



# MARKTOWN UPDATE

A publication of the Marktown Preservation Society

May 2003

## Ground Breaking for New Marktown Community Center

Friday, April 11th brought well over a hundred fifty Marktown residents, city officials, past Marktowners and guests alike for the official ground breaking for the new Marktown Community Center. Paul Myers, resident historian, was asked to serve as master of ceremonies and to introduce the various speakers.

The event began with prayer offered by Rev. Joseph Niezgodka of St. John Cantius Church. Councilman Adrian Santos and Barbara Perez lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

The actual program began with Ron Detella of Detella, Planera, Paukner, Inc., commented on how pleased he was to be permitted to work on such an



outstanding project.

Once Mayor Pastrick was introduced he began his comments with a tribute to the young men and women from Marktown who are currently serving in the Armed Forces. The Mayor went on to talk about the details and amenities of the new community center. Mayor Pastrick then completed his comments by saying *"It's been said that Marktown is one of the best-kept secrets in East Chicago. Make no mistake that as we break ground here today, all of Lake County will come to know and appreciate Marktown, not only for its distinctive architecture, but also for its distinctive residents."* We hope to see all of you at the grand opening next year.

## Easter Egg Hunt Enjoyed By All

What a great day for the children of Marktown! Saturday, April 19th brought well over one hundred children to the little park on Pine Avenue. The Marktown Women's Club started months ago with the preparations, plans and yes, the solicitation of funds for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. While the city of East Chicago has a really big event that includes all of the children from our city, Marktown, for more years than we can remember, has always had their own event and this year was no exception.

There are usually two parts to such events, 1) raise the funds, and 2) do the work. This year the fund raising started early. Actually it started last year with a grant application to the Foundations of East Chicago. Other funds were also solicited and were greatly needed. With fund raising out of the way early, all that was left was to put the baskets to-



gether. This year, that task was made simpler when Lupe Guajardo was able to get the baskets for us, already made up and at a great discount. All the ladies had to do was to add some extra items to the baskets and the Easter Bunny would be ready to make his deliveries.

Kim Rodriguez knocked herself out once again in her annual bake sale. Custom made lamb and cross cakes as well as cup cakes and much more were available for purchase that morning.

Special thanks goes to the Marktown Women's Club for once again hosting the event, and to Mayor Robert A. Pastrick, the Parks and Recreation Department, 5th District Councilman Adrian Santos, and everyone else far too numerous to mention, who donated time, effort and funds to make this event possible for the children of our community

## ***Wall of Heroe's in Marktown***

As we reported last month, Judy Hicks and the staff at the Marktown Community Center have put together a great tribute to the young men and women who stand in defense of freedom. This past month the Marktown Preservation Society was pleased to provide servicemens flags to the families of these outstanding citizens. While the war appears to be won and is winding down, we all know that these brave young men and women are not truly safe until they have returned home to their families.

In past times of war and international conflict, yellow ribbons tied around trees have signified our desire and prayers that those who serve and protect are returned home safely. Several weeks ago Paul Myers, on behalf of the Marktown Preservation Society and all of the friends and families of military personnel serving in defense of our country, tied yellow ribbons on the park and parkway trees in Marktown.



## ***Last Call for 2004 Property Tax Exemptions!***

As we reported several months ago, owner occupied properties are eligible for a number of property tax exemptions, any two of which may eliminate your need to file property taxes all together. The most common exemptions are: Homestead, Mortgage and Senior

Citizen (+65). A review of the exemptions currently on file has been made and there are a number of qualified properties in Marktown which have not filed. The deadline to file is May 10, 2003. If you have ANY questions please contact Paul Myers at 397-2239.

## ***DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!!!***

One of the greatest freedoms and responsibilities that each of our citizens has is to exercise their right to vote. In just a few days on May 6th, you will once again have the opportunity to elect city officials. For those of you who are new in our neighborhood, I hope that you have registered to vote here.

Our polling place is at the Marktown Community Center and I am sure everyone knows where that is. Polls will be open from 6 AM to 6 PM.

While it is not our place to tell you who to vote for, we sincerely hope that you will remember those who have always remembered and served Marktown well.

