



# Diamond Hill News

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[www.diamondhill.org](http://www.diamondhill.org)

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## Preservation Virginia Legislative Alert

HB 327 Provides that a locality may require by ordinance that certain structures within a historic district not be demolished except in compliance with the local ordinance, unless the local building department

determines that it constitutes such a hazard that it shall be razed and removed. Patron Del. Peace <http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?121+sum+HB327>

New: No new action. Bill remains in subcommittee. Likely to be called for hearing next week.

Previous: Assigned to House General Laws' Housing subcommittee

HB 336 Provides that in distributing the revenues in the Virginia Land Conservation Fund generated by the sale of land conservation tax credits, funds shall not be distributed to federal governmental entities. Patron Del. Wilt

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?121+sum+HB336>

New: House Finance subcommittee recommends reporting to full House Finance Committee on a vote of 10-0.

Previous: Assigned to House Finance subcommittee #2.

HB 527 Establishes the Virginia Slave Commission in the legislative branch of state government for the purpose of addressing contemporary political, economic, educational, and societal issues and public policies whose roots lie in the transatlantic slave trade.

The Commission, among other things, must (i) identify the vestiges and assess the effects of the transatlantic slave trade on African Americans, the Commonwealth, and modern societal problems and public policies, (ii) explore and showcase the contributions of African Americans in building Virginia and the nation, (iii) determine the educational and economic value to the Commonwealth of preserving sites and facilities of historic and archaeological significance to African American culture and contributions, and (iv) recommend feasible and appropriate options to resolve lingering societal problems whose roots lie in slavery. Patron Del. McQuinn

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?121+sum+HB527>

New: House Rules assigned this to its Studies Subcommittee.

Previous: Assigned to House Rules.

HB 531 Provides that any gain or income under federal law relating to the allocation or application of a historic rehabilitation tax credit would not be gain or income for Virginia tax purposes.

The bill's provisions are declaratory of existing law. Patron Del. Cole <http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?121+sum+HB531>

New: Assigned to subcommittee #3.

Previous: Assigned to House Finance.

HB 580 Removes the requirement for the consent of both the Governor and the General Assembly in cases where real property interests in the Area of Operation at Fort Monroe are sold.

The bill retains, however, the requirement that such sale may only be accomplished under covenants, historic conservation easements,

or other appropriate legal restrictions approved as to form by the Attorney General that protect these historic and natural resources, and adds historic preservation easements to these conditions.

The bill provides that insofar as the provisions of the Fort Monroe Authority Act are inconsistent with the provisions of any other law, general, special or local, or parts thereof, the provisions of the Act shall be controlling. The bill provides that properties in the Wherry Quarter and Inner Fort areas identified in the Fort Monroe Reuse Plan may only be sold with the consent of both the Governor and the General Assembly, except that any transfer to the National Park Service shall require only the approval of the Governor.

The bill adds a definition of the term "Fort Monroe Master Plan."

The bill also provides that the Authority is solely responsible for regulating the operation of golf carts and utility vehicles within the Area of Operation. Authority regulation shall provide that the operation of golf carts and utility vehicles is limited to Authority staff and contractors engaged by the Authority while such staff and contractors are conducting the official business of the Authority.

By its terms, the certain parts of the bill will not become effective until the completion of the Fort Monroe Master Plan. Patron Del. Hesel

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?121+sum+HB580>

New: No new action. Likely to be taken up by subcommittee next week.

Previous: Assigned to House General Laws' Admin. Process subcommittee

HB 664 Requires the Tax Commissioner to annually report on and publish on the Department of Taxation's website the following for certain state tax credits: a brief description of the tax credit, the name of each taxpayer claiming at least \$1,000 of the respective credit, the dollar amount of the credit claimed by such taxpayer, and a reference to the Code of Virginia section (referenced with specificity) that establishes the credit. Patron Del. Surovel

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?121+sum+HB664>

New: Assigned to Finance subcommittee #2.

Previous: Assigned to House Finance

HB 812 Eliminates the requirement that the Department of Historic Resources publish a notice of a public hearing on the designation or nomination of a historic district in a newspaper once a week for two successive weeks. Patron Del. May

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?121+sum+HB812>

New: No new action. Likely to be taken up by subcommittee next week.

