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Run on a piece of history



The Lincoln Highway runs through Clarksville, El Dorado Hills' historical ghost town. Courtesy photo

Why not burn some calories while taking in some local history too? Run, jog or walk down the Historic Lincoln Highway for the Clarksville Region Historical Society's first annual 8K run Oct. 1.

Participants may park at EDH Natural Farms, where the race begins and ends, located at 1941 Old Bass Lake Road in El Dorado Hills. The scenic race route winds down Old Bass Lake Road (original Lincoln Highway) under Highway 50 on Clarksville Crossing to the red barn in the ghost town of Clarksville and back. A van will be available at the turn-around point for those needing a one-way option.

During the Gold Rush, El Dorado Hills was a small but vibrant mining community called Clarksville. A short stretch of the original main street is still visible from Highway 50, on the Tong ranch south of the freeway, immediately east of El Dorado Hills.

That stretch of road is part of the Lincoln Highway, America's first transcontinental highway and best known one before slipping into obscurity in the middle of the last century when the numbered highway system replaced name-designated roads. About two-thirds of

the Lincoln Highway became U.S. 30. In the West, most of it became U.S. 50.

By the 1960s Highway 50 was rerouted to bypass Clarksville and the community became a ghost town.

The Clarksville Region Historical Society was founded in 2006 to identify and preserve documents, artifacts, records and other objects of historical interest; educate the public and increase public awareness; and to enlist 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.

Most recently CRHS has used funds raised through grants and donations to repair columns at the Clarksville Cemetery, add benches and erect a wrought iron fence there.

The non-profit plans to resurrect Clarksville Days next May, which was on hiatus since the last event in 2012 due to on-going construction of the Silva Valley interchange.

"A lot of people don't know about the Lincoln Highway," CRHS President Doug Hus said. "We continue to see with the build out of El Dorado Hills that it's more and more critical we continue to

preserve our history.”

Race registration is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children. Comemmorative Lincoln Highway T-shirts are available while supplies last. “The T-shirts alone are worth \$20,” said CRHS director and local history maven Betty January. The registration fee also includes a CRHS annual membership.

“We want people to be proud of the unique history in their community,” January added.

Race sponsors include Serrano Associates LLC, Nagel Company and MJM Properties LLC.

At the end of the 8K, El Dorado Hills Natural Farms will be open for strawberry picking.

Go to edhistory.org for more information or to download a registration form or call (916) 390-6776. Registration opens at 7 a.m on race day. Please arrive by 8 a.m. The race begins at 8:30.