

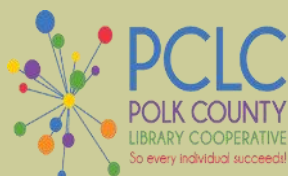


5 South Allapaha Ave., Davenport, FL 33837

Summer 2024

News from 'The Port'

Partners



PolkArts.org



President's Letter

Summertime, it's hot and if you are looking for a place to cool off, come by The Museum. We'll give you a nice bottle of cold water (free) and you can peruse

the exhibits we have planned for our community, plus learn more about the history of Davenport. Currently, the **Mayday & Historic Lake Play** exhibit is on display, and we will be setting up our **Juneteenth** the 1st of June.

We also partnered with the City to sponsor the Memorial Day programs. Pictures of the events are on pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter.

With the recent loss of our Pioneer of the Year, Lemuel Baylis Carnes, III, preserving our history is essential. His family provided job opportunities for many Davenport residents while building an industry that has served our community well.

DHS continues to seek volunteers so if you have the time, we have a spot for you to make a difference. Membership is open to everyone!

Stay cool!

Freida Priest

President of DHS



Museum Hours

10 AM to 4 PM — Wednesdays

10 AM to 3 PM — Thursdays - Fridays

10 AM to 2 PM — Saturdays

Free Admission



Loss of Local Leader Brings Fond Memories

Lemuel Baylis Carnes, III, pictured at left as a young man, was a Davenport pioneer, entrepreneur, and a leader in everything he endeavored. He passed away on February 25, 2024, at the age of 89, and was just being recognized by the Davenport community as a quintessential leader of his time. He was voted Pioneer of the Year by the DHS in the Fall of 2023 and had a permanent exhibit constructed at The Davenport Museum in his name. He was also Davenport's Grand Marshal at the city's 2023 Christmas parade.

Baylis Carnes, III, was the CEO of the multimillion-dollar enterprise known as Standard Sand & Silica, which is just at the edge of the Davenport city limits. Lemuel Carnes, II, his dad, started Standard Sand with used equipment from the phosphate mines. The Carnes family has been in Davenport since 1944, when Carnes, senior, prospected and found the area suitable for the sand mine he dreamed of starting. Baylis was 11 when they arrived here. The company was founded in 1945.

Just for perspective, the City of Davenport (it is estimated) had a population of less than 1,000 when Standard arrived in town. Today that population is over 19,000. Also, when Standard started, rail was the only mode of transportation of their products. Today, that mode also includes trucking. Lots of it. It's been said that, like the Holly Hill Fruit Products company, Standard Sand helped "build" Davenport in the early days, meaning that they employed a sizeable chunk of the city's population.



Baylis 2023.
Source: **Front Porch Memories.**

From when he was young, Baylis had always demonstrated the characteristics that made him a leader. The description under his High School Senior picture read, "He was not merely a chip off the old block; he was the old block himself," predicting the true leader he'd become as an adult.

He played the trumpet, played in the Haines City High School marching band, served as class president his junior year, and held office in 4-H, Student Council, and the Key Club. To top it off, he was also a pitcher his last two years of high school, after which he took himself to the University of Alabama's School of Mining Engineering. But tragedy awaited him mid-way into his university education.

Baylis inherited Standard Sand by happenstance when he was 20 years old, when his father passed away suddenly at age 52. The last words Baylis heard from his father was "just remember, when one fellow leaves off, another has to begin." It made an indelible mark on his young, entrepreneurial mind but challenges awaited him, and in the way he treated being a CEO.

Upon taking over Standard, the first thing some of the older workers did was quit. They didn't want a 20-something telling them what to do, but Baylis was a smart cookie. He took over the company with the workers who were left — all 15 of them. With the support of his spunky, courageous and gutsy mother, who encouraged the capitalist spirit in both Baylis the elder and, now, the younger, he prospered the business into the \$58-million business that it is today.

A quality not seen in many of CEO's was one of equity. Baylis did not consider the people who worked for him to be lesser than him. It was said that he paid his workers well and treated them like an extension to his own family. It's even seen in the Standard Sand logo, as seen at right.



There are over 250 employees at Standard spread across Florida and Georgia with many in Lake Wales and Davenport. It's home is Davenport.

To listen to Baylis speak, go to DavenportHistory.org and check out the Gallery. Mr. Carnes' YouTube video is under **Front Porch Memories**.

