

ADVERTISEMENT

Donor to Damascus sues to get home back

No library, so pact broken, he argues

by [Jordan Gass-Pooré](#) | August 22, 2015 at 3:27 a.m.

 0 COMMENTS    0

A Damascus man whose family donated a house and land for a public library is now suing the city to get the property back.

Dan R. Dipert, owner of the once-popular cafe, Coffee Dan's, that stood off U.S. 65, states in the suit filed Aug. 14 in District Court in Conway that Damascus did not live up to the terms of the agreement.

Daily Email Newsletters

Stay connected and informed with [ArkansasOnline.com](#) news updates delivered straight to your inbox.

Email Address

Sign Up

When discussions began, Damascus did not have a public library. The Diperts offered a \$150,000 matching donation to the city to build a library during its gas boom, said his son, William "Dan" Dipert. The money was refused, however, because the city could not raise the matching funds.

Soon afterward, in 2010, the Damascus Community Library opened. But William "Dan" Dipert said the community's need for educational resources is greater than what the small library provides.

When Dan R. Dipert and Vernelle, his wife, moved from their Damascus home in 2012 to an assisted living facility in Conway, they decided to donate the property at 11 W. Main St. The property was close to the city's downtown, and they intended it to be used as a public library, City Hall, community center or museum.

If the property was used for anything else, ownership would revert back to the Dipert family, according to the deed filed along with the lawsuit.

The agreement also specified that Dan R. Dipert, now 100, and his heirs would have final approval of naming the building and any room or part thereof.

Afterward, members of the city's library committee determined that it was not financially feasible to renovate the one-story, blue Dipert house into another library and would discuss raising funds to build a new one.

The city is now renting the Dipert property to The Station at Damascus, a nonprofit organization that works with area churches to provide items to families in need.

Attorney Beau Wilcox said the city of Damascus believes it's following the agreement and will file a counterclaim in a few weeks to prevent the Diperts from making any subsequent claim to the property.

State Desk on 08/22/2015

Print Headline: Donor to Damascus sues to get home back

Sponsor Content

Recommended For You



As deaths rise to 359, ISIS claims Sri Lanka bombings



Caravan route less welcoming



Panel delays deadline on Trump files

You must be signed in to post comments

Sign in

Subscribe

Comments

ADVERTISEMENT

Recommended For You

Malawi's kids get vaccine for malaria

NASA lander logs first quake detected on Mars

Kushner notes harm of inquiry

Panel chief: White House in defiance

High court hears census citizenship debate

Arkansas Democrat Gazette

News ▼

Sports ▼

Features ▼

Web Extras ▼

Promotions ▼

Other ▼

[Contact Us](#) [Terms of Use](#) [Advertise With Us](#)

Copyright © 2019, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, Inc.

All rights reserved.

This document may not be reprinted without the express written permission of Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, Inc.

Material from the Associated Press is Copyright © 2019, Associated Press and may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed. Associated Press text, photo, graphic, audio and/or video material shall not be published, broadcast, rewritten for broadcast or publication or redistributed directly or indirectly in any medium. Neither these AP materials nor any portion thereof may be stored in a computer except for personal and noncommercial use. The AP will not be held liable for any delays, inaccuracies, errors or omissions therefrom or in the transmission or delivery of all or any part thereof or for any damages arising from any of the foregoing. All rights reserved.

