bands were given to those who have written the soldiers, and yes pizza was served and EVERYONE had a truly wonderful time at the Valentine's Day party in Marktown.

MPS Participates In Legacy Foundation Seminar

Tuesday, February 15th brought board members and staffers from some of the most prominent nonprofit organizations together at the Radisson in Merrillville for a one day workshop titled **"NON-PROFIT BOARDS: Are They Risky Business? - Building Your High Performance Board."** To survive in today's challenging climate, nonprofit organizations such as the Marktown Preservation Society (MPS), are being asked to operate a peak efficiency, to keep on top of an unpredictable economy, to be ready for increased regulation, and to face many other influences affecting the missions and management of our community's nonprofit organization.

With the lingering effects of the September 11th tragedy, the recent corporate governance scandals and the lagging economy, board members are facing unprecedented challenges to traditional thinking about boards.

MPS board members Rafael Bejar and Paul Myers attended the program, and in doing so, learned about national trends, including new insights about effective board meetings, enhanced committee structures, and the necessity of open and ethical

practices.

The Governance Forum offered valuable insights and information for the newest to the most experienced board members. It was especially useful for leadership teams composed of the board president and the nonprofit organization's chief staff officers or other executive personnel. The one day program was presented by faculty from BoardSource (formerly the National Center for Nonprofit Boards), a world leader in board governance, consulting and advocacy. These expert speakers and presenters shared their knowledgeable perspectives on board governance in today's challenging times.

The keynote presentation was made by Dr. Jeffrey H. Patchen, the President and CEO of the Children's Museum of Indianapolis. While this was an outstanding program, it was but the first in a series of educational programs scheduled by the Legacy Foundation. The Marktown Preservation Society is always willing to learn how to serve our community better. These seminars provide us with the tools to make Marktown a better, cleaner and safer place to live, work and to raise our families.

The Marktown HISTORIC District... Imagine the possibilities!!!!

Power Outage Brings City & NIPSCO Crews To Marktown

Monday, January 10th could have meant disaster for the residents of the Marktown Historic District, but it didn't. At about 10:30 AM a car struck a guideline on a NIPSCO pole on Riley Road down at the bend in the road at Safety Kleen. When the guideline snapped it recoiled, flew up and shorted out the high tension wires that feed Marktown. The power surged twice, went off, on and then off again. When all was said and done half of Marktown had power and the other half did not. Part of the neighborhood that lost power included the sewer pump house on the corner of Broad Street and Spruce Avenue.

A telephone call was made immediately to the Utilities Division control room. We found that not



only had their alarm sounded about the loss of power in Marktown, but more importantly, a crew had been dispatched to check out the problem. Once they confirmed that the power and the pumps were out they brought in the backup pump and got it running within the hour.

Despite the fact that there is a new administration, despite the fact that Mr. Al Velez had replaced our old friend Mike Suty, everything worked just the way it was supposed to. The alarm sounded. The crew checked out the problem and the backup pump was put into service until the power was restored. That my friends it what East Chicago is all about. It is a city that works and works well for all of its people. Let's all work TOGETHER for a better East Chicago.

Marktown And The National Register Of Historic Places

by Paul A. Myers - resident historian

For more than two years the Marktown Preservation Society has issued Marktown Update. One of the underlying themes of the publication has been the importance of our neighborhood be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Just how important is it to be listed on this most prestigious index of historic properties? Quite simply, it is one of the most important aspects of the neighborhood.

Both the state and federal governments provide varying degrees of protection and assistance to properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

On the next two pages you will find a pair of VERY IMPORTANT articles in reference to a subject that is very dear to all of us: TAXES! The first article is titled: **TAX CREDITS FOR HISTORIC Homes**. It was written by David B. Duvall, Historical Architect who is a senior staff member with the Indi-

ana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology. The second article is titled: **PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR HISTORIC HOMES** and was written by me.

If anyone in Marktown is at all interested in saving money on your property tax, or your Indiana Income Tax, these two articles are vital to that goal. If you have any questions in reference to either article, please do not hesitate in calling upon me.

Just to give you a bit more information, the application for the Tax Credits for Historic Residences can be found at the following web address:

www.in.gov/icpr/webfile/formsdiv/50713pdf

The Guidelines of the Secretary of Interior Standards can be found on the National Parks Service web page at: www2.cr.nps.gov/tps/rhb/guide.ltm

If you are looking for additional information on Marktown, try: www.marktown.org

The quality of any enterprise lies in the details.

