

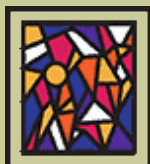
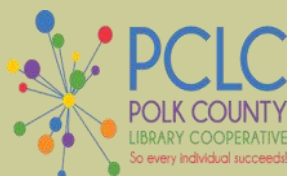


5 South Allapaha Ave., Davenport, FL 33837

Spring 2024

## News from 'The Port'

### Partners



PolkArts.org



### Vice President's Letter



Spring is in the air. It is the perfect time for a historical walking tour! Long or short, this tour can adjust to you. To setup a tour, call 863-422-1302 and leave a message or 863-604-5894 for my cell. Many people or a few, it's a nice walk for you.

Our interactive Museum has an art class on Thursdays. We also have once a month, a book club on Fridays, and a sewing group and a garden club on Saturdays. Something for everyone! It is free, the company is wonderful, and The Museum is educational, interesting and highlights the story of Davenport, through displays and pictures.

As we continue to grow, the word is getting out! Several members were invited to the Del Web clubhouse to be guest speakers to explain our museum and Davenport's history. It was a great experience.

In memory of our own Pioneer of the Year, Baylis Carnes. Mr. Carnes donated a special display highlighting the beginning of Standard Sand & Silica and how important he was to Davenport. Come visit to remember and reflect.

Your support is greatly appreciated and we invite you to come join us!

Billie Sedore  
Vice President



### Officers Sworn In



Left to Right: Joyce Hunter, our new Treasurer; Freida Linder-Priest, President; Billie Sedore, VP; and Rachel Castillo, Secretary.

### Tyler Hall of Fame Inductee



Congratulations to Davenport's own Linda Tyler, who made it to Inductee of the Northeast Polk Chamber of Commerce! She was inducted as a Hall of Fame Honoree for her outstanding work and decades volunteering for her community.

Linda moved to Davenport from North Carolina when she was in the eighth grade. She's been the go-to hairdresser for Davenport for

40 years, as well as a member of the DHS forever!

"I don't want for anything." Linda said. That's why she volunteers. "That and because I thoroughly enjoy it." she added.

### Liss Exhibit Ends in March

Last chance to see an extraordinary local artist! The Bonnie Liss, works on paper, exhibit is scheduled to end at the end of March.



### Museum Hours

10 AM to 4 PM — Wednesdays

10 AM to 3 PM — Thursdays - Fridays

10 AM to 2 PM — Saturdays

**Free Admission**

## Museum is Two Years Old

The Davenport Museum will be two years old in May 2024! To celebrate, we will honor our volunteers on May 4. For more information, go to page 6 of this newsletter.

## Pioneer Interviews on Web

With a little help from YouTube magic, we now have on the DavenportHistory.org site, all of the Pioneer interviews that we have long been editing. We are calling them the Front Porch Memories, as each video is staged to be on a cool, Southern front porch.



Go to DavenportHistory.org, then click on the Gallery tab to stream the videos. But before you sit down, get yourself a pitcher of sweetened ice tea and enjoy the movies.

## DHS Sewing Club

The Museum hosts a sewing club on the third Saturday of each month. For more information, contact Freida at 863-557-3452.

## Book Exchange a Hit

The Read & Share Book Exchange Club covers your choice of book within a theme. The Book Exchange meets the second Friday of each month at 11 AM. Below are the book themes and dates for the upcoming meetings.

- April 12 - A Memoir or Biography
- May 10 - A Book That Became a Movie

## The Davenport Timeline

Compiled by Billie Sedore.

Ever wondered where we started? Below is the population growth of Davenport over the centuries.

- 1882: Polk County had 6,623 people
- 1886: Davenport had 140 people
- 1900: Davenport still held at 140 people
- 1906: Davenport had 300 people
- 1925: Davenport had 440 people
- 1928: Davenport had 880 people (doubled in 3 years)

82 Years Later

- 2010: According to the US Census, Davenport had 2,888 people
- 2020: According to the US Census, Davenport had 9,043 people
- 2024: 18,587 (another doubling in 4 years)

In a span of 138 years, one-hundred forty people have turned into 18,587.



