

**DAVIS HISTORY MATTERS**  
**Newsletter of the Davis Historical Society**  
**Volume 1, Number 3, February, 2003**

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**1. SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9: DHS BOARD, COMMITTEE, MEMBERSHIP AND PUBLIC MEETING**

The first quarterly meeting of the DHS will take place on Sunday, February 9, at 3 p.m. in the Blanchard Room of the Davis Branch Library on East Fourteenth Street.

1. The meeting is called by the Board, but the agenda will be organized around reports from, and actions on, the work of the nine standing committees. Therefore, the Chairs of all these committees (or at least a representative) should make an effort to attend this meeting and report on their respective committees.
2. Likewise, members of each committee will likely want to participate in these discussions.
3. Further, members of the DHS who are not yet members of any of the nine committees are strongly encouraged to attend, to get to know other DHS members, and to volunteer for one or more committees in which they might be interested.
4. The meeting is free and open to the public and members of the public are invited to attend and to join the Society.

In sum, people in all four relations to the DHS are urged to attend the February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting: the Board, committees members, members, and non-members.

**2. HOUSE MOVING! 312 D SOON TO MOVE TO 516 D**

Followers of Davis historic preservation matters will recall that Dan Dowling last year wanted to demolish the 1895 house he owns at 312 D Street. After conversations with the Planning Department and Planning Commission, his proposal changed to offering the house free with an additional \$20,000 incentive to anyone who would move it.

This offer coincided with the fact that Adrian and Ilena Weins of 512 D were planning to build a unit of pretty much the same footprint of 312 D on their lot at 516 D.

A deal was struck and, at this time, a foundation to receive 312 D is almost completed at 516 D.

The exact moving date has not been set, but will be in late February or early March.

The DHS asked the Weins permission to make a public announcement of the move and to encourage people to turn out and watch. They gladly agreed and are happy for it to be a public event.

So, when the date is set, a special notification will be sent all DHS members. **This will be a celebration of historic preservation in Davis!**

### **3. AGENDA OF THE FEBRUARY 9th DHS MEETING**

The Board has approved proposing the following as the agenda of the February 9th meeting described in Item 1, above, of this Newsletter:

1. Adoption of an agenda
2. Minutes of the meeting of November 17 (Bill Deamer)
3. Report of the Treasurer (Dennis Dingemans)
4. Committee reports and board actions (Reports and motions to take action by each chair or by a member representing the committee. Chairs are listed.)
  4. 1. Education (Mark. DuPree)
  4. 2. Preservation (Merrily DuPree)
  4. 3. Research (John Lofland)
  4. 4. Publication (Lyn Lofland)
  4. 5. Archives (Mary Ann Harrison)
  4. 6. Newsletter (John Lofland)
  4. 7. Web Site (Judy Fischette)
  4. 8. Email (Merrily DuPree)
  4. 9. Membership (John Lofland)
    - 4.9.1. the problem of members with no email (John Lofland)
5. The need for chairs and members of the Newsletter, and Membership committees (John Lofland)
6. Adjourn and refreshments

### **4. DHS WEB SITE PROGRESSING**

The four members of the DSH Web Site Committee, John Chiles, Judy Fischette, Donna Lemongello, and John Lofland, met on Sunday, January 12 and developed a plan for continuously improving this valuable "open window" to the world.

Lead by Committee Chair Judy Fischette, scattered materials now on the site will be organized into a logical structure leading from the home page through major DHS areas at differing levels of detail.

Lemongello and Fischette are developing an interim (an “acting”) logo that will feature the famous Davis arch within an oval encircled by the name of the Society.

#### **5. WEB SITE NOTE ON HISTORY ITEMS AT THE CITY OF DAVIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

DHS Charter Member Jim Frame has written a very interesting note on history items at the City of Davis Department of Public Works that has been added as a file to the Society’s web site ([www.davishistoricalsociety.org](http://www.davishistoricalsociety.org)). (Look for his name in the list of files.)

In the course of his professional work as a surveyor, Jim visits that department, which is in the City Corporation Yard on Fifth Street. Recently, it came to his attention that the files on many City public works projects contain photographs of phases of construction. Some of these photos date from the 1950s and depict a Davis very different from the one we see now. In addition, he observed that the Department has a special drawer of “historic” maps of Davis that date, for the most part, from before World War II.

His note goes on to discuss the etiquette and propriety involved in order to look and perhaps to obtain copies of these materials.