Previous: Assigned to House Agriculture, Chesapeake, and Natural Resources

HB 1022 Changes the organization that will be responsible for maintaining confederate graves at the Presbyterian Cemetery in Alexandria. Patron Del. Englin

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?121+sum+HB1022>

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New: Referred to House Agriculture, Chesapeake, and Natural Resources.  
Previous: Committee assignment pending.

HB 1137 Provides that before any locality designates by ordinance any building, structure, district, object, or site as part of a local historic district, the owners of such property proposed for designation shall be given written notice of the public hearing on the ordinance.

object, the locality shall not include the properties of the objecting owners in the proposed local historic district. Patron Del. Danny Marshall

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?121+sum+HB1137>

New: Referred to Committee on Counties, Cities, and Towns. Assigned to Subcommittee #2.  
Previous: Committee assignment pending.

SB 68 Creates a tax credit, not to exceed \$100,000, for businesses that rehabilitate or retrofit older industrial buildings in which a new business is located for taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2013. Patron Sen. Stanley

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?121+sum+SB68>

New: No new action. Bill is likely to be called next week.  
Previous: Assigned to Senate Finance.

SB 130 Establishes the Building Revitalization Grant Fund administered by the Housing Development Authority to award grants of up to \$100,000 to businesses that make a capital investment of \$1 million in revitalizing or retrofitting buildings to serve as a new place of business. Patron Sen. Stanley

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?121+sum+SB130>

New: No new action. Bill is likely to be called next week.  
Previous: Assigned to Senate General Laws.

SB 137 Clarifies that, consistent with existing law, any administrative head of Gunston Hall, the home of George Mason bequeathed to the Commonwealth by a former owner, is appointed by the Governor to serve at his pleasure.

Additionally, the Board of Visitors of Gunston Hall shall appoint a Board of Advisors to assist in its fulfillment of reporting responsibilities set out in the deed of gift regarding the management of Gunston Hall. Patron Sen. Puller

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?121+sum+SB137>

New: No new action. Bill is likely to be called next week.  
Previous: Assigned to Senate Education and Health.

SB 444 Provides that any gain or income under federal law relating to the allocation or application of a historic rehabilitation tax credit would not be gain or income for Virginia tax purposes.

The bill's provisions are declaratory of existing law. Patron Sen. Vogel

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?121+sum+SB444>

New: No new action. Bill is likely to be called next week.  
Previous: Assigned to Senate Finance.

SB 473 Removes the requirement for the consent of both the Governor and the General Assembly in cases where real property interests in the Area of Operation at Fort Monroe are sold.

The bill retains, however, the requirement that such sale may only be accomplished under covenants, historic conservation easements, or other appropriate legal restrictions approved as to form by the Attorney General that protect these historic and natural resources, and adds historic preservation easements to these conditions.

The bill provides that insofar as the provisions of the Fort Monroe Authority Act are inconsistent with the provisions of any other law, general, special or local, or parts thereof, the provisions of the Act shall be controlling.

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The bill adds a definition of the term "Fort Monroe Master Plan."

The bill also provides that the Authority is solely responsible for regulating the operation of golf carts and utility vehicles within the Area of Operation by Authority staff and contractors engaged by the Authority, while such staff and contractors are conducting the official business of the Authority. By its terms, the bill will not become effective until the completion of the Fort Monroe Master Plan. Patron Sen. Locke

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?121+sum+SB473>

New: No new action. Bill is likely to be called next week.  
Previous: Assigned to Senate Local Government

*Diamond Hill News*

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*Tours:* Ray Pulliam  
*Website:* Mari White Smallshaw  
*Newsletter:* Josi Alvarenga  
*Neighborhood Watch:* L. Robert Halpin  
*Children's Activities:* Mari Smallshaw  
*Auditor:* Todd Leap  
*Endowment Fund:* Jim Carrington  
*Parliamentarian:* Pat Gatti

**Meetings**

Business meetings are usually held at 7:30 p.m. on first Tuesdays of each month except June, July and August. Owners of properties in the Diamond Hill Historic District and others interested in supporting historic preservation are welcome to attend.

**Membership**

Annual dues for Active Members are \$10.00 per person and the initiation fee is \$5.00 (first year). Active Membership is limited to adult members of households owning Diamond Hill property. Annual dues for Associate Members are \$10 per person (no initiation fee). All members receive this newsletter at no charge. Newsletter subscriptions for non-members are \$5.00 per year.