## FREE NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY

TAKE A BOOK & PASS ALONG TO A FRIEND

PETER RUST CIVIC CENTER

5 SOUTH ALLAPAHA AVE. DAVENPORT, FL 33837

WEDNESDAY 10 A.M. - 4 P.M. FRIDAY 10 A.M. - 3 P.M.

THURSDAY 10 A.M. - 3 P.M. SATURDAY 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.



BOOKS AVAILABLE FOR ALL AGES!



**WANTED**

**OUR NASA CONNECTION**

**Items of Interest**

**Information on Davenport's connection to the NASA Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida.**

Contact Freida at 863-557-3452 or stop by The Davenport Museum at the Peter Rust Civic Center, 5 South Allapaha Ave., Davenport 33837.

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Preserving History and Nurturing Culture

## Butterfly Buddies to Meet

Butterfly Buddies is a group of people who love butterflies and wish to help Mother Nature overcome the adversities of habitat loss. Their next meeting at The Museum will be on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> from 10 to 11:30 AM.



## And the Silver Award Goes to ...

... Us. Yesiree! With its work on the native nature garden next to the police station, "a group of Davenport volunteers and the Butterfly Buddies received the University of Florida IFAS

Extension Silver Recognition Award for their Florida-friendly Good Neighbor Wildflower Garden, according to the *Four Corners Sun* (6/20/23). Some of those volunteers are also ambassadors for DHS. Congratulations to all and to the Butterfly Buddies.

## Benefits of Membership

- Quarterly Newsletter
- Volunteer Recognition Program
- DavenportHistory.org Site with Latest News
- VIP Invitations to Special Events at The Museum
- Opportunities to Serve the Davenport Community
- Networking Opportunities with Partners & Providers
- Camaraderie with Fellow Residents Interested in History

**We're Searching for Volunteers**

The Davenport Historical Society is seeking volunteers to serve as ambassadors in our museum. We need event coordinators, tour guides, and administrative staff. For more information, call Freida at 863-557-3452.



*Davenport Historical Society, Inc.*  
Preserving History and Nurturing Culture

## Membership Invitation

### Our Mission Statement

The Davenport Historical Society, Inc.'s purpose is to preserve the city's history and share this heritage by contributing to the records of the state of Florida and the United States of America in an effort that will embrace our past while working toward a brighter future for all of Davenport's citizens.

### Please join us.

#### \_\_\_ Become a DHS Member

- \$ 15.00 Individual
- 18.00 Family
- 35.00 Business
- 75.00 Corporate
- 100.00 Lifetime Individual

#### \_\_\_ Share Artifacts or Personal Stories

#### \_\_\_ Volunteer Time to the DHS & Museum

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

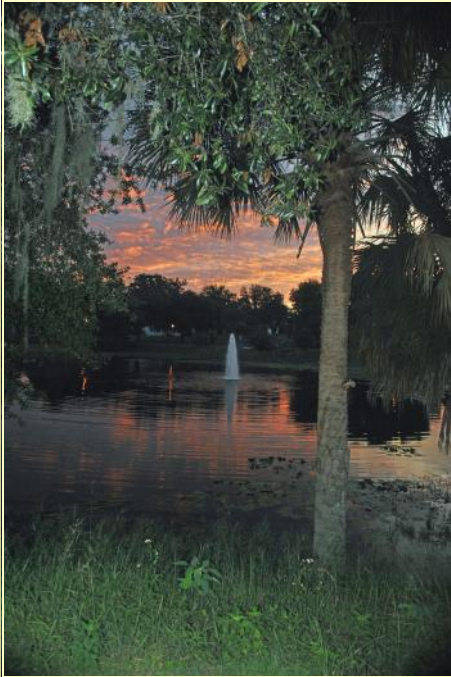
City/ST/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete & mail to:  
Davenport Historical Society, Inc.  
c/o Kathy Linder  
PO Box 774  
Davenport, FL 33836

DHS is a 501c(3) non-profit organization.  
Your contribution is tax deductible.



