



# MARKTOWN UPDATE

*A publication of the Marktown Preservation Society*

MARCH 2006

## East Chicago State Of The City Address

I am honored to serve as the Mayor of East Chicago. 2005 was a year of Connecting our Community. Together we have accomplished so much. I know people are amazed at what we've done because I sure am. But I could not have done this alone. I give credit to all of East Chicago for working together for a better tomorrow. This is our City! Together, we have made great progress! We have achieved the most ambitious agenda in city history!

We could not have accomplished all of this without the help of our City Judge, the City Clerk the Common Council, the various Department Heads, and all of the outstanding City Employees.

We have invited Central High School students here today because they are the future leaders that will play a big role in the success of our community. We are bringing everyone together to celebrate today! By connecting East Chicago we have moved and will continue to move forward to achieve success.

During my campaign, I promised to deal with issues such as: public safety, services, education, jobs, economic development, housing, and recreation. Our City is better today because we have changed the way business had previously been done. We have cut our costs, improved services, and restored confidence in our City. We are bringing hope to each neighborhood and the City will grow stronger because we are working together. Our City is strong and will only grow stronger! This is the rebirth of East Chicago!

We have connected our community through public safety. The past year has been a year of partnerships. A great example is our Police Department headed by Police Chief Angelo Machuca. They have

done a great job building partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies. The Police Department has reduced crime in East Chicago by 14% in one year's time. For instance: there were 650 fewer crimes this year, and 85 percent of homicides were solved. We added new and improved squad cars on the streets. We put more police officers on the street, and John Nava, the head of the Gang Unit Task Force was recognized by the Lake Shore

Chamber of Commerce for taking criminals off the street.

Our battle against crime will be more successful because police cars are equipped with computers to help us catch more criminals and to share information with neighboring cities.

What does this all mean? It means our city is much safer! As a former officer and Police chief, I know what it takes to boost morale and bring unity and to make positive things happen. A couple of years ago, they wanted to search nationwide for a police chief to come in and make an impact in our city. I knew

better, we all knew better, and that person was found in our own backyard.

I am proud to say we have a Chief that is from East Chicago and knows what it takes because he lives here and is protecting HIS community, YOUR community, OUR community! Great job Police Department!

I have many stories like this and today we honor our Police, Fire, and EMS teams for their dedication. We have connected our community through quality services. We are now giving people choices and opportunities to help rebuild our City.

The first thing we did was eliminated the 2 percent club, which required all city employees to con-



tribute 2 percent of their salaries to the Mayor's Political Organization. Our employees will not be forced to donate to any election campaign. We should all be allowed to take home what we earn and decide for ourselves how to spend our money.

We must be accountable to the individuals who serve this City. When we inherited this administration it was \$5.5 million in debt. With the responsible management of our City Controller and his outstanding team, we reduced the budget by over \$2 million. We improved our credit rating. We decreased our City payroll by \$1 million. We provided \$1000.00 tax relief for homeowners with Homestead Exemptions. We set aside over \$1 million for improving the streets, and we set up a capital improvement fund. We did all of this without eliminating the quality of our services.

We also committed millions of dollars to upgrade the City's aging water treatment plant that had previously seen minimal to no repairs since it was built in 1964.

We revitalized the marina and gave it back to the community. We hosted several successful events celebrating the summer holidays at the marina in 2005.

We have connected our community through education. The future of our city lies in our students' education. Ten years ago, East Chicago students were behind students in Gary and Hammond. But now, East Chicago has surpassed both and ranks 1st among them. East Chicago graduates are also pursuing college education at a higher rate than many school districts in Indiana.

Last year nearly 88% of East Chicago graduates pursued a college education. This percentage is near the very top in the State of Indiana. We have honor students and student council in attendance here today! Let's give them a round of applause. Education is ensuring that they are well rounded in all areas including the arts.

I have always felt strongly about the arts and felt there should be more emphasis placed on music education. That is why my administration has worked with the school board and Dr. Flores, our superintendent, to help strengthen music programs such as our band and choir. Just take a look at the talented individuals today that sang our opening prayer. We have great talent.