To honor all of the pioneers of Polk County, including Baylis, a luncheon will be held at Bonnet Springs on June 20, 2024, featuring a video of him. A pioneer is a Davenport resident, over the age of 75, who has lived in Polk County over 50 years.

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, June 8th from 10 to 11:30 AM.



At its last meeting, the members learned about the Florida oblong twinflower, which, according to resident Delores "Lori" Moffett, dominated the landscape in Davenport decades ago, as it was a Florida native. Now you can barely find it in landscapes but it's not extinct.



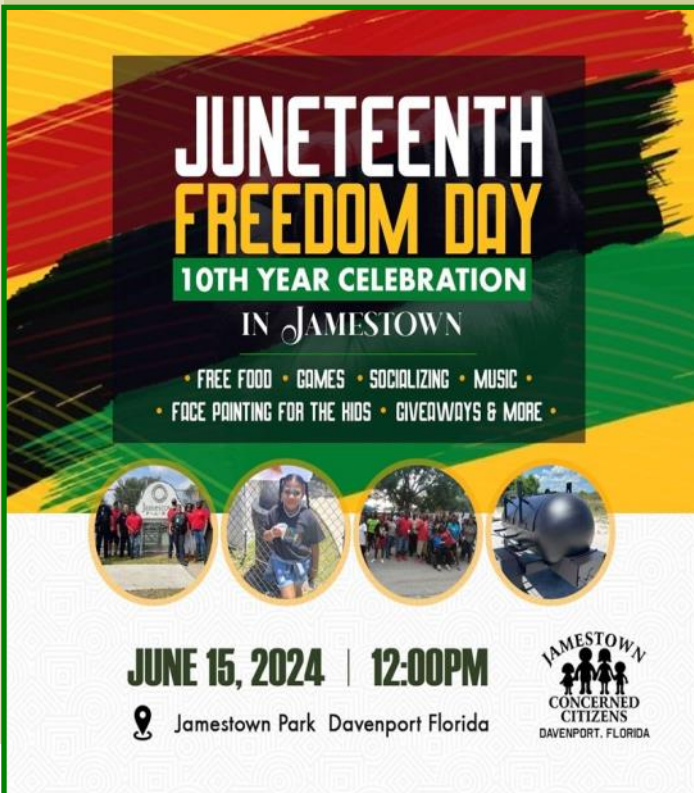
The twinflower, shown at left, is called so because its flowers are born in pairs. It's scientific name is *Dyschoriste oblongifolia* and it is the host of the Common Buckeye, a butterfly that can be found in all of Florida, and which eats both leaves and flowers and may be seen on the plants year-round and especially in fall.



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!  **PCLC**
POLK COUNTY
LIBRARY COOPERATIVE

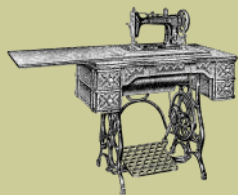


**JUNETEENTH
FREEDOM DAY**
10TH YEAR CELEBRATION
IN JAMESTOWN

- FREE FOOD • GAMES • SOCIALIZING • MUSIC •
- FACE PAINTING FOR THE KIDS • GIVEAWAYS & MORE •

JUNE 15, 2024 | 12:00PM
Jamestown Park Davenport Florida

**JAMESTOWN
CONCERNED
CITIZENS**
DAVENPORT, FLORIDA



Sewing Club Meets

The Museum hosts a sewing club on the third Saturday of each month at 10 AM. For more information, contact Freida at 863-557-3452.

Memorial Day Poem

The following poem was written by VFW George D. Gordon, III, pictured at right, for the DHS Memorial Day event.

