

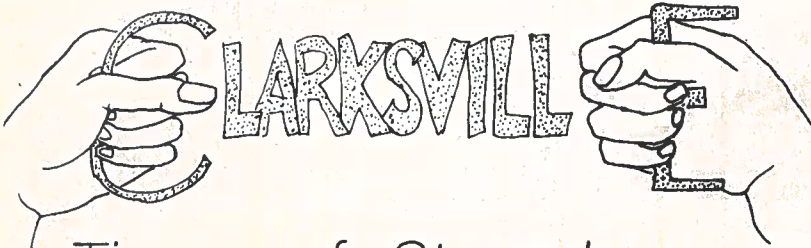
The Clarksville Gold Dollar

Volume 2 Number 2

Clarksville Community Development Corp.

June 8, 1979

DEVELOPMENT OPPOSITION CONTINUES



Times of Struggle

(This is the first of series of articles describing past problems that have confronted Clarksville.)

As Austin has grown, Clarksville has periodically received the attention of people who recognized the value of its location. In 1918, in an attempt to move Blacks out of Clarksville, the school board tried to close the neighborhood school. Historically this was a very oppressive period in Texas. It was a time of riots in Houston and San Antonio and lynchings were reported weekly. Faced with local racism, the West Austin Negro Businessman Association organized and successfully stopped the school board from closing Clarksville's school.

The master plan of the City of Austin in 1929 stated that all Black facilities, schools and social services were to be located in East Austin, effectively forcing Blacks out of West Austin. At that time there were many more Blacks in West Austin than now. Many were undoubtedly affected by the City's plan, and with various pressures Black communities grew smaller, sometimes disappearing (for example Wheatsville). Clarksville somehow remained.

The next threat to Clarksville appeared in 1968. Residents were approached by state and city representatives who wanted to buy land for a highway planned along the Missouri Pacific railroad line. In September of 1968 residents met at Sweethome Baptist Church to discuss the planned MoPac and a Crosstown expressway project that would feed into MoPac. Pauline Brown called for a committee to be formed "to let city hall know what we want". Rev. Carrington was elected president. Members were Mr. & Mrs. Ben May, Mr. Carey Baylor, Mrs. Ellen Brown, Mrs. Theresa Fonanette, Mrs. Pauline Brown, Mrs. Lillian Baylor, and Mrs. Mary Baylor.

The following month the newly formed committee had a special meeting with the City Council. The community's objections to the 2 roads were presented. Mayor Akin addressed the group agreeing that the highway projects would "practically wipe out Clarksville" and added, "progress does come and these things do happen". The Council agreed with the mayor -- the highways were to be built.

(next ... The Fight Against the Highways)

JAZZ in the PARK

The Clarksville Jazz Festival is scheduled Saturday, June 16, from 3:00 to 10:00 P.M. It will be held in the West Austin Park which is located between 9th and 10th Streets, two blocks east of West Lynn.

The free festival is the result of efforts by Gary Logsdon, owner of Clarksville Cream Shop and the Cheese and Wine shop on West Lynn. Gary also put together last year's jazz festival.

The schedule of performers is as follows:

3:00 Naked Lunch
4:00 Julie Christensen Group
5:00 Angel Sucheras Band
6:30 Jimmy Grove and Friends
8:00 The Jazz Symphony

The conflict over Clarksville development continued this week as residents placed signs showing opposition to TAO/ONO in their yards. "Stop TAO/ONO from destroying Clarksville" is the message in front of many homes. In addition bumper stickers are appearing on local cars. They say: "Save historic Clarksville from developers" and "Stop developers from destroying Clarksville."

Meeting together this week the Neighborhood Advisory Board and the Clarksville Community Development Corporation agreed to continue efforts aimed at stopping planned construction by TAO/ONO.