Our East Chicago Central High School choir is led by Mr. Leon Kendricks. Mr. Kendricks, please stand! It has been proven that music & art has been connected with: better reasoning ability, better math

scores, and a deeper understanding of science. It's a dangerous to mistake to let our kids miss out on these programs. Together, we can make sure all children feel and learn from the power of music.

We have connected our community through jobs. I know how important jobs are to this community! Let me tell you a story about a young man named Cesar Rodriguez. Last year this young man was working a security job, until he enrolled in our JET Program. Now he has a dream of becoming an electrician journeyman with a future in the trades.

We started a program called Jobs, Education, and Training (JET) to get jobs for East Chicago residents. This free program trains individuals in skilled labor jobs such as electricians, carpenters, welders, iron-workers, and prepares them to obtain promising careers.

Our residents will succeed in today's workforce. By doing this, they will contribute to East Chicago's economic growth. I have always said that we will create a better city for all of its residents. Employment is extremely important to our people and our future. That is why we are providing careers for our residents.

During the summer, we provided jobs for over 500 youth as part of our exciting Summer Youth Employment Program. This experience taught them responsibility. It connected them with positive role models, and most importantly, provided them with an income. This Summer Youth Program kept our kids working and kept them off of the streets!

We have connected our community through Economic Development. East Chicago is on the move! We know this because people want to do business here. Why is economic development so important to East Chicago? Because it provides our community with opportunity and growth! Opportunities such as jobs!

Family Dollar, one of the fastest growing discount store chains in the United States has made a home in East Chicago. Most importantly, Family Dollar employs our residents.

Marino Ware is another new business that came into our community recently and looks to triple its number of employees in the next three years. Many are East Chicagoans. Praxair and Mittal Steel have expanded. National City Bank reinvested in the City and built a brand new building, and Walgreens is doing the same. Thank you for your investment and for believing in the greatness of East Chicago.

These are great opportunities for our community! Not only are great opportunities arising in eco-

conomic development, but also in our housing development.

We have connected our community through housing. New housing has also been a major priority over the past year with the first city wide property rehab plan to be unveiled soon. Entire neighborhoods will be transformed. We want to provide the best and lowest interest loans to all residential owners.

The City has also received help from regional and local banks to act as partners in these efforts. Banks are committed to helping us and have signed on with the City of East Chicago. Banks such as: Bank Calumet, Peoples Bank, National City Bank, Citizens Financial Services, Mercantile Bank, Centier Bank, Standard Bank, and Banco Popular. By starting these partnerships with local banks, the City will better serve our residents.

Last week, we announced a partnership with two of the nation's most successful non-profit community development corporations. The Community Builders, Inc., and Hispanic Housing Development Corporation will redevelop the entire North Indiana Harbor section and the Lakefront. This development will bring millions of dollars of private investment into the Indiana Harbor community.

We want East Chicago to be a great place to live, to be a destination for jobs, shopping, and recreation. This is history in the making!

We have connected our community through recreation. When I took office, I wanted to bring quality sports leagues back to the community. We started: Softball, Soccer, Basketball, Football, AAU Track, Fishing, Tennis, Volleyball, Wiffleball, Water Aerobics, and Biddy Ball.

In July, the Jeorse Park Beach was opened for the first time in over ten years for public swimming and provided a beautiful beachfront experience for our community. The East Chicago Marina is also a great facility. We hosted several summer celebrations at the Marina and gave the Marina back to East Chicago, where it belongs. Thousands of people packed the Marina and this year we will continue those events.

One thing I promised was to take care of our Senior Citizens and our Youth. My administration started a Senior Outreach Committee to make sure our seniors were taken care of. This year, our seniors enjoyed: A Summer Picnic, Bingos, Movie Nights, a day at the Railcats Game, a Christmas Celebration, and were treated to Free haircuts and manicures. Our Senior Citizens will always be our priority!

We have connected our community through Peace and Unity. Last year we were shocked with the unexpected disaster caused by the hurricanes. Our churches and religious leaders showed guidance and goodwill as they lead the charge to form East Chicago CARES.

