



VILLAGE life



Clarksville Day is May 5. Bring the family out and enjoy reenactments and more. Village Life photo by Julie Samrick

News

Come on down to Clarksville Day

By [Julie Samrick](#)

Share in the stories of Clarksville, the historic ghost town that predates El Dorado Hills, and the Lincoln Highway era by attending the eighth annual Clarksville Day from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 5.

The gold mining town of Clarksville, which faded into a ghost town once Highway 50 was built, is just east of El Dorado Hills Town Center, visible from the Bass Lake Grade on Highway 50. It is on private property, hidden behind a locked gate, but open to the public once each year for Clarksville Day.

On this day visitors get to browse its last remaining remnants, including stone ruins dating back to 1850 that was once a Wells Fargo building until 1868 and later became a saloon and a store. The old flag pole and a “wing pole” mark the location of the old one-room Clarksville school that closed in the early 1950s. The historic Tong family cemetery and the larger Clarksville Cemetery, which is visible on the hilltop above the movie theater, will both be open for touring. The Clarksville Cemetery (once called the Mormon Tavern Cemetery) houses the remains of at least 90 individuals made up of a dozen families, including the Joerger family, who owned a sprawling ranch where El Dorado Hills Boulevard is today.

The old Mormon Tavern, razed to make way for Highway 50, was once a Pony Express station. Pony Express re-enactors will conduct remount demonstrations across from the barn throughout the day.

There will be other exhibits and presenters, which complement the reenactments and stories of the era, including a 10th Cavalry Buffalo Soldiers re-enactment group as well as the Sierra Nevada Mormon Pioneers returning as the Mormon Battalion.

Because the old bridge leading into Clarksville is only big enough for one car, horse-drawn wagons will shuttle visitors from the 3-acre parking area (which is less dusty this year thanks to hydroseeding, which occurred after last year’s event) to Clarksville.

For the first time, a beer and wine garden will be open from noon until 3 p.m. with El Dorado County offerings. Food vendors will also be on site and the Ole West Trio will be there to play live music.

“We are excited about the opportunity to host Clarksville Day and celebrate the rich history right in our backyard,” said Clarksville Region Historic Society president Doug Hus, adding that organizers hope to top last year’s attendance record by attracting more than 5,000 people to the single-day event.

Entry to this family friendly event and parking are free. Signs will direct parking as visitors enter Old White Rock Road from the interchange. STAR volunteers will be there to guide cars. The Clarksville Region Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Founded in 2006 to identify and preserve objects of historical interest, CRHS “enlists public support for the historical preservation and display of documents, artifacts, records and other objects of historical interest related to historic Clarksville and the surrounding region.”

For more information visit edhhistory.org or call (916) 933-3173.