### **MAYOR**

**8 Robert A. PASTRICK**

### **CITY CLERK**

**11 Miguel ARREDONDO**

### **JUDGE OF THE CITY COURT**

**16 Sonya MORRIS**

### **COUNCILMAN AT LARGE**

**40 Jose (Joe) DE LA CRUZ**

### **5th DISTRICT COUNCILMAN**

**53 Adrian SANTOS, SR.**

***Need to e-mail us? You can contact Paul at [pmyers@eastchicago.com](mailto:pmyers@eastchicago.com)***

# **SPRING CLEAN-UP IN MARKTOWN**

## **Some Advice from the Street Department**

Spring is in the air and once again we will find our neighbors out and about cleaning up their yards and cleaning out those basements and garages. Nothing is new in any of this as I am sure that residents of East Chicago and especially in Marktown have done this every spring for decades.

To assist our neighbors we spoke with Atterson Spann, Superintendent of the East Chicago Street Department, and got some outstanding advice for all of our residents.

Mr. Span noted: "Marktown poses some special problems when it comes to cleaning up debris and cleaning out basements. You folks don't have alleys you can put stuff in, but that doesn't mean that we can't or won't pick up the rubbish.

"To begin, everyone needs to remember to recycle. If you have old storm windows or glass, make sure that the glass is placed in recycling bins so we can pick that up on Friday when we always pick up the recycling bins. That goes for paper and plastic too.

"Where do we begin? Well, if you know you are going to clean up, please give the Street Department a call the day before you begin so we can try to schedule a pick up right away. We don't want the rubbish on the street any longer than necessary.

"Since most of Marktown doesn't have alleys you can set stuff in, where should you put it so we can pick it up? Well, don't put it in the public parks. The Park Department doesn't need to be picking up stuff from your back yard or garage. If you live along Pine Avenue or Broad Street it is OK if you place the rubbish neatly in the street, but remember, don't block traffic.

"If you live on a residential street you should remember that unless you are a senior citizen that can't get the rubbish onto public property, you need to place it neatly on the public right of way. You should also avoid placing your rubbish in front of your neighbors home, or as far as that goes, don't place it up against your home either.

"If you have a refrigerator or freezer, YOU have to remove the doors before it is placed for pick up. We don't want one of the children getting hurt.

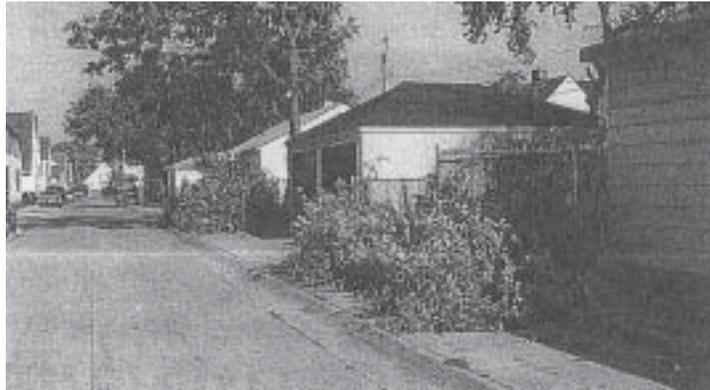
"Parents should also remind their children not to play in the rubbish pile. We will get it pick up as soon as we can, provided you or Councilman Santos gives us a call to let us know it is there.

"If you have tires, please let my office know when you call. If you are cutting down or trimming back a tree or bushes, let us know and keep the

branches separate so we can run them through a chipper. That's better for the environment, and that makes it better for all of us.

"Never place cooking, motor oil or paint in the rubbish and don't be dumping things down the storm sewers. Paint, oils, thinners and things like that need to be disposed of differently, so let us know what you have so we can take care of it properly.

**"Remember: A.** Call **391-8463** for having your rubbish picked up. **B.** Place your rubbish on the public right of way, but don't block traffic. **C.** Never place your rubbish in the public parks **D.** Recycle whenever possible. **E.** Respect your neighbors and their property. **F.** Give your neighbors a hand and help make Marktown one of the best and cleanest neighborhoods in East Chicago."