We sent two semi trucks to Mississippi filled with clothes, water, and supplies. We raised over \$18,000 for the Gulf coast victims. Thank you East Chicago for your commitment to those victims. Some victims were housed here in East Chicago.

I am so proud of how every East Chicagoan united in such time of crisis. Where there is tragedy, there are blessings!

This Christmas Season was truly a blessing as hundreds of East Chicagoans gathered to celebrate another new tradition with our "Celebration of Peace and Unity" parade. This Holiday parade connected our community. The public schools, parochial schools, charter school, and many youth organizations participated as we all celebrated a Season of Peace and Unity.

One of my proudest moments was to watch our Central High School Band, led by Mr. David Walker. Mr. Walker revitalized a program that had not marched in ten years. Thank you for your commitment to your students, to our students!

We ended our Holiday celebration with our children's program, "Feed the Future." This program treated Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to a lunch, a gift and a great Christmas show. It featured an awesome light show, a moon walking Santa Claus, a 25-foot Christmas tree, snow falling from inside the Central gymnasium, and entertainment. Over 6,000 East Chicago school children experienced a musical performance that was in a word- FANTASTIC!

I remind you that these Christmas programs did not cost taxpayers one cent! They came from generous donations from local businesses and a grant.

I am proud of what we have accomplished and I am very excited about the year ahead. I believe that our great task of building a new East Chicago has just begun.

Last year was only the beginning! I leave you with one last thought:

We have accomplished so much in only one year, but I am here to tell you: THE BEST IS YET TO COME! Thank you and God Bless!

*Mayor George Pabey*

*March 2, 2006*

# Residents can use Net to track E.C. Dredging

By Steve Zabroski - Times Correspondent - Reprinted with permission of the author.

**EAST CHICAGO** Thirty years of preparation for dredging the Indiana Harbor and Ship Canal has generated a lot of information.

Studies from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, reports from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and plans from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are stacked in libraries and hidden in plain sight on deeply cascaded Web sites.

Public interest is again focusing on the project as walls to hold some 4.8 million cubic yards of contaminated sediments dredged from the waterway become visible just west of Indianapolis Boulevard, and residents now have a one-stop resource to keep up to date on the 30-year, \$130 million operation.

"We're trying to put all the pieces together," said Thomas Frank, executive director of the East Chicago Waterway Management District, local sponsor of the dredging and disposal program, on the new Web site, [www.ecwmd.net](http://www.ecwmd.net).

"A lot of this information is floating around on other sites, like the Army Corps' and DNR's," Frank said. "We want to link them all together, like a primer for people just learning about the project."

Though any actual dredging is at least three years away, work on several parts of the overall plan, from enhanced air monitoring and groundwater treatment to construction of the confined disposal facility, continues despite the season.

Community members recently heard from the Army Corps about current plans at the year's first project status meeting.

"The public is becoming more engaged with this project as each new phase starts," Frank said. "We hope to address the very real concerns people have."

For now, visitors to the Web site can read the basic canon for the project, the Army Corps Comprehensive Management Plan and Project Cooperation Agreement, and the EPA's original Environmental Impact Statement, which will be supplemented with a new study this spring.

The site also contains history of the waterway, from early 20<sup>th</sup> century origin of the canal to now, and Frank hopes to post minutes from waterway board's meeting online.

Since its creation by state legislation in 1994, minutes from waterway board meetings are transcribed by a court reporter, and are a glimpse at how the project came to be.

"Some meetings' minutes are missing," Frank said. "There are a number of gaps."

Once the construction season opens, Frank said he hopes to have regular status reports from the project on the Web site.

And when dredging begins, the site should be hooked up to air monitors at Marktown and Central High School so residents can check the quality of their air in real time, Frank said.