**Publisher's Statement**

The Diamond Hill Historical Society (DHHS) is a nonprofit historic preservation organization approved under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. Its purpose is to preserve and encourage—through the fostering of education, research and restoration—the historical and architectural integrity of the Diamond Hill Historic District. DHHS was incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia February 22, 1979. Views expressed in the *Diamond Hill News* do not necessarily reflect the position of DHHS or its officers and directors.

## Please Support Crime Prevention

As you are aware the City of Lynchburg will be presenting 4 public forum meetings to obtain input from citizens regarding the current budget situation. Please come out to these meeting and listen to the presentations. We are asking for your support and your willingness to voice your concerns to City Council. In these difficult times good programs such as Crime Prevention including the Neighborhood Watch Program are in danger of being cut yet again. The following information shows current issues effecting the Police Department as related to the ongoing budget crisis.

### Turnover/Operational Vacancies-

Excessive turnover in recent years has left us extremely inexperienced and with significant operational vacancies. The LPD has lost 42 officers since January 2010 (25 to voluntary resignation). This is not isolated to the last two years either, we have lost 82 officers since January 2007, which is essentially half of our sworn staff. This is a huge concern as we move forward. With this inexperience comes "growing pains". Simply put, you "police" differently with experience. In addition, experience is not something you gain overnight. It will take time to reverse what has been taking place for a number of years now, and it is imperative that this issue be addressed now.

The following provides some insight regarding our current experience levels:

69 officers with less than 5 years of experience  
51 officers with less than 3 years of experience

**\*\*Generally takes about 5 years for an officer to gain the experience necessary to be fully competent in a wide range of areas)**

The numbers related above are very concerning and have been created by persistent high turnover. In addition, we have 10 senior members of our staff who are eligible to retire in the next 12 months (2 have already retired since this information was compiled). It is concerning that we may lose 10 senior members of our staff when we don't have much experience to begin with. This just compounds our issues in this area. It is vital to any police department to have an experienced staff. Experience ensures appropriate action and the ability to train and guide new officers as they learn their craft. The lack of experience limits those that are eligible for promotion. Promotion of leaders determines the effectiveness and professionalism of the Department.

### Programs that have been temporarily eliminated due to staffing issues:

Citizens Police Academy  
Badges for Baseball program  
Instructing Basic Crime Prevention at the CVCJA  
Business Watch  
Public Safety Day  
Reduced participation at Day in the Park  
Reduced participation in the Christmas Parade  
Reduction in ability to fulfill requests for crime prevention presentations

### Positions that have been vacated due to staffing issues:

Community Relations Officer  
School Resource Officer at Dunbar Middle School  
School Resource Officer at Sandusky Middle School  
School Resource Officer at Linkhorne Middle School  
DARE Officer

**\*\*\*These officers were transferred back into patrol in June 2011 as we attempted to address 19 operational vacancies (15 in patrol) and provide more experience in the patrol function. Patrol is the core service we provide to the community.**

### Specialized Units that have been eliminated due to staffing issues:

Street Crimes Team - This is a uniformed interdiction team that aggressively targets Street-level drug activity. This team is very effective at suppressing street-level violence.

**\*\*\*This unit cannot be staffed at an adequate level as we deal with staffing issues within the patrol function.**

### Costs Involved in Excessive Turnover/Operational Vacancies

Our excessive turnover is costly. It is very costly to a community to train new officers only to lose them within a short period of time. We estimate that we invest approximately \$110,000 in salary and benefits, training, and equipment in a 2-year officer. When a young officer leaves, we start over again.

Our overtime totals for the last 4 fiscal years are as follows:

**FY'08 - \$600,902**

**FY'09 - \$524,159**

**FY'10 - \$387,928**

**FY'11 - \$484,892**

**FY'12 – projected to be in excess of \$500,000**

**\*\*\* There is a direct correlation between overtime costs and operational vacancies. Overtime costs increase when we experience significant staffing shortages.**

### Here is a list of the community budget meetings:

3/15 - Public Library - 7 p.m.  
3/20 - Jubilee Center - 7 p.m.  
3/22 - Linkhorne Middle - 7 p.m.  
3/29 - Bedford Hills Elementary - 7 p.m.

Please share this information with your groups, your support would be greatly appreciated. Let our city leaders know what the Crