

Davenport

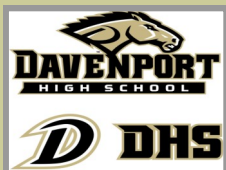
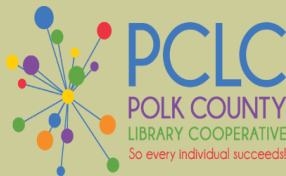
HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.
POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA

5 South Allapaha Ave., Davenport, FL 33837

Spring 2023

News from 'The Port'

Partners



President's Corner



Hello to All,

Can you believe it? The Davenport Historical Museum has almost completed its first year! Ever since May of 2022, the Historical Society has

brought quality exhibits and has educated many new residents on the overwhelming historical facts about our city.

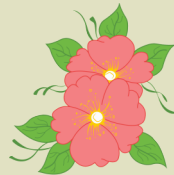
The response from the Pioneers of Davenport who have participated with the "Front Porch Memories" has been wonderful and quite an eye-opener. We are in the process of editing our first three sessions and hope to have them available soon. Memoires of the pioneers are important to us and part of preserving history.

Again, a special thanks to our partners, volunteers and visitors who have come by the museum. Don't forget to come in to see the "Little Gallery" that features artists from the area around Davenport.

Happy Spring!

Freida Priest

President of DHS



Last Chance to See Circus World



If you remember Davenport's Circus World, located where Posner Park is now, get ready to remember again. The Museum now has an exhibit featuring Circus World paraphernalia, newspaper articles, posters, huge candles, a clown exhibit and, of course, a replica of the Big Top. But just like the Big Top, the Circus World exhibit at The Museum is scheduled to move on. The last day to experience this exhibit is Friday, March 31.

And, check out the story featuring Circus World on the front cover of the **Four Corners News Sun's** March 15 issue. It features Circus World's fantastical history.

Matching Grant Challenge!

An anonymous donor is offering to grant DHS \$500 towards an important deck project. The rear entrance of the DHS' Museum structure is missing a deck that would be useful in presenting outdoor activities and, most importantly, for handicap access. If you are willing to help meet our matching grant offer, please stop by The Museum and make your donation by either cash or check made to Davenport Historical Society.

Earth Day Book Sale

Mark your calendar for our Earth Day book sale! Saturday, April 22. Proceeds from the books sold will go to the DHS deck project.

Museum Hours

10 AM to 4 PM — Wednesdays

10 AM to 3 PM — Thursdays - Fridays

10 AM to 2 PM — Saturdays

pi·o·neer

/ pīə nīr/

A Davenport resident over the age of 75 who has lived in Polk County over 50 years.



The Museum features a life-sized image of the first suffragettes in its Woman's History Month exhibit.



On exhibit at The Museum.

Suffragettes Exhibit Celebrates Women's History Month

The tall woman with her chest emblazoned with the words "Votes for Women" stands inviting at The Museum. It's just one of many items on display to celebrate Women's History Month.

Also available is a booklet titled *100 Years of Civil Service*, which covers such locally historic folks as Aunt Sallie, who started the Davenport post office. It covers historic women in government, school principals, Golden Purse Award Winners through the years, and pioneers in Davenport. Cost is just \$5.

PCLC
POLK COUNTY
LIBRARY COOPERATIVE

SAVE THE DATE FOR STORYTIME

**Enjoy puppet shows, stories,
hands-on learning activities,
crafts, and enjoy a FREE book!**

**1st and 3rd Wednesday
of each month
@ 11:00 a.m.**

**Davenport Peter Rust Civic
5 South Allapaha Avenue,
Davenport, FL 33837**



Historic Homes Exhibit Coming Soon!

Benefits of DHS Membership

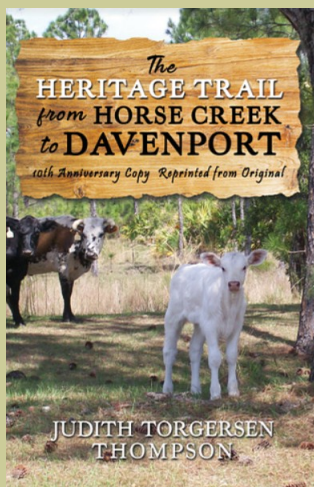
- Quarterly Newsletter
- DavenportHistory.org Site with Latest News
- VIP Invitations to Special Events at The Museum
- Camaraderie with Fellow Residents Interested History
- Opportunities to Serve the Davenport Community
- Volunteer Recognition Program
- Networking with DHS Partners & Providers

10th Anniversary Edition of Davenport History Available Now

The 10th anniversary issue of *The Heritage Trail from Horse Creek to Davenport* by Judith Torgersen Thompson is now available at The Museum. It's a reprint of the original edition published in 2013 with a modernized cover (and a cute baby cow).

You can buy this edition at The Museum, on Amazon.com, or directly from the author. (No hardback or ebook ... yet.) A portion of the proceeds of the books sold by The Museum will go to help with DHS projects.

The cost is \$25 for the paperback copy. The Museum accepts cash only for this purchase.



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

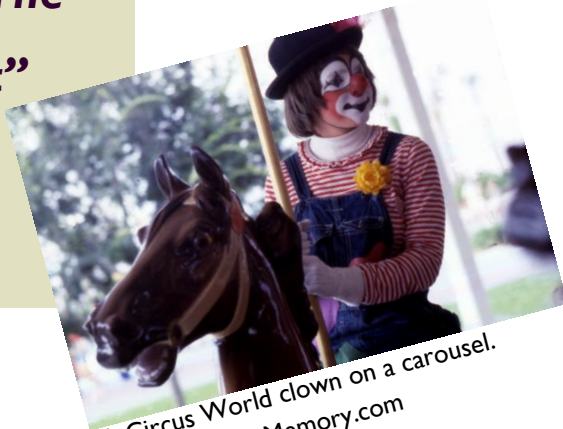
DHS is a 501c(3) non-profit organization.
Your contribution is tax deductible.



Posters galore decorate the DHS Circus World exhibit.

**Pics from
"The
Port"**

Michael Jackson was said to have loved Circus World. Credits: **Orlando Weekly**, 8/23/13; and **Circus4Youth.org**.



A Circus World clown down on a carousel.
Credit: FloridaMemory.com



Portion of DHS' Circus World Exhibit.



Big elephant candles, created by DHS vice president Billie Sedore at the height of its popularity, dot the Circus World exhibit.

Meetings

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

Websites

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



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TO: _____

Next Issue

The next issue of DHS' newsletter will cover the history of **Jamestown** in historic Davenport. If you have information, thoughts, anecdotes, or photographs on this subject, please email Darhlene at DarhleneZ@gmail.com or call her at 863-271-3464.

Fabric Troop

The ladies from the Davenport Historical Society collected clothing and fabric to donate to the Davenport High School for their fashion department and thrift store, which is available to students. Pictured at right are (L-R) Freida Priest, Barbara Radosevich, Harriet Rust, and Joyce Hunter.