## CHECK IT OUT

A new Web site has been launched to keep residents informed about the project. To view it, go to [www.ecwmd.net](http://www.ecwmd.net)

This article appeared in The Times on March 2, 2006

## Springfield Belle At CDF

Long before the dredging of the Indiana Harbor Ship Canal begins a number of things will have to happen. The massive 21 foot high dyke will have to be completed and the ground water level will have to be lowered. One of the ways in which the water level will be safely lowered is through the use of the EPA's Springfield Belle.

The unit will not only pump the ground water from the site, it will separate the ground water from the contaminants before releasing the purified water into the U.S. Ship Canal. The week of February 20th saw the delivery of the Springfield Belle to the CDF and with it the technicians who will set up and calibrate the unit before signing it over for use at the facility. Look to Marktown Update for further updates!



**What we do for ourselves dies with us.**

**What we do for others and the world remains and is immortal!**

# Whiting's BP Refinery Reviews Safety Standards

Living in the shadow of a steel mill and under the glow of the BP Refinery waste burner may have just gotten a little safer. In March 2005 a fire at the BP refinery in Texas City, Texas killed 15 and injured 150. That just was not a satisfactory outcome for either BP or the federal government.

Tuesday, February 28th found the Common Council Chambers at Whiting City Hall filled with a blue-ribbon panel investigating BP disaster prevention practices. The panel was chaired by former Secretary of State James Baker III. The panel was formed at the urging of the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigating Board and consists of 11 members who collectively hold more than a century of refinery operations and safety experience.

The panel previously toured BP's Carson, California and Texas City refineries and will next visit the BP facilities in Toledo, Ohio and Cherry Point, Washington.

"We're here to determine if there is effective process oversight at these refineries," Baker said. "And if not, what changes and improvements should be required? Our goal is to make sure this panel comes

back with a thorough and accurate report. We intend to let the chips fall where they may."

Whiting Mayor Joe Stahura noted that 50% of the city of Whiting is occupied by the BP refinery and that the majority of their tax dollars are generated by that facility. Prior to being elected as the Mayor of Whiting, Mr. Stahura worked for BP in their Safety Department.

In his comments before the panel Mayor Stahura noted "Of all the things I could criticize about the refinery, process safety is not one of them."

Paul Myers noted "As someone who remembers the catastrophic fire at Standard Oil (now BP) in 1955, it is difficult to think of that ever happening again. Fortunately for us, the process and most importantly the safety aspects of the oil refining process have become safer with technology."

"While there is always a potential for problems in facilities such as this, it is at least comforting to know that BP always takes that extra measure of safety and precaution at their Whiting refinery."

East Chicago Councilman-at-Large Jesse Gomez and Paul Myers both attended the meeting.

## Army Corps of Engineers Hosts Public Forum

As a part of their ongoing commitment to keep the public informed on the progress and nature of the dredging of the Indiana Harbor Ship Canal the Chicago District Office of the Army Corps of Engineers in cooperation with the East Chicago Waterway Management District hosted a public meeting on Wednesday, February 15th from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at the Council Chambers at City Hall.

The Army Corps of Engineers representatives spent about an hour explaining the progress and design changes at the Confined Disposal Facility located on the western side of Indianapolis between the Indiana Harbor Ship Canal and Cline Avenue.

Joanne Milo, the Army Corps project manager provided an overview of the project and had a number of staff members speak to spe-

cific topics and questions. During her presentation Ms. Milo stated "We're committed to operating this project safely." She went on to say "The dredging work would be shut down if the project exceeds its air-pollution limits."

Betty Balanoff, the Chairman of Coalition for a Clean Environment (CCE) noted "This was the best meeting we've had with the Corps. It was the first time we finally felt like they were listening."

Following the presentation by the Army Corps of Engineers, the program was opened up for questions from the audience. At the close of the program many of the residents continued their discussion with the staff members that were present.

The next public question-and answer session will be on May 15th at the East Chicago City Hall.