INCOME TAX CREDITS FOR HISTORIC HOMES

by David B. Duvall, Historical Architect

Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology

In its 2001 legislative session, the Indiana General Assembly enacted a new program to provide financial assistance for owner-occupants of historic residences. Ever since enactment of federal income tax credits for certified rehabilitation of income producing properties, preservationists have sought to seek similar assistance to homeowners who are restoring registered historic properties. Though the federal Historic Homeowner Assistance Act has never quite made it to the point of signed legislation; the Indiana State Legislature has now stepped in to provide such support. The new Residential Historic Rehabilitation Credit is available to Indiana State income taxpayer's who rehabilitate historic buildings that are principally used as that taxpayers residence. The state incentive allows a taxpayer to take a State Income Tax credit for 20% of the total qualified rehabilitation or preservation cost of a project.

To be eligible for this program, the property must be listed on the Register of Indiana Historic Sites and Historic Structures. The rehabilitation or preservation work for which the credit is claimed must conform to a Rehabilitation Plan or a Preservation Plan submitted to and approved by the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology. The qualified expenditures for preservation or rehabilitation of the historic property must exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

Qualified expenditures include the cost of work for preservation or rehabilitation that enables the structure to be principally used and occupied by the taxpayer as the taxpayer's residence. Qualified expenditures do not include cost of acquiring the property or realtor's fees associated with the property, taxes due on the property, costs of additions or enlargement of the existing structure, paving and landscaping, and sales and marketing costs. The preservation work must be completed during a measuring period not to exceed two (2) years for a single phase project, or not to exceed five (5) years if the approved plan authorized that the rehabilitation be completed in phases.

Any unused portion of a certified credit that results from limited annual tax liability may be carried forward and applied to succeeding taxable years for up to fifteen (15) years following the initial credit year. The tax credit may be recaptured from the taxpayer(s) if the property is transferred within five (5) years after completion of the certified rehabilitation or preservation work, or if additional modifications

to the property that do not meet the standards of the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology are undertaken less than five (5) years after the completion of the certified rehabilitation.

The total amount of Residential Historic Rehabilitation Credits allowed for each state fiscal year cannot exceed two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000). Depending on the demand for these credits which becomes manifest; claims beyond this funding allocation may be assigned to future tax years. There is no fee for obtaining tax credit certification from the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology. Information regarding the eligibility of any property for this credit may be obtained from the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology. Applications are currently available from the DNR.

So, here it is in a nutshell:

1. The property must be located in the State of Indiana.
2. The building must be at least fifty years old.
3. The property must be listed on the Indiana Register of Historic Sites and Structures.
4. The property must be owned by the taxpayer(s), used and occupied by the taxpayer(s) as his/her/their principal residence.
5. The rehabilitation or preservation work for which the credit is claimed must conform to a rehabilitation Plan or a Preservation Plan submitted to and approved by the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology.
6. The qualified expenditures for preservation or rehabilitation of the historic property must exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).
7. Qualified expenditures include the cost of work for preservation or rehabilitation that enables the structure to be principally used and occupied by the taxpayer as the taxpayer's residence. Qualified expenditures do not include cost of acquiring the property or realtor's fees associated with the property, taxes due on the property, costs of additions or enlargement of the existing structure, paving and landscaping, and sales and marketing costs.
8. The rehabilitation or preservation work must be completed during a measuring period not to exceed to years for a single phase project, or not to exceed five years if the approved plan authorized that the rehabilitation be completed in phases. The measuring period begins when physical work of construction or destruction begins in preparation for construction.

For further information please contact David Duvall at (317) 232-1646 at the DNR in Indianapolis. In you are "on Line" visit their web page at:

www.in.gov/dnr/historic

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR HISTORIC HOMES

by Paul A. Myers - Marktown Preservation Society

There is an old adage that says "There are only two things certain in life: death and taxes." We have all heard it said and I think we all understand what it alludes to. This past year the Marktown Preservation Society assisted more than thirty homeowners in our neighborhood in the filing of mortgage, homestead and senior citizen exemptions, thus greatly reducing the amount of their property tax. We are very pleased to step forward and be the first to explain a totally new exemption: **The Historic Property Renovation Exemption.**

One of the first qualifications for this exemption is that the residence be fifty years old or older. Well, that takes in all of Marktown and most of East Chicago as far as that goes. The state statute that covers this is IC 6-1.1-12-22 through 24. It reads:

(a) If the assessed value of property is increased because it has been rehabilitated and the owner has paid at least ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) for the rehabilitation, the owner is entitled to have deducted from the assessed value of the property an amount equal to fifty percent (50%) of the increase in assessed value resulting from the rehabilitation. The owner is entitled to this deduction annually for a five (5) year period. However, the maximum deduction which a property owner may receive under this section for a particular year is:

(1) One hundred twenty-four thousand eight hundred dollars (\$124,800) for a single family dwelling unit; or

(2) three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) for any other type of property.