#### **6. TWO UCD DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL COLLECTION LISTS ADDED TO THE WEB SITE**

Recently, DHS President John Lofland obtained from John Skarstad, UCD University Archivist, lists of items in two Davis-related collections housed in the UCD Department of Special Collections.

These lists has been put on the DHS Web Site as pdf files ([www.davishistoricalsociety.org](http://www.davishistoricalsociety.org)).

The **first** is a list of materials John Lofland encountered in the basement of the Davis City Hall in 1999 and that he persuaded then City Manager John Meyer to give to UCD Special Collections.

The materials are diverse and include a set of 464 sheets of paper, one on each structure in Davis in 1933. Tax assessment was the purpose of this enumeration. The sheet on each structure has an estimated year of construction and a depreciation based on that imputed age.

There are also some 2,000 sheets on Davis structures covering the years 1945-1960. These, also, were for tax purposes.

In addition, there are many file folders on sundry topics, including the processes of building what are now called Central Park and the Old City Hall. (The 1938 list of initial furnishings for the City Hall includes a brass spittoon.)

The second list is of videotaped interviews with Davis political figures done by Jon Li in the 1980s. This collection also contains a complete set of the first series of Li’s newsletter, *The Test of Time*.

#### **7. PRESERVATION COMMITTEE DATING BUILDINGS WITHIN THE “ORIGINAL CITY”**

Using the 464 tax assessment sheets of 1933, described just above in item 6, the Preservation Committee, led by Chair Merrily DuPree, is organizing a project to develop exact lists of the ages of all the still-standing, older buildings within the original (1917) boundaries of Davis (which are also the boundaries of the conservation/preservation district).

The sheets were originally alphabetical by owner, but a photocopied set of the originals has now been sorted by street and street number and placed in 22 street-named file folders.

Volunteers are needed to take one or more folders/streets and to look at each location on a street in order to determine if the 1933 building is still there. (Each sheet shows a footprint of the building, describes its building materials, number of rooms, and the like—as well as asserts a year or period in which it was built.)

If you want to help by doing a street or two, e-mail Merrily at [dupree@concentric.net](mailto:dupree@concentric.net).

## **8. PLANNING DEPARTMENT WRITES THE OWNER OF THE ANDERSON BANK BUILDING**

Rather deep in the written communications section of the City Council Agenda packet for its meeting of January 22, there is a copy of a letter from Planning Director Bill Emlen to Jim Kidd, the owner of the Anderson Bank Building, the Second and G structure that was damaged by fire last December 25<sup>th</sup>.

The gist of the letter is that the City intends to be proactive in doing something about that building. Emlen mentions the E Street plaza fire and the long time stores were closed, suggesting that such a drawn-out process should not be repeated with the Anderson Bank Building.

He therefore outlines suggested steps to be taken as soon as possible and indicates ways in which City staff will be actively involved.

For those interested in this matter, the letter itself is available on the web at the City web site where one can download agendas. A separate “folder” contains agenda packet documents in pdf. Simply click and download item 9, Written Communications. In that file, the letter is item 9.d. In addition, there are hard copy sets at the Davis Branch Library, Kinkos, Navins, and main hallway of City Hall.

## **9. OP-ED. KEEPING IN BALANCE: PRESERVATION AND THE FIVE DHS PURPOSES**

by John Lofland, DHS President

The opinions expressed in this op-ed are those of the author and are not necessarily the views of the *Davis History Matters* Newsletter or the Davis Historical Society.

As chance would have it, the first significant public appearance of the DHS after its formation in November was at the December Council hearing on Jim Kidd’s proposal to lower the windows in the Anderson Bank Building.

The DHS Board voted to oppose the Kidd proposal and several DHS members expressed that view to the Council.

This was appropriate for the DHS, but I fear that, as a virtually first action, it can send a skewed message to too many people. That skewed message would be that the DHS is primarily a preservationist organization.

To me, this would be an unfortunate and false message and one I fear would give too many people a wrong impression of what we are trying to do.

I want people to think of the DHS as preservationist, but as ALSO equally dedicated to four ADDITIONAL matters that are also extremely important.

These four other matters are: **education, archives, research, and publication.**

As one way to drive this home, I like to repeat to anyone who will listen that the first letters of our five main purposes spell the word PAPER:

**P for publication, A for archives, P for preservation, E for education, R for research**

So, while we ought to continue our preservation work, I hope that we can also become "high profile" in each of these other areas. (These five terms/purposes are explained on the DHS web site, [www.davishistoricalsociety.org](http://www.davishistoricalsociety.org).)

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