*5th District Councilman Roberto Garcia discusses the CDF with ACE staff members following the meeting.*

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

# Marktown On The Party Line

## Marktown On the Party Line by Jess Stewart

Mary Jane Burd, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Burrell, Prospect Street, was married to Leland Dunlap on Sept. 6. Robert Burd, Jr., brother of the bride, and Irene Luttringer were the attendants. The wedding dinner was at Phil Schmidt's and a reception was held at the Burd home in the evening for friends and neighbors. Mrs. Dunlap was given showers by Irene Luttringer and Margaret Pollack, and the Pi Epsilon Kappa Sorority, at which she received numerous beautiful gifts. The young couple have moved into an apartment on Elm Street in Indiana Harbor.

Jack Rohl, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Rohl, and Margaret Mae Amick, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Amick of Indiana Harbor were married Sept. 30. Their attendants were Margaret Reid and Billy Rohl. The young couple spent their honeymoon in the Smoky Mountains and will make their home at Cedar Lake.

Billy Kinkade, spn of Mr. and Mrs. Worth Kinkade, was married to Shirley Tolf of Indiana Harbor on Sept. 11. His sister Margaret and her husband were the attendants. A shower was given by Mrs. George Kurtz at which the bride received many beautiful and useful gifts.

We extend congratulations and very best wishes to these young people.

We also offer congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Weir on the birth of a baby girl who has been named Lorraine Rose, and to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Barnett whose baby girl was named Linda Sue.

Marguerite Griffin was the happiest child in Mark when she was presented with a beautiful new doll by Frank Norringham for drawing his name for the car in the Athletic Association raffle. The doll meant as much to her as the car did to Mr. Norringham.

Mr. Jr. E. N. Olson is recovering from his heart attack

as is Mrs. James Hane from her operation.

Walter Roberge was confined in St. Catherine Hospital for 10 days as the result of an injury to his knee acquired while playing football. He will be laid up for five weeks.

Mrs. Barney Rodman gave a shower for Mrs. Lawrence Deiotte Sept. 18, at which she received many beautiful gifts.

We offer our sincere sympathy to Lester Boyd whose father died in Brazil, Ind., in September.

Three of our young men have returned to the halls of higher learning -- Russell Schmidt to Purdue, Clarence Klosky to Notre Dame and James White to Indiana U.

Jimmy Pry is in Texas in the service of Uncle Sam. Jimmie took his own potato peeler along just in case.

The Cubs are going to

have a roller skating party once a month at Black Oak all during the winter.

Esther Snyder, Marge Sayger, Daisy Hartkopf and Mona Boyd should form a Club and appoint Lester Boyd as their official letter writer, eh, girls? (October 1941)



Howard Struss  
gone fishin'

## About Marktown On The Party Line

This outstanding collection of early articles, photographs and vignettes of life in Marktown comes to us from several sources. The articles were written by Jess Stewart for the YS&T Bulletin. They were archived by Mrs. Brunner and saved from destruction by Mr. & Mrs. Vito McCormack of Park Street.

This outstanding 270 page collection has been reprinted and custom bound in Marktown. We are pleased to announce that eight copies are available at \$60.00 each plus shipping. Contact the MPS at (219) 397-2239 to reserve your copy today.



Smiles from the Tabulating and Addressograph Dept...  
Left to right are, Richard Johnson, Frances Deiotte,  
and Sol Sylvester

**Sol Sylvester** is Assistant Chief Clerk of this department. He started with the Company about 16 years ago as a messenger. Sylvester is widely known at the plant, being an umpire in the 14-inch Softball League this year and a regular participator in golf tournaments. Baseball is his hobby and golf his favorite sport. He lives in Marktown.

Frances Deiotte, of Chesterton, Ind., is a Key Punch Operator. Her father, Ira, is a supervisor in the Electrical Dept. and has many years of service with the Company. Miss Deiotte is interested in commercial art as a hobby. Her favorite sport is horseback riding.

# Hammond's Pullman-Standard Historic District



After the United States declared war on Germany in April, 1917 two federal agencies were created to build housing for workers near war-related industries and shipyards. The United States Housing Corporation was responsible for a large number of these projects. Although some were small and consisted of a few dozen dwellings, others were larger and some approached the dimension of new towns. Many of the country's city planners and landscape architects were employed by USHC to prepare the site designs and were identified as "town planners."