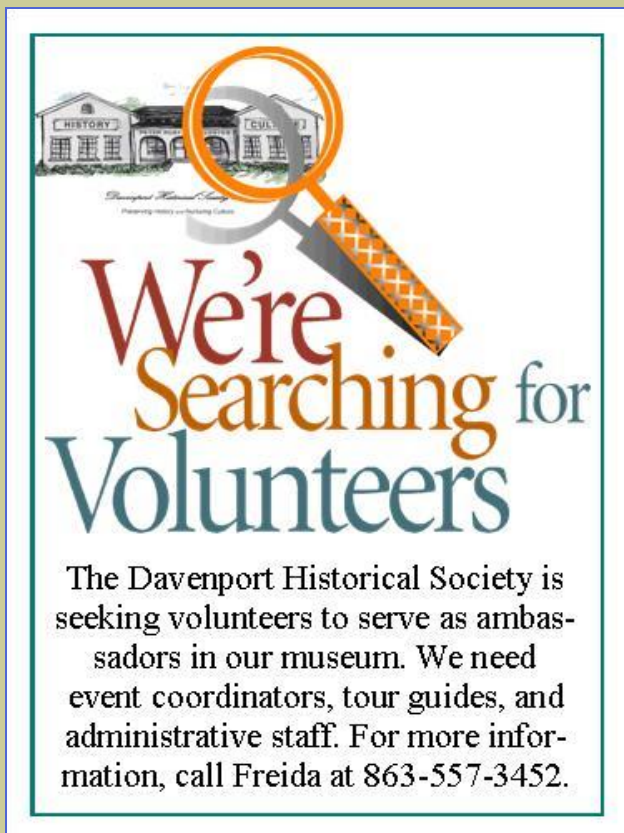


When tomorrow starts without me
And I'm not there to see
If the sun should rise and find your eyes all
filled with tears for me.

I wish so much you wouldn't cry the way you did today
While I was thinking of the many things we didn't get to say
I am. I am. I'm with my friends ... me, myself, and I.

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 _____

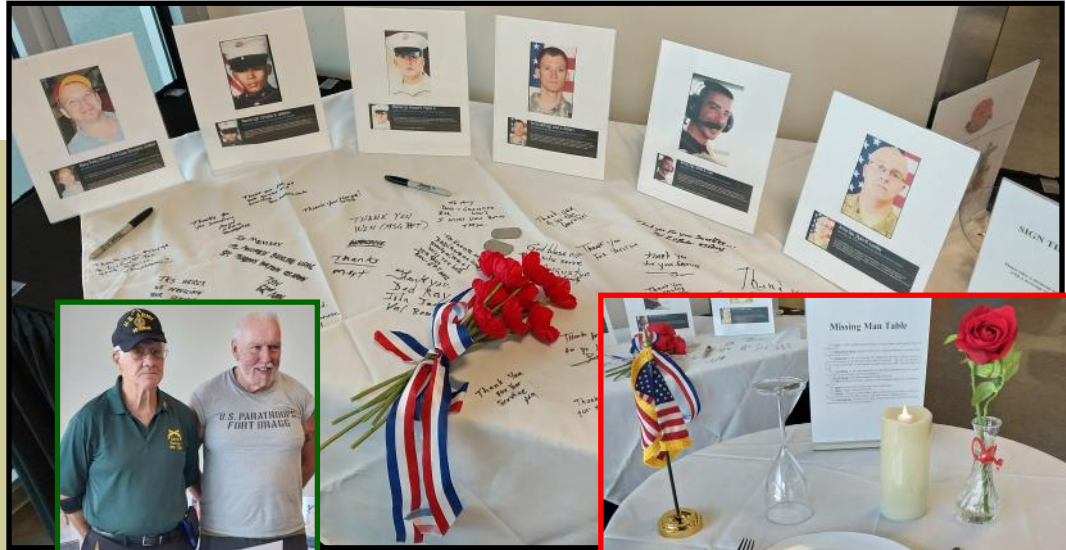
Email _____

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.

At right are the Memorial Day weekend exhibits.



Above are the six Polk County soldiers who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms.



Above are former mayor HB Robinson, III, with volunteer and veteran T. Scott Woodlee at the Missing Man table. At right is the Missing Man table.

Pics from "The Port"



Above is the Ninth Year Celebration in Jamestown Park. 6/2023. Standing center is resident Twila Smith with the City of Davenport's Juneteenth Proclamation.

A right is the T-shirt worn by some in the crowd, which pokes fun at the deep accents of many long-time residents of Davenport.



Book Exchange

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 our upcoming meetings.

- June 14 — Books on Disasters or Tragic Events
- July 12 — Inspirational, Positive or Uplifting Books
- August 9 — Your Favorite Children's Book. Pick one from any time during your youth that made an impression on you.

An Event to Remember

The 2024 Memorial Day event was one to remember our fallen soldiers and we did when we recognized, by name, the six soldiers from Polk County who made the ultimate sacrifice, serving in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. They were:

- Marine Sgt. Christian B. Williams
- Army Spc. Ryan M. Lumley
- Army Staff Sgt. John A. Reiners
- Marine Cpl. Ronald R. Payne, Jr.
- Army Sgt. Keith A. Coe
- Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Ronald A. Ginther

Following is the speech given by DHS president Freida Priest.