MEETING NOTES

The last Clarksville Advisory Board Meeting was held on May 24, 1979 jointly with the CCDC. The following issues were discussed: (1) location of the proposed Clarksville Health Clinic, (2) a new compromise offered by TAO/ONO, Inc. (3) the Juneteenth celebration and dedication of the Haskell Homestead, (4) the lawsuit pending against townhouses planned by TAO/ONO, Inc., (5) plans to acquire a lot for another low cost house., (6) a funding request by CCDC for the After School Program, (7) the Clarksville rent house repair program, (8) goals and objectives for the neighborhood center, (9) the publication and direction of the Clarksville Gold Dollar, (10) sale of bumper stickers by CCDC members.

For more information, minutes of the meeting are available at the neighborhood center. Advisory Board meetings are scheduled for the 2nd Thursday of each month but are subject to change. So call the neighborhood center before you attend a meeting.

LAWSUIT GOES TO COURT

The lawsuit that CCDC filed to block TAO/ONO's proposed townhouses is set for trial the week of July 3. Interested residents are encouraged to attend. The day and place will be known the week before the trial. Call the neighborhood center for this information.

NEIGHBORS BE AWARE:

Letters are arriving in Clarksville from real estate agents Mike Wilhite and Michael Smith. They are interested in buying property here--apparently unaware and unconcerned of the community's own plans for Clarksville. Maybe they should take a drive through the neighborhood?

NEW FACES... INTERVIEWS

The interviews this week may surprise some people. Speaking with these people has raised the issue of what the Gold Dollar's position should be. This newsletter is the project of the CCDC, and as such, must reflect their view of Clarksville. Of course it could present only their view. As their reporter I felt it necessary for my own information to find out everything there is to know about the present conflict. And as a reporter I think that a story with only one side is not to be trusted, nothing is so simple. So, hearing that Dede Spontak and Lee Persons were interested in talking with neighborhood people, I called on them and another resident often associated with TAO/ONO. I asked not for a defense of the developers, but for the personal opinions and feelings of these new residents of Clarksville.

Melinda

"I'm hoping for an early compromise where both sides feel gain."

Lee Person
1703 West 11th

When we moved to Clarksville, I fell in love with the neighborhood, the friendly and kind people who care for each other here. We didn't come wanting people to move. Even with the controversy, I want to help the community and be a part of it. I admire the work of the CCDC (though I object to their personal attack of Jim). I think the new residents could help the community. We have some political and economic power, and we have knowledge to share. My training has been in special education and I could help with programs in the neighborhood center. But the emphasis has been on the difficulties.

Speaking of development in Clarksville, I don't think the realities are recognized. This is a free market system and I think you can work in this system and help people. The CCDC needs a good business man to help with their plans. Land values will rise no matter who does the improvements. I hope people hold on to their land. It is an investment for them and for their children.

*

"I'm not on a side."

Dick Clark
1706 West 11th

I designed and built my own house and am not legally or financially involved with TAO/ONO. When I first thought of building, I talked over my plans with neighbors here, and then, as now, I have had nothing but good feelings from people living here. My neighbors are great and I enjoy living by them.

(Clark cont.)

As an architect I've studied communities for years. Clarksville is such a desirable place to live that change is going to happen here. There's no way to stop it short of writing specific laws. I think the street improvements have speeded up the change. From a realistic point of view of what developers could do, I think TAO/ONO's plans will have a softer impact than if a truly big developer came in. Outside of government funded projects I don't see how the poor can move in, land value is too high.

*

"I don't want to defend TAO/ONO, but my personal opinion is influenced by my connection to TAO/ONO and people do identify me with it."

Dede Spontak
1006 Charlotte

Clarksville is changing. I don't think anything will stop the change. At best the transition can be easier and more controlled. Clarksville has a mixture of cultures now. It is a "melting pot" as the United States has always been and, as before, we'll all have to work out the cultural differences. There are some valad fears, but also some unfounded ones that need to be straightened out.

My house is here, where else can I go? To help the community I am willing to offer my services as carpenter, but there is only so much I can do. I think people at least owe me the right to talk it over so we can reach some kind of common way. Then there would no longer be a need for protests.

