

## Civic Interest in the Old North: Davis Enterprise Home Delivery As an Indicator

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Recently, I picked up what seemed to be a trash sheet of paper on a planting strip near my home on E Street.

Looking it at, I discovered that it was a Davis Enterprise print-out telling the carrier who on D and E streets received that newspaper by home delivery.

I was surprised to see that the lists of residences receiving the Enterprise was quite short.

Counting the number of residences in the 500 and 600 face-blocks of D and E, I found that 21 of the 70—which is 30%—receive the Enterprise.

There was some but not much variation by face-block:

3 of 10 in the 500s of D — 30%  
6 of 24 in the 600s of D — 25%  
5 of 17 in the 500s of E — 29%  
7 of 19 in the 600s of E — 37%

Perhaps I have an incorrect frame of reference, but these percentages strike me as low.

Further, these numbers make me wonder about their implications for building a strong and widely-supported and participated in neighborhood association.

If subscribing or not subscribing to the Davis Enterprise is seen as an at least crude measure of the level of interest in civic matters, it would imply that achieving a neighborhood association membership greater than about a third of the residents could be a difficult task.

Or, is an Enterprise subscription unrelated to a person's interest in the neighborhood?

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