***Did you know that our web page receives more than 2000 new visitors each month?***

# HOW TO REBUILD MARKTOWN

TURN OFF YOUR TV  
LEAVE YOUR HOUSE  
KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS  
GREET PEOPLE  
LOOK UP WHEN WALKING  
SIT ON YOUR FRONT STOOP  
PLANT FLOWERS & PULL WEEDS  
USE YOUR LIBRARY  
PLAY TOGETHER  
SHARE WHAT YOU HAVE  
HELP A LOST DOG & DON'T FEED STRAY CATS  
TAKE CHILDREN TO THE PARK  
HONOR LEADERS  
SUPPORT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECTS AND EVENTS  
FIX IT EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T BREAK IT  
HAVE POT LUCKS  
READ STORIES ALOUD  
DANCE IN THE STREET  
TALK TO THE MAIL CARRIER  
LISTEN TO THE BIRDS  
PUT UP A SWING  
HELP CARRY SOMETHING HEAVY  
REPORT VANDALISM & GET INVOLVED TO PREVENT IT  
START A POSITIVE TRADITION  
ASK A QUESTION AND BE WILLING TO GIVE ANSWERS  
HIRE YOUNG PEOPLE FOR ODD JOBS  
ORGANIZE A BLOCK PARTY  
BAKE EXTRA AND SHARE  
ASK FOR HELP WHEN YOU NEED IT  
OPEN YOUR SHADES  
SING TOGETHER, WORK TOGETHER, PLAY TOGETHER  
SHARE YOUR SKILLS  
TAKE BACK THE NIGHT AND THE STREET  
LISTEN BEFORE YOU REACT TO ANGER  
MEDIATE A CONFLICT  
SEEK TO UNDERSTAND  
LEARN FROM NEW AND UNCOMFORTABLE ANGLES  
KNOW THAT NO ONE IS SILENT THOUGH MANY ARE NOT HEARD  
WORK TO CHANGE THIS  
LET'S MAKE MARKTOWN A CLEANER, BETTER AND SAFER PLACE  
TO LIVE, WORK AND RAISE A FAMILY!

## ***STREET PROJECT MOVES FORWARD***

The Board of Public Works has signed the contract for the next phase of the Marktown street project. Oak Avenue will be done next as it is obviously in worse condition than Spruce Avenue.

While working on the final plans for the project it was noted that leaving the telephone poles in the sidewalk on Spruce Avenue would be a violation of the American Disabilities Act. Engineers from NiSource were called in and they are working on alternative routes for the cables and wires that run along

Spruce Avenue. Due to construction times and the immediate work on the new community center, Spruce Avenue will probably not be done until late spring 2004.

Work on Oak Avenue began on Monday, April 28th. Due to the size of the job it probably won't be completed until around August 1st. Residents on the 500 blocks that usually enter or exit their street on Oak Avenue will have to take care in backing out of their streets.

## ***KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR YOUR NEIGHBORS - THE PROPERTY YOU SAVE MAY BE YOURS!***

It appears that every spring when the weather starts and gets nice, we experience a rash of vandalism in our community. It is not new but it can be stopped.

One thing we know is that the vast majority of the criminal activity in our neighborhood starts here. It is not imported from other parts of East Chicago or the Calumet Region. We also know that getting involved is the only way to stop it.

Several years ago I saw a couple of young men, about 12 and 14 years old setting on the hood of one of their neighbors cars. I have known that neighbor all of my life, and he obviously wouldn't have wanted them setting on his automobile.

I told them to get off of his car. Their Mother stepped in and said "It's none of your business, you don't own that car." What she didn't realize should be obvious to all of us. THEY did not own that car and THEY shouldn't have been setting on the hood.

The same is true in virtually every case of vandalism in this community. The East Chicago Police Department can not be here on every street every minute of the day. But we are here. We are the first line of defense against this type of criminal activity. This is OUR community and we need to take it back from those who have never been taught to respect others or their property.

This past month there was a major shoot out on Spruce Avenue. We know who started it and we know who shot back. Warrants have been issued for their arrest and I personally plan on being in court when this goes before a judge.

What these morons do not understand is that their activities are not only criminal, but that innocent people can and will get hurt. Christine Hicks and her husband haven't done anything to anyone, and yet their home was riddled with bullets. The Madrigals at the end of Spring Street were not involved, but they too were victims. We were all victims.

The problems in Marktown are not unique to our neighborhood. They are happening in neighborhoods like ours across this great country, every day of the week. But here we have a unique opportunity to stop it. All we have to do is get involved. Open your curtains and put up the shades. Look out. If you hear what sounds like broken glass, step out and see just what it is. If Marktown were fully occupied, we would have even more people watching.

Why young people think that standing out in the street drinking, or driving around with their stereo loud enough to set off car alarms is acceptable, is beyond me.

Several years ago I caught one of the Montanez boys attempting to break into Terry Settler's home. I stopped him. Terry would have stopped him if he had attempted to break into mine. I went to Mrs. Montanez and told her. She said that I should call the Police. I did, and if you don't want your property broken into, vandalized, stolen or damaged, YOU need to get involved in making a positive difference in this community.

WE need to make the Marktown Historic District a better, cleaner and safer place to live, work and raise a family. TOGETHER WE CAN DO IT!

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