*

From the Vice President VIEWPOINT

When I moved to Clarksville in 1970, I felt lucky to have found such a pleasant and friendly neighborhood. I also wondered why there were so many abandoned houses on what used to be Essex Street.

It didn't take long to learn that as a result of the proposed Mo-Pac Highway, twenty-eight low income black families had been forced to leave their homes in Clarksville and move away. These people did not want to leave. They wanted to stay in Clarksville where they could raise their families as their parents and grandparents had done. Simply stated, these people were forced to relocate because of outside forces they couldn't control.

Since 1970, I have actively involved in trying to help Clarksville. I am an elected member of the neighborhood Advisory Board and for the last three years, have represented Clarksville on Austin's Community Development Commission. Together, through lots of hard work, we have succeeded in bringing over one million dollars worth of improvements to the neighborhood. We are in the process of paving streets, obtaining sidewalks, installing storm sewers, relocating water and wastewater lines, rehabilitating houses, and improving the playground. The people of Clarksville fought together to get the city to authorize this revitalization program. The people of Clarksville are proud of what has been accomplished.

And it has not been easy. For several years, we fought the city to prevent a Crosstown Expressway from destroying the Clarksville community. We were successful in that fight. For several years, we fought to get the city to recognize the needs of our community, and to address these needs. I'll never forget how hard it was to get a traffic control signal at the corner of West Lynn and 12th. The Urban Transportation Department said we didn't need one as badly as other neighborhoods. But we fought for what we knew we needed to make that intersection safe. And we won.

Today we are involved in a similar struggle: a struggle to preserve the Clarksville community as we know and love it. New outside forces have entered our community and created a situation where it will be difficult for low income people of any race or creed to ever live in Clarksville again. Many Black people who would like to move back to Clarksville will not be able to. And people already living here may be forced to move.

The new outside force is the TAO/ONO company, developers who intend to remake Clarksville in their image. They are here, now buying up property and building houses which not one in Clarksville, nor any low income families, can afford. The developers are also talking about buying rental homes, which would force those of you who are renting to move away.

We have worked hard and long to improve our Clarksville community. It is not right that outsiders should come in, with their dollars and investors, to reap the benefits of all our efforts. Where were the developers when we were struggling to get our streets paved? They were not in Clarksville then.

As I have said many times, I am proud to be a member of the Clarksville community. I plan to continue working to improve the community THE WAY WE WANT to see it improved. We must stick together, work together and struggle together to make sure this happens.

Elliott Naishtat
812 B Theresa

Bumper stickers are being sold by CCDC member and are also available at the Neighborhood Center. The price is \$1.00. The profits will be used to pay Gold Dollar printing expenses. The stickers read:

SAVE HISTORIC CLARKSVILLE
FROM DEVELOPERS
and
DEVELOPERS FROM
STOP DESTROYING CLARKSVILLE

Because a special edition of the Gold Dollar will be printed for the Juneteenth celebration, the next regular issue will be delayed by one week. Expect it on your doorstep Friday, July 6. Any news or comments must be in by July 4.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

COMMUNITY CLEAN UP

JUNETEENTH

Saturday, June 16 is the date set for a neighborhood clean-up. You can participate by putting anything you wish to throw away on the curb in front of your house. You will need to be at home to help put the trash in the truck that will be coming around. This is a good opportunity to get rid of any large items (furniture, tree limbs, etc.) that garbage collectors won't usually take.

The clean-up starts at 8:00 am and will take most of the day. Volunteers are needed to help with the work. People working will be served lunch at the church.

Clarksville Natural Grocery and Clarksville Gallery and Pottery are holding an open house Sunday, June 10. Beto and the Fairlaines will set up their band in the parking lot of the food store and play between 5:00 and 8:00 PM. The grocery will be open 12:00 to 8:00 and Clarksville Pottery will be open 1:00 to 8:00. Refreshments will be served and the public is cordially invited.

Sweethome Home Missionary Baptist Church has plans to repair and remodel the church during the next week. Assistance is needed so if you can help contact Rev. H. J. Carrington, Jr. at 472-3671 after 5:00 PM or 447-9002 during the day.

June 17 the congregation will be visiting Mission II at Emmanuel Baptist Church for their annual services. Regular Sunday services are: Training Union 9-10 AM, Sunday School 10-11 AM, and Morning Worship at 11 AM. Meetings scheduled this week are: Youth and Young Adult Choir Rehearsal - Tuesday 6:30-7:30; Senior Choir Rehearsal - Tuesday, 7:30; Mission I and II will meet Wednesday 7-8:00 and a prayer and Teachers meeting is from 8-9:00 the same evening; Thursday at 7:30 is the Brotherhood Meeting.

BAPTISMS June 3, 1979
Roxanne Sterling
Otis Sterling, III
Jeffrey Sterling
Kevin Sterling

LAGUNA GLORIA ART CLASSES

Scholarships are available to Laguna Gloria Art Museum's children's classes. They are offering some very special classes like Art Venture Tours on Saturday 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM (June 16 and June 23). Included are transportation, entertainment, a snack, and supplies. Also offered are Young Artists Studios, week long classes held Monday-Friday 8:30-12:00 noon. Some of the classes are making faces; Fantasy, Dreams and other Fancy Stuff; and Folk Art. Please contact me at the Center if you are interested.

LEARN TO SWIM CLASSES

Scholarships for swimming classes will be offered through Parks and Recreations. Registration will take place from 9:00 to 12:00 noon on the dates listed below:

June 11 for 1st session (June 12-29)
July 2 for 2nd session (July 3-20)
July 23 for 3rd session (July 24-August 10)
Classes will meet Tuesday-Friday mornings for 45 minutes lessons. Please come by the center to pick up a scholarship.

SUMMER PROGRAM STARTS JUNE 18

Summer is finally here and on June 18th we happily announce the beginning of the Clarksville Summer Afternoon Recreation Program. We will meet Monday-Friday at the Center from 12-4 PM. Our program is free and open to kids 3-13 years old. Two of three CETA Workers will help with the planning and supervision of sports, games, and swimming. Also we will offer arts and crafts, weekly field trips to the movies, guest visitors, and special projects. Our registration flyers will be out next week, looking forward to seeing you. If you have questions call me in the afternoon at the Center.

Carol Aaronson
Recreation Worker

Tuesday, June 19, is the 114th anniversary of the emancipation of Blacks in Texas. The Clarksville Neighborhood Center Advisory Board and the CCDC invite you to come to a Juneteenth celebration at the historic Haskell Homestead, 1703 Waterston from 7-9 PM. The reconstruction of the Haskell House, a project of the Austin Parks & Recreation Department and the Clarksville Neighborhood Center Advisory Board, will be dedicated during the celebration.

There will a short program. Barbeque plates will be sold for \$2.50. And a commemorative issue of the Clarksville Gold Dollar will be available.

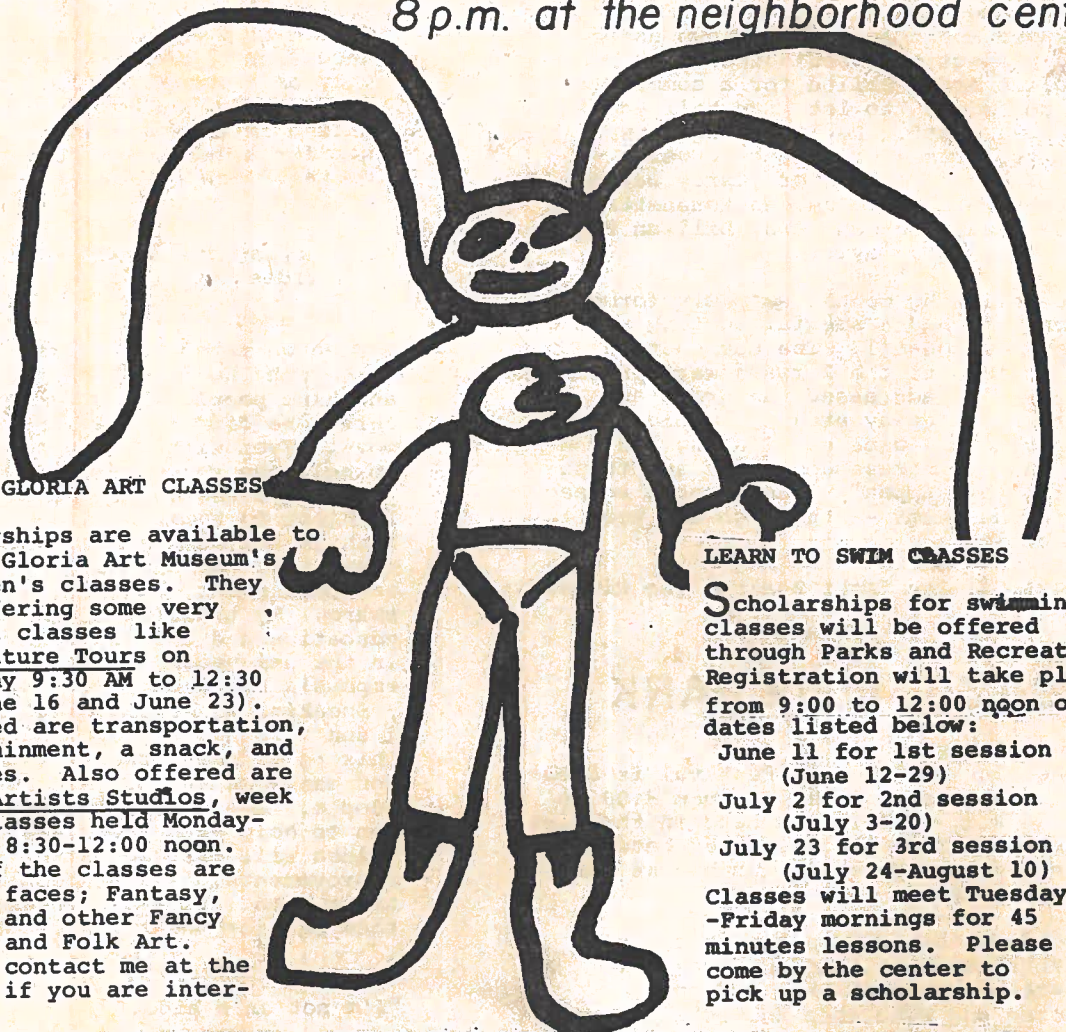
Volunteers from the Clarksville Community Development Corporation and other community members are needed to sell bumper stickers and hand out leaflets at two events this Saturday and Sunday.

Community members are asked to man a table on Saturday, June 9th from 1:00 to 9:00 at the "Urban Survival Fair" to be held at Waterloo Park. Volunteers will be asked to work a three hour shift. This is the first year of the Urban Survival Fair which will inform Austin residents of self preservation skills in the city.

Information about social services, workshops on specific tasks, other informative hints, music and a good time will all be available at the Fair. The Fair will happen from 11:00 AM to 9:00 PM both Saturday and Sunday.

The Clarksville Natural Health Food Store will stage its Grand Opening Sunday, June 10th in conjunction with the Clarksville Pottery Shop. The CCDC has permission to leaflet and sell bumper stickers at the event which will occur in the store parking lot. Music by Beto y los Fairlaines will be the main attraction. Residents are asked to volunteer for the Clarksville Community Development Corporation from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. The natural food store is located in the former site of Seven Eleven.

DANCE! free performance June 14,
8p.m. at the neighborhood center



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