"I wouldn't want to lose this opportunity to remind everyone that we are standing in the historical Wilson Park. Mr. Lorenzo Wilson was one of the founding fathers of Holly Hill Fruit Products, Inc., and lived in the house on the corner, the Delson House.



History is important because it reminds us where we have been as a city and a nation. The United States has been built on citizens who have given their all so we can enjoy the freedom we have today.

The monument you see here is an example is a man who was willing to serve his country, which earned him the medal of honor during World War II. James Hendrix, pictured above, survived WWII and the Korean War. He retired in 1965 as a Master Sergeant. The city lost this hero to throat cancer in 2002.

Heroes have qualities that they might not realize they have. They usually see something that needs to be done and they do it without thought of harm to themselves. The job has to be done so when Mr. Hendrix captured 13 Germans and rescued his fellow soldier, he later quoted 'I wasn't being brave, and if I had ever heard of the Medal of Honor, I didn't pay it no mind.' A fellow just figured if it's his time, it's his time and that is all there is to it.



DHS President, Freida Priest

These are the types of things that we should never forget and I'm so glad we have been reminded every year since the Civil War that freedom comes at a price. Some give it their all and not to honor them would be as if their lives didn't matter. Human life is very precious and the longer I live the more I appreciate just how important that fact is. So on this Memorial Day, reflect and remember that we live in the land of the free because of the brave."

..... **BOOK**

EXCHANGE

read & share book club


Friday, June 14
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.


This month's book theme!

A Book Based on a Natural Disaster or Tragic Events


Peter Rust Civic Center
5 S Allapaha Ave
Davenport, FL 33837

(863)393-5610






PCLC
POLK COUNTY
LIBRARY COOPERATIVE



Davenport Historical Society

BUTTERFLY BUDDIES MEETING

SATURDAY June 8, 2024
10:00-11:30
PETER RUST CIVIC CENTER
5 ALAPAHA AVE
DAVENPORT, FL



Meeting Agenda

1. Butterfly of the Month Great PurpleStreak
2. Florida Friendly Plant of the Month
3. Butterfly Encounters
4. More about OE Virus
5. Nature's Best Hope, Doug Tallamy

Meetings

Second Monday of each month at the Peter Rust Civic Center at 10 AM.

Websites

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



President

Frieda Linder Priest
863-557-3452

Vice President

Billie Sedore
csedore@aol.com
863-422-1302

Secretary

Rachel Castillo-Young
rcastillo.dhs@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Joyce Hunter
863-221-5352
Jrhunternotatboral@hotmail.com

Heritage Research Sec.

Judith Thompson
Jthompson.dhs@gmail.com

Historic Walking Tour Chairman

Billie Sedore
863-604-5894

PCHC & PCHA Liaison Heritage Partner Co-Chair

Harriet Rust
quiltsandtea@msn.com



Davenport Historical Society, Inc.
Preserving History and Nurturing Culture

PO Box 774
Davenport, FL 33836



TO: _____



Gill Volunteer of the Year

A big thank you to Kenneth "Kenny" Gill, who completed 144 hours of logged hours in 2023. Most of those hours were spent staffing The Museum, cleaning, dusting, etc., wherever his labor was needed. We love having him around, but because of Kenny, the lizards that sneak into The Museum are starved. Pictured at left, center, is Kenny with his wife, Carol, on the right and DHS VP Billie Sedore on the left. Congratulations, Kenny!

Museum Exhibits

- **Historic Lake Play & May Days** — June 2024. The history of Lake Play and its association with May Day celebrations of the past. The exhibit features 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 as chief to the Davenport Police Department (1956, 1957-59, 1960-62, 1963-64, 1965, 1967-68). He also served as volunteer fire chief (1982-1984) as well as having a stint as commissioner (1979-1981).
- **Juneteenth** — Entire month of June. Delve into the history of 10 years of local celebrations.
- **Our NASA Connection** — July-September 2024. We have connections here in Davenport with NASA. Come explore with us.
- **September 11 Tragedy** — Entire month of September. Come by The Museum for your own personal moments of silence. Admission is always free.




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THE WORKING AND LEARNING STORE

This newsletter is sponsored by Posner Park's Staples.