Lake Play, 2014. Photo by George D. Gordon, III.



MayFest clown in front of Lake Play. Circa 19th century.

**Pics from  
"The  
Port"**



## Citizens Academy

They went to visit the police department and learned how to evaluate heated situations. They went to the fire department, the planning and development department, etc. This was a group of about 20 City of Davenport residents, who got to learn all about the innards of municipal government from the chiefs themselves. It's called the Citizens Academy and it is here in Davenport.

The purpose of the Academy is to introduce residents to how municipal government works. Judith Thompson, a participant, said, "This is a great class! It is fun, I have learned so much and I have made new friends! Thank you, City of Davenport!"

Next years Citizens Academy will start in May and run for eight weeks. The city will begin taking applications in March and seating is limited.

## Thank you to Sam DeVito, Jr.

In early March, the Museum received an extraordinary gift from Lake Alfred resident Sam DeVito, Jr., of antique railroad memorabilia. It included crossing signage, brochures, train hoops, and real coal. Sam Senior was the last Railroad Station Agent in Davenport. Thank you, Sam, Jr! There was so much donated, that the Museum will be expanding it railroad exhibit. We hope to get this work done by next quarter.

## Del Webb Orlando Bids Kudos

In March, three DHS volunteers entered the gorgeous grounds of the upscale residential area known as Del Webb Orlando on Route 27. They arrived ready to enrich the audience with Davenport knowledge. History was revealed, questions answered, and a good time had by all. The Del Webb audience was so impressed, they handmade a card for the three volunteers, shown at right. They also received hand-crocheted book-markers. Thank you, Freida Linder-Priest, Billie Sedore, and Darlene Zeanwick, for making this happen.



## The Farmdale Home has Dport History Cornered

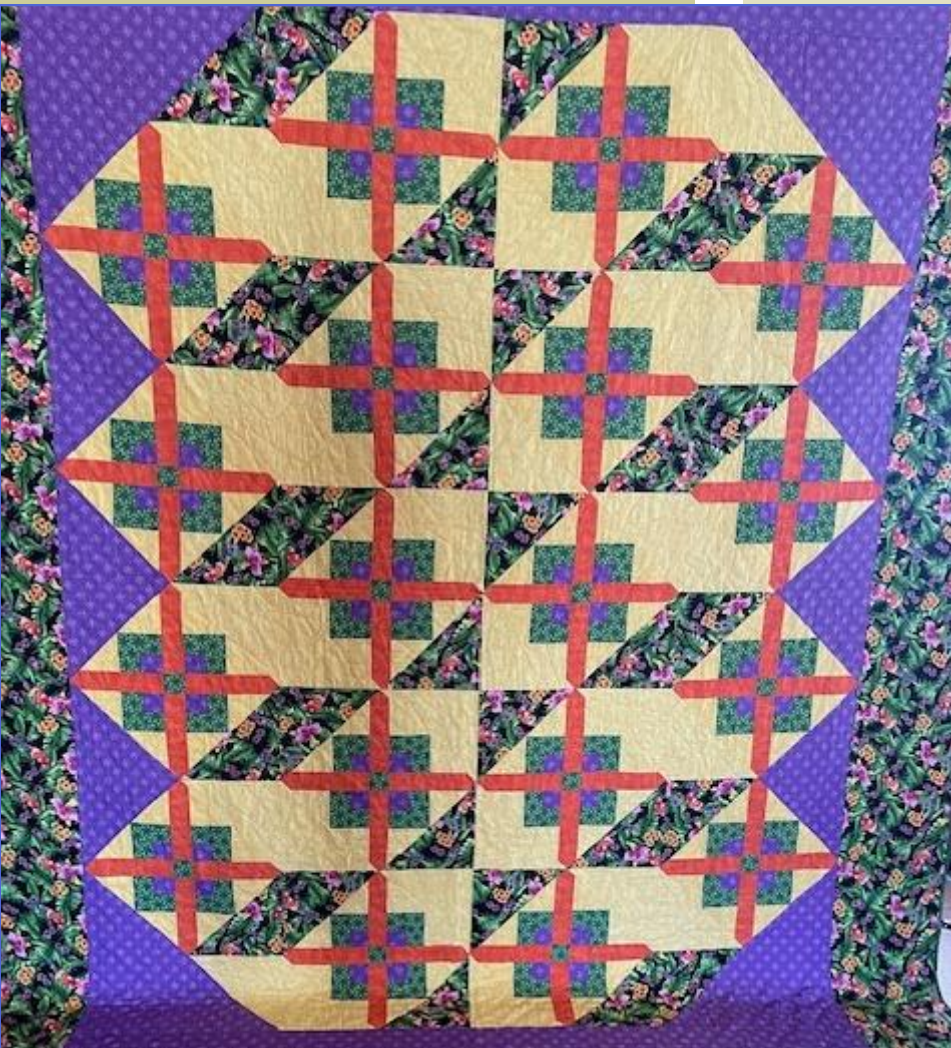
It was early in the 20th century, as early as 1912, when Clifford Farmer built an extraordinary home called *Farmdale* at 309 West Bay Street, at the curve in the road. Given the times, he built his house using the finest lumber he could find. In 1919, Farmer sold his home to a company that renamed it Lake View Club House, because it overlooked Lake Davenport, at the time that the City of Davenport had a grand lake.