Such was the case with what is commonly referred to as the Pullman-Standard Historic District in Hammond, Indiana. It is located just several blocks north of 165th street on the east side of Columbia Avenue. It is a unique combination of the standard American grid plan like the Mark Town Site and the serpentine plan as was used in Sunnyside in East Chicago. At the center of the property facing Co-

lumbia Avenue was the Lindora Hotel which was lost to arson two decades ago.

The project was designed by Chicago architect J.C. Llewellyn and was officially known as Industrial Housing Project No. 457. It consisted of a hotel/boarding house which was surrounded on three sides by single, duplex and quad structures (shown above) constructed utilizing various exterior elevations and finishes. All of the units had open porches. Some were finished in brick veneer while other were in stucco and stucco shingle combinations. A total of 131 residential structures were designed.

While J.C. Llewellyn was a member of the Chicago Architectural Club. He also went on to be one of the cofounders of the Architectural League of America.

*Illustrations:* The top illustration is taken from the 1919 Chicago Architectural Sketch Club Catalog. The photo below it is of the same properties and was taken by Paul Myers on Friday, January 6, 2006.

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

# Marktown Mail Call

Paul,

My name Allen Tuttle, a past resident/homeowner in Marktown. I enjoy reading your monthly updates online. While reading your September update, I saw good friends of mine pictured in the monthly update (the Fernando family). You can bet that when ever we visit together we always share stories of Marktown. Even though we no longer live in Marktown, we still take pride in having had the opportunity to live in such a wonderful community. I wanted to share with residents of Marktown that I am encouraged with what they accomplish when they work together. Those continued efforts surely make life in Marktown better for today and for years to come.

Thank you,  
Allen Tuttle

December 31, 2005

Dear Mr. Myers,

I am writing to thank you for the lovely web site you have for Marktown.

My family moved to Marktown when I was 3 years old. We didn't live there very long, about three years or so. But my earliest childhood memories are of Marktown.

My father was employed with Youngstown Steel and watched it change through the years. He finally retired when it was LTV. My mother worked at "The Mill Gate" restaurant/pub, for many many years. Their names are, Patrick and Geraldine Isenbarger. Both are passed now, but perhaps you may have known them?

I am always trying to describe Marktown to friends and it's very hard to do. So you can imagine my excitement when I found this site.

Thank you

Sincerely, Kathleen Hogan

January 11, 2006

## Special Note:

The Marktown Preservation Society, Inc. received a Christmas card this past season, but then again, we received several hundred cards. What made this interesting is how it was addressed:

**Marktown Preservation Society  
Marktown, Indiana 46312**

While we do not recommend that anyone use this as the mailing address, it is nice to see that the U.S. Post Office recognizes our existence and knows where to deliver our mail to. Just for the record our mailing address is:

**Marktown Preservation Society  
C/O Paul A. Myers  
405 Prospect Street  
East Chicago, Indiana 46312**

You can also reach us at [mrmarktown@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mrmarktown@sbcglobal.net). Don't forget to visit our web site for more up to date and archival information on Marktown.

## Boy Scouts In Marktown - Photos From The Past



Photo #1: On the top left is a young Tom Costino with Bert Suter on the right. Kneeling in the front are Jim Dougherty, Russell Constant with the remaining three currently unknown. Photo #2: Left is Thomas Wier and on the right is Mr. Constant. Photo #3: Standing on the chair is Jim Dougherty.



Behind him maybe Dennis Bossinger, then Bert Suter. Below on the left with the Boy Scout leader's arm around him is Don (Si) Bednar with Russ Constant peeking out at the right with the flag just above his head.

Finding and sharing vintage photos of Marktowners is always fun.



But having our readers help us to identify those in the photos makes this one of the best jobs around. Recognize anyone you know? Special thanks to Larry Bossinger for helping us get this far with the photos. If you know any of the other Marktowners pictured, please let us know!

**The printing of this newsletter is made possible through the generosity of Mr. Dan McArdle, a former Marktown resident and a true friend of this community.**