

# Scott County Historic Preservation Society, Inc.



*May 2017*

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## Thank You to U.S. Bank

Hello all! Let me start by extending our thanks to Lisa Perkins, branch manager at U.S. Bank, who gave a truly fantastic tour of the building and shared its history with us. Lisa gave us some great take-home material and patiently answered all our questions.

## May Tour: Davenport Central Fire Station

Firemen have been our valiant protectors against the ravages of flame and smoke for centuries. They constantly put their lives on the line to save us from fires.

Like everyone else, firemen need a place not only to sleep and eat, but also to store and maintain their tools of the trade. And thus, the fire station was born.

The Davenport Central Fire Station at 331 Scott Street is the oldest active fire station west of the Mississippi River.

But, with the continuing evolution of technology, the station has had to adapt to the changing times.



Originally built in 1901, the Central Fire Station was constructed with a “drive through” design, where horse-drawn fire wagons could drive into or out of the building through large doors directly across from each other on either side of the building. The station could hold up to four hose wagons and ten horses with which to pull them.

As the city grew, so did the station. An addition was added to the original station in the 1940s, and then a second addition in the 1950s.

In 2016, the city hired architect Ted Galante to renovate the station. Balancing respect for historical preservation with modern functionality, he was able to keep aspects of the original building, including the “drive through” design and the architectural detail of the main structure.

## A Special Memorial Day Event

SCHPS is proud to announce a special Memorial Day event this year.

On May 27, 2017, the headstones of sixteen Civil War and one Spanish-American War veterans will be dedicated at City Cemetery in Davenport, Iowa. These headstones were recently provided by the Veteran's Administration. Fifteen of these individuals were German immigrants, and the other was a first-generation German-American.

After hours of pain-staking research by different volunteers, including our official historical researcher, Coky Powers, it was discovered that these soldiers have lain in unmarked graves since the time of their deaths.

Details of the event will be forthcoming. If you have any questions, please contact our own Kory Darnall at 563-449-2358.

## artsBASICS

Diane and Joel Franken, Co-Directors of artsBASICS, will address the SCHPS group at its May meeting to explain how this arts advocacy group works with six Davenport Community Schools. They will talk about what the organization does to address its mission of ensuring that all of the arts become a priority in schools for every student in artsBASICS schools.

artsBASICS conducts its work with no paid staff but only volunteers from the arts community, interested administrators, teachers, and parents. Their organization and the Davenport Community School District have just entered into a partnership with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Arts. This partnership will assure that efforts to train artsBASICS teachers in arts integration will be a priority. Funding to make their work a reality comes from their annual "Evening with Area Artists" each October at the Figge Art Museum.

## 2017 Pollinator's Palooza at the Putnam Museum

On May 20 and May 21, the Putnam Museum, the Iowa State University Extension, and Outreach Scott County Extension Master Gardeners will be hosting the Pollinators Palooza at the Putnam Museum at 1717 W. 12<sup>th</sup> St., Davenport, Iowa.

Attendees can tour the new Pollinator Garden at the Putnam, attend clinics hosted by master gardeners, or engage in several different activities for adults and children.

***We will meet outside the Davenport Central Fire Station in downtown Davenport on May 11, 2017, at 6:30 p.m.! The address is 331 Scott Street, Davenport, IA, 52801. Drive safe, and we'll see you there!***