(b) For purposes of this section, the term "property" means a building or structure which was erected at least fifty (50) years before the date of application for the deduction provided by this section. The term "property" does not include land.

(c) For the purposes of this section, the term "rehabilitation" means significant repairs, replacements, or improvements to an existing structure that are intended to increase the livability, utility, safety or value of the property under rules adopted by the department of local government finance.

The form required for this exemption is 322A. While they are available at the North Township and

Lake County Assessors Offices the Marktown Preservation Society is pleased to make them available to Marktown property owners and anyone else who owns property in East Chicago who qualifies and may wish to apply.

The form is very simple to fill out and is only one page long. It requires simple information based upon the requirements of the state statute. We would recommend a few things before you even consider this exemption:

1. Take "before and after" photos of the property to show the exact problems that were resolved in the renovation process.

2. Put together a budget for the entire project and build in cost over runs that are bound to happen.

3. If you or your family are doing the work yourself, document the renovation by keeping a file of all receipts for materials purchased and if possible a listing of the hours on a day by day basis.

4. If you are having a contractor do any or all of the work, make sure that he is a licensed and bonded contractor in East Chicago and that he has a certificate of insurance covering not only damage to your property, but more importantly, Workmen's Compensation.

5. When the job is completed, make sure you take new photographs to prove the work was done properly.

Oh yes, and don't forget to go to the Building Department at City Hall and **MAKE SURE YOU OBTAIN THE PROPER PERMITS FOR THE WORK BEING DONE!**

The renovation and restoration of historic homes can be fun and rewarding. Doing the job right the first time is always important. And don't forget that the Marktown Preservation Society is here to help each and every property owner to make this most unique community a cleaner, better and safer place to live, work and raise our families. *We would like to thank Councilman-At-Large Anthony Cope-land for giving us the heads up on this one. His tip lead us to do the research into this most important piece of legislation.*

Editor's Note: This article first appeared in Marktown Update in June 2004. It is being reprinted at the request of several residents of the MHD.

SOMETHING OLD BECOMES SOMETHING NEW AGAIN



Did you ever wonder what the original water meters looked like in Marktown homes? Well, probably not, but we thought we would share it with you anyway. We are not exactly sure when they were installed, but from what we understand they were here from the very beginning. Back in the early 1990s the East Chicago Water Department began installing new water meters with remote reading capabilities which means that the meter reader no longer has to enter your home each month to read the meter. When the old meters were removed, a few were salvaged by one of our neighbors and one of them was sent to an antique car parts restoration house for a bit of a rebuild. While it will never be used as a water meter again, it does serve as a reminder of days long past. It is nice to see that this small part of our history has been preserved for generations to come.

Another Visit From Grandma Burns

From the scrap book of Inez Davids, formerly from 408 Liberty Street we have these two outstanding photographs of Grandma Burns and her sister, Mrs. Crocker. The dates on the photos lists the single photo of Grandma Burns holding the plaque as August, 1972 while the other photo with her and her sister Mrs. Crocker was dated January of that same year. Exactly when Grandma Burns came to live at 406 Park Street with her sister Mrs. Crocker is unclear. What we do know is that the two ladies were legends of kindness in Marktown. In their back yard were a pair of large quince bushes and each year, Grandma Burns would hand pick the fruit and make her own quince jam. For those of you who would like additional information on Grandma Burns, the Marktown Preservation Society has donated a video tape of her to the Marktown Community Center. Stop over and borrow the tape for a day or two. You'd be surprised at what you can learn from it.



Care To Share Your Photos & Memories?

How do we keep coming up with photos like these? It's simple: people share them with us so that we can share them with our readers. With scanning technology what it is today, we can scan the photos and store them electronically for future use.

If you have a scanner at home you can scan them at 300 DPI and email them directly to mrmartown@sbcglobal.net, or you can loan us your photos by mailing them directly to Paul Myers at 405 Prospect Street, East Chicago, Indiana 46312



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With TEAMWORK, Everything is Possible!

