

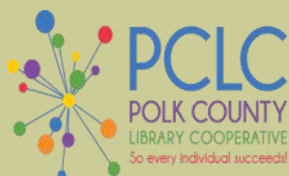


5 South Allapaha Ave., Davenport, FL 33837

Winter 2023

News from 'The Port'

Partners



President's Corner



Can you believe we are nearing the end of another successful year at the Davenport Historical Society!?

We had a busy year with several exciting exhibition programs and new members. As we enter a new year, new exhibitions are being planned and gathering of historical artifacts is always an ongoing process.

Please feel free to stop by The Museum to see what we've been able to uncover or re-remember regarding our ever-growing community.

A special thank you to all of our volunteers, partners and friends, who have supported our efforts to save Davenport's historical past.

See you in 2024!

Freida Linder-Priest
President



Museum Hours

10 AM to 4 PM — Wednesdays

10 AM to 3 PM — Thursdays - Fridays

10 AM to 2 PM — Saturdays

Davenport Native Inducted into PACA Hall of Fame

Harriet Rust, wife of long-time Davenport Mayor Pete Rust (deceased), was recently inducted into the Polk Arts & Cultural Alliance Hall of Fame. She was inducted as a Cultural Champion for the decades-long and tireless efforts to recognize culture, wherever she could find it, and turn them into opportunities for local tourism.



HARRIET RUST
CULTURAL CHAMPION

Her efforts included founding the Davenport Historical Society, the Quilts & Tea Festival, Plein Air of Northeast Polk, and the Highwaymen Arts Festival that was started in 2011. She also wrote this newsletter for many years and developed the style of the newsletter and DHS website.

Lil' Christmas Eve

In Jamestown Park, residents get together to celebrate Christmas Eve the old fashioned, Davenport way — with Santa in a fire truck! During the early evening hours, as Davenport had done for 75 years prior, Santa passes by the park to the delight of children. It's a chilin' party as toys, refreshments, candy and nuts are passed out to the lil' ones.



This is the seventh year that Jamestown Concerned Citizens, Inc., (JCC) has sponsored this event for its community. The event started to afford children of low-income families a holiday celebration. It continues today as a way to celebrate the history of Davenport, as well as way to unite the community around those who need help.

This year, JCC is seeking the public's assistance with this event. If you have a donation, contact Jeannie Calhoun at 863-557-1526. Financial donations should be made payable to Jamestown Concerned Citizens, Inc., and mailed to PO Box 2012, Davenport, FL 33836.

Honoring Our Veterans



On November 4th Kenneth O'Neal, pictured at left, was the keynote speaker for an Honoring Our Veterans event. He spoke of his experiences as a Flight to Honor participant. The program flies qualified veterans to Washington, DC, in an effort to honor them for their service. Veterans were given Veterans Day key rings and the Winter Haven Honor Guard conducted a flag-folding ceremony. They also passed out cards on *Why the American Flag is Folded 13 Times*.

The event was decorated with gorgeous honor quilts by Joyce Hunter. Veteran George Gordon, III, read a poem by an anonymous author about the flag called *I Am*. DHS President Freida Priest also provided a brief history of WWII while honoring veterans in the audience. *Four Corners Sun* was present to cover the event.

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, December 9th from 10 to 11:30 AM.



Citrus Labels Dot Polk County

A unique partnership inspired the creation of the Citrus Label Tour of Polk County, which is basically a map of a tour one takes driving around Polk County. It was a

partnership between the Florida Citrus Hall of Fame, Visit Central Florida, and the Polk County History Center's History & Heritage Trail. The driving experience explores part of the historic marketing portion of the citrus through enlarged reproductions of the artistic labels that once adorned the old wooden crates used to ship the fresh fruit off to northern markets in the early 20th century.



Marketing labels were used to distinguish citrus brands from others when selling them to markets. These artistic labels displayed various depictions of Floridians heritage, flora and fauna, historical sites, military and animals. The labels were popular until the end of WWII. After the war,

The Matador citrus label pictured above can be found in Davenport's Merchant Square, 124 West Bay Street. Davenport has four citrus labels.

a shortage of wood and metal brought about the switch to shipping citrus in cardboard boxes with pre-printed labels, putting an end to the creative crate labels for which Polk was known.

CITY OF DAVENPORT ANNUAL

Christmas PARADE & WINTERFEST

FOOD • FLOATS • VENDORS • FIREWORKS • SANTA • SNOW SLIDE

The Biggest Event of the Year!

SATURDAY 9 DEC

TOM FELLOWS COMMUNITY CENTER
207 NORTH BLVD. WEST, DAVENPORT, FL
4 PM UNTIL 9 PM
PARADE STARTS AT 6PM

FOR MORE INFO VISIT MYDAVENPORT.ORG
OR CALL 863-588-1130

JARRETT GORDON 14&T

SHARING Christmas WITH YOU

This Christmas Season share your generosity with the families in need.

ACCEPTING DONATIONS NOW UNTIL **DECEMBER 16th, 2023**

DROP OFF LOCATIONS:

TOM FELLOWS COMMUNITY CENTER
207 North Blvd West
Davenport, FL 33837

DAVENPORT CITY HALL
1 S. Allapaha Avenue
Davenport, FL 33837

Please donate a new, unwrapped gift suitable for a girl/boy ages 3 month to 16 years old. Donations will benefit the children at 13 local schools. Monetary donations are accepted as well.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL (863) 588-1130
OR EMAIL DBLEWISS@MYDAVENPORT.ORG

To get your copy of the tour map, go The Museum and ask for the Citrus Label Tour brochure. You can also:

1. Visit our website, www.DavenportHistory.org.
2. Select the Citrus Label Tour logo for a map of these delightful labels all around Polk County.



Not Your Ordinary Book Club

Most book clubs require everyone to read the same fiction book as others in the group. Boring! Not this new book club, sponsored by DHS. (See ad below.) This book club asks: What have you read, fiction or nonfiction, that you'd like to share with the rest of the group? Share your take on any book you've read recently, the good, the bad, and the ugly. The first meeting will be held in January 12, 2024, starting at 11 AM at The Museum.

Benefits of Membership

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

BOOK EXCHANGE

read & share book club

20
24

SAVE THE DATE

Friday, January 12
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Peter Rust Civic Center
5 S Allapaha Ave
Davenport, FL 33837
(863)393-5610



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.

DHS Christmas tree, Festival of Trees. 2022.



OF THE YEAR
SUMMER!

Jackie Summerlin, 2022 Pioneer of the Year, ready for her Christmas float ride. December 2022.



**Pics from
"The
Port"**




DHS ambassadors in Frosty the Snowman attire, ready for the Christmas Parade. 2022. From left to right: Rachel Castillo, Ken Hill, Linda Tyler, friend of Linda Tyler, Veronica "Vee" Jackson, Judith Thompson, Freida Linder-Priest, and Billie Sedore.



The Book Sale gang in front of The Museum from left to right: Freida Linder-Priest, Darlene Zeanwick, Carol Meyer, Judith Thompson, and Billie Sedore. Photo credit: Sue Mitchell.

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.



Davenport Historical Society, Inc.
Preserving History and Nurturing Culture



Get your latest issue! Artifacts is now available in The Museum.



It was an excellent day for a walk! Docent Billie Sedore (2nd from left with the mic on her chin) leads a group of residents from Del Web Orlando out of The Museum for a walking tour of downtown Davenport.

You too can book a walking tour for your group by contacting Billie at 863-604-5894.

Websites

- DavenportHistory.org
- Facebook: DavenportFLHistoricalSociety
- MyDavenport.org
- PolkHistoryCenter.org
- DES.PolkSchoolsFL.com
- DavenportHigh.PolkSchoolsFL.com
- VisitCentralFL.org



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Davenport Historical Society Inc.
Preserving History and Nurturing Culture

PO Box 774
Davenport, FL 33836



TO: _____

Volunteers! Save the Date

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 4, 2024, from 11:30 AM to 1 PM for a **Lunch & Learn** at The Museum. DHS is hosting this event to bring our volunteers together for orientation, training, recognition, prizes, and a good time. Watch this space for more information to come.



DHS volunteers hang-out in front of the misspelled Citrus Tower with their own names misspelled on October 27. The location of this unique tower is on Old Tampa Highway near Osceola Polk Line Road. From left to right are Darhlene Zeanwick, Doris Aquije, Freida Linder-Priest, Judy Thompson and Billie Sedore. Photo credit: Sue Mitchell, DHS Fieldtrip Coordinator. After this photo was taken, it was off to Panera in Champions Gate to raise \$85 for DHS. Thank you, volunteers!

Upcoming Museum Exhibits

- **Retro Techno** — Jan 2024-March. A look into the past to where we came from when it comes to technology.
- **Historic Lake Play & May Days** — April 2024 -June. The history of Lake Play and its association with May Day celebrations of the past.



This newsletter is sponsored by Posner Park's Staples.

