

Affordable townhomes coming to English Park area

Construction should start in month or two

BY KEITH LAWRENCE
MESSENGER-INQUIRER

Six new townhomes are coming to the English Park area this year.

And they're going to be affordable, Jackson Gasser, a partner in the Gasser Group at Triple Crown Realty, said Thursday.

He said local builders, who want to remain anonymous for the time being, plan to build six townhomes near the townhome development Benny Clark started in 2006.

Gasser said the builders

want to ensure that the townhomes are affordable and they will only be sold to home buyers, not investors.

He said each home will have three bedrooms, two baths, a garage, a deck and 1,400 square feet of space.

"They'll be very nice, but affordable," Gasser said. "They'll be less expensive than the townhomes that are there now."

He said the sale price hasn't been set yet.

The townhomes will have an open floor plan, Gasser said.

Construction should start in a month or two, he said.

"The goal is to help people buy homes and not

have to rent," Gasser said.

Jason Gasser, Jackson's father and another member of the Gasser Group, said their original idea was to build 80 units of affordable housing.

But that proved to be too expensive, he said.

However, Jason Gasser said, they hope to still be able to build the 80 units at a later date.

In 2006, when Clark built River Crest, the then-\$2.5 million-plus townhome development beside English Park, it was more upscale.

"We presold all 10 townhomes," he said at the time. "They ranged from \$245,000 to \$350,000. I never thought the Owens-

boro market would go to that level."

The two-story homes have a view of both bends of the Ohio River as well as English Park. Private decks on the second floor and big windows in the second-floor master bedrooms both offer river views.

"People love that river," Clark said at the time. "There's no way townhomes would sell for these prices anywhere else in town."

But Gasser said the new townhomes will be less expensive and still have those views.

Keith Lawrence,
klawrence@messenger-inquirer.com



Photo submitted
Aaron Walker has been promoted to Operations Manager at the Owensboro Museum of Fine Art.

Walker named operations manager at OMFA

Began as staff assistant in 2016

BY KEITH LAWRENCE
MESSENGER-INQUIRER

The Owensboro Museum of Fine Art has a new operations manager.

Aaron Walker began his career at the museum in 2016 as staff assistant.

He was promoted to preparator in 2023 and then to operations manager.

Jason Edward Hayden, the museum's director, said Walker is responsible for the museum's day-to-day operations, exhibition design, installation and lighting and execution of all museum programming.

He said the position "is integral to the museum's mission and its commitment to enriching the community through the arts."

Walker is an Owensboro native who moved to Daytona, Florida, when he was 5.

He returned to Owensboro in 2004.

Walker earned a college scholarship from the Art League of Daytona.

When he came back to Owensboro, he attended Owensboro Community & Technical College, earning an associates degree with an empha-

sis in fine art.

He then graduated from the University of Southern Indiana with a bachelor's degree in studio arts.

The Owensboro Museum of Fine Art is western Kentucky's largest fine art museum.

Hayden said since its opening in 1977, the museum has grown into a regional center for the visual arts.

He said it now includes three "architecturally important structures — a post-modern atrium and exhibition wing, the Hood Rotating Exhibition Wing and Medley Decorative Arts Wing, housing an historically important permanent collection and temporary exhibitions."

Hayden said that both the Hood and Medley wings are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The museum is at Ninth and Frederica streets.

Admission is free.

It's open Tuesday through Friday from noon to 5 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m.

More information is available at omfa.us.

Keith Lawrence,
klawrence@messenger-inquirer.com

COURT

FROM PAGE A1

accomplishments, Marksberry believes too many issues and areas of concern have fallen through the cracks.

"It's just a lack of things, lack of movement, lack of action," she said. "I feel like we have ideas, we have issues brought before us, and we have gathering of information and this and that, and then it just sits there and kind of gets put to the side until someone brings it up again and makes an issue out of it, basically. It almost takes that push to get it back on the table, it seems like, and I don't feel like that's the way things should be run here."

Marksberry, who is running for judge-executive, said her biggest complaint about how fiscal court has operated during her tenure is feeling she's been left out of the decision-making process on many issues.

"I think it's a weakness of this court, and I don't feel like it's gotten any better," she said. "I feel like our current judge depends on staff for a lot of decision making, and I feel like the commissioners were equally elected along with the judge, and the public expects us to have input. We have a lot of diversity of knowledge on this court. Chris Castlen was in law enforcement, I've been in real estate and land development, and Larry has to, but I just don't feel like we're utilized."

"I think the next court, hopefully, the commissioners will be a big part of the decision making. They'll be brought in on every major task before it. I feel like that's what the public expects to happen, but that's not the way it's being

done now."

Marksberry said two of her biggest disappointments has been fiscal court's decision to change operational control of the Daviess County Animal Shelter and its lack of progress addressing drainage concerns.

Marksberry cast the only vote against It Takes a Village running the shelter, and her opinion hasn't changed.

"I feel like it needs to be taken back under the control of the county, mainly because of the hours of operation," she said. "They're not serving our citizens being open noon to 5 p.m.; it's just not workable for most people, and I feel like we lost a golden ticket with the spay and neuter clinic. We should have never let that fold. That was a debacle as far as I'm concerned. I tried to bring together the non-profits to have them form one large nonprofit here in town, but there was infighting there even, and pushback there, and so I think the court just went with whatever they felt like was the best option, one of the few options that responded to the request for proposal."

Marksberry said the shelter is one of the issues the court has faced where she felt she had little to no say during the process.

"They had staff looking at these options, which I felt like they should have brought me in as the liaison, but I wasn't even a part of that conversation," she said. "When I went and looked at ITV, that's when I decided, because it didn't look like what I expected. What they look like on paper is not what they look like in reality, and I know it's dirty work, hard work and not very rewarding work for a lot of people."

"We had a nice shelter, it was clean, it was well run, we had our own shelter vet, we had our own spay neuter clinic, and that's all been dismantled under this court, and I feel like that's a real travesty. I want to bring it back, and I want to bring back low-cost spay and neuter and I want try to get a full-time shelter veterinarian. I don't even know if that is going to be possible"

Marksberry said she is currently advocating for improvements to be made to the shelter.

"The playpens at the animal shelter was another item that I pushed for, and I am grateful they were done," she said. "I am currently working on getting footing on these areas to eliminate mud and make it easier to walk the dogs and for the dogs to go play. Also, I will continue to advocate for the low cost spay and neuter clinic to be up and running for all residents. I would like to see a large walking trail and other updates to the facility."

"Fiscal court owns five acres behind the shelter that is not being utilized for anything. This could be turned into more play areas and engagement with the public, helping more animals to be adopted."

A significant decision facing fiscal court is how much to commit to renovating the Daviess County Detention Center, with \$40 million estimated to be the cost of meeting the needs.

Marksberry sees that as a concerning investment.

"I'm not 100% committed to the detention center renovation because its \$40 million, and I feel like that's a lot of money to saddle our county with for our kids and our grandkids," said Marksberry, who questions how the evalua-

tion was done. "You don't let the home inspector in to find something wrong if you don't have to. I don't know who invited the state into this jail to say, 'Look at this,' and then all of a sudden we have to fix all of this stuff. It's a jail. It's not a hotel."

"I just feel like there should be some kind of a happy medium. They're adding all of these beds because they're taking state prisoners and federal prisoners, and yes they pay money, but how much money do they have to pay to pay for this remodel and the extra staff we have to hire? I think we should have done a little more work on this one, see what truly needs to be done, because here is the thing, when this is done and paid for in 25 years — it's going to take that long to pay for it, to pay it back — then it's going to be time to build a new one."

Marksberry said she still hopes it can become a regional jail.

Another area of concern

SEE COURT/PAGE A3

Lottery Numbers

Thursday's lottery numbers:

Kentucky
Midday Pick 3: 0-7-6
Midday Pick 4: 2-5-7-1
Evening Pick 3: 8-8-2
Evening Pick 4: 5-9-3-6
Cash Ball 225: 4-12-15-32;
The Cash Ball was 11
Lucky For Life:
8-20-30-42-46
The Lucky Ball was 15
Indiana
Midday Daily 3: 2-8-6
Super Ball was 0
Midday Daily 4: 0-9-1-8
Super Ball was 0
Evening Daily 3: 7-5-7
Super Ball was 6
Evening Daily 4: 7-9-2-8
Super Ball was 6
Cash 5: 3-17-20-24-40

MESSENGER-INQUIRER

(USPS 341-660)

Distributed Tuesday through Saturday by the Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer Inc. at 1401 Frederica Street, Owensboro, KY 42301.

Periodical postage paid at Owensboro, KY 42301; telephone 270-926-0123. Postmaster: Send address changes to: Messenger-Inquirer, P.O. Box 1480, Owensboro, KY 42302-1480.

MAIL RATES
(Mail delivery available only outside carrier delivery areas.)

CIRCULATION
SUBSCRIBER CUSTOMER SERVICE:
Call 270-926-0123 or (800) 633-2008. Business hours are 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. Monday-Friday. If you get an answering machine during non-business hours, leave your name, address, telephone number and tell us the purpose of the call.

Redelivery is available for missed or damaged papers inside Owensboro until 10 a.m. Tuesday - Saturday. Some limitations apply.

All mail subscriptions are payable in advance.

The Thanksgiving Day edition is included with all subscriptions and is billed at the Thanksgiving Day newsstand price.

AUTOPAY
Have your subscription deducted monthly from your checking or savings account and SAVE!

Daily (Tue-Sat)
\$23.85/mo for 3 months
Daily (Tue-Fri)
\$16.50/mo for 3 months
Thu-Sat \$14.30

Your subscription will continue and we will charge you at the then regular rate, less any applicable credits, unless you cancel, which you can do at any time. After the promotional period ends, your rate may increase. This promotional offer is available only to new subscribers (have not subscribed in the past 90 days).

The Kentucky Revenue Cabinet recently changed its position on sales tax for newspaper subscriptions. As a result sales tax is now added to subscription rates.

CARRIER ROUTE RATES
Daily (Tue-Sat)
52 Weeks 24 Weeks 12 Weeks 4 Weeks
\$413.40 \$190.80 \$95.40 \$31.80
Online access is available to all 7-day subscribers.

Daily (Tue-Fri)
\$297.65 \$137.38 \$68.69 \$22.90
THU-SAT
\$248.04 \$114.48 \$57.24 \$19.08

Weekend delivery includes the following bonus days: New Year's, Martin Luther King Day, January 23, April 17, May 22, Independence Day, July 10, August 28, October 23, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, December 18 and Christmas. An alternate may be selected if a holiday/bonus day falls on a weekend.

Daily (Tue-Fri)
IN KY. & SO. INDIANA
24 Weeks 12 Weeks 4 Weeks
\$418.91 \$193.34 \$96.67 \$32.22

OTHER STATES
\$424.42 \$195.89 \$97.94 \$32.65
Daily (Tue-Fri)
IN KY. & SO. INDIANA
\$303.16 \$139.92 \$69.96 \$23.32

OTHER STATES
\$308.67 \$142.46 \$71.23 \$23.74
SATURDAY ONLY
IN KY. & SO. INDIANA
\$165.36 \$76.32 \$38.16 \$12.72

OTHER STATES
\$181.90 \$83.95 \$41.98 \$13.99

DELIVERY PROBLEMS?
If you are having difficulty receiving home delivery, call Customer Service at 270-926-0123 or (800) 633-2008. Redelivery is available in Owensboro and limited areas until 10 a.m. Tuesday - Saturday.

Publisher Mike Weaver.....270-691-7285
Executive Editor Don Wilkins...270-691-7299
Advertising Angela Mayes.....270-691-7239
Circulation/Production Barry Carden..270-691-7262

ADVERTISING
To place a classified ad, call 270-926-0123 between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. weekdays. For retail advertising, call 926-0123 or (800) 633-2008 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays.

NEWS INFORMATION
270-926-0123 or (800) 633-2008
• News tips and comments on our coverage - Call Executive Editor Don Wilkins 270-691-7299.

• Photo ideas - Call 270-691-7205.
• Photo reprints - available online.
• Sports tips and comments - Call Sports 270-691-7311.

• To report sports results, call 270-691-7315.
• Obituary information 270-691-7291.
• Letters to the editor, tours - Call Corey Wilkerson 270-691-7291.

• Weddings, engagements, anniversaries, calendar of events - Call Corey Wilkerson 270-691-7291.

• To announce activities or events - Mail a news release or fact sheet in advance to our Community News Desk. Include your name and daytime phone number.
• Reader submitted news - Call Corey Wilkerson 270-691-7291.