The house had always been used for boarders, as Mr. Farmer was a real estate agent, and the subsequent owners kept that tradition. The home ceased to house boarders shortly after Percy and Millie Cromartie bought the house in 1937, and their daughter, Juanite, married Henry Ackroyd. Today, it is known as the Cromartie-Ackroyd House.

## Mother's Day Quilt, A King-Sized Raffle

Displayed largely as you enter The Museum is this king-sized quilt, shown at left. It is now being raffled as a fundraiser for the Davenport Historical Society. The drawing is May 1<sup>st</sup> and you don't need to be present to win.

- \$1.00 per ticket
- \$5.00 for six tickets
- \$10.00 for 15 tickets



## Meetings

Second Monday of each month at the Peter Rust Civic Center.

## Websites

- DavenportHistory.org
- Facebook: DavenportFLHistoricalSociety
- Youtube: @DavenportHistoricalSociety
- MyDavenport.org
- PolkHistoryCenter.org
- DES.PolkSchoolsFL.com
- DavenportHigh.Polk
- SchoolsFL.com
- VisitCentralFL.org



## President

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## Historic Walking Tour Chairman

Billie Sedore  
863-604-5894

## PCHC & PCHA Liaison Heritage Partner Co-Chair

Harriet Rust  
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*Davenport Historical Society Inc.*  
Preserving History and Nurturing Culture

PO Box 774  
Davenport, FL 33836



TO: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## First DHS Volunteer Lunch & Learn

Now that you've marked your calendar for Saturday, May 4, 2024, from 11:30 AM to 1 PM for a **Lunch & Learn** at The Museum, here are more details. DHS is hosting this event to bring our volunteers together for orientation, training, recognition, prizes, and a good time. We will be serving lunch at 11:30 with the program starting promptly at 11:45 AM.

This program is open only to volunteers to have served the Museum or DHS in the past two years or those who wish to serve. Seating is limited, so you must RSVP to get a chair in this meeting. Check your email Inbox or your cell phone text messages in April for your invitation.

## Upcoming Museum Exhibits

- **Historic Lake Play & May Days** — April-June 2024. The history of Lake Play and its association with May Day celebrations of the past. The exhibit will feature a fact versus fiction display. The Lake Play playground is named in honor of Bethel and Lillie Judy. Lillie served as the city's first female mayor, and Bethel served the Davenport Police Dept. as well as having been a commissioner.
- **Our NASA Connection** — July-September 2024. We have connections here in Davenport with NASA. Come explore with us.



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THE WORKING AND LEARNING STORE

This newsletter is sponsored by Posner Park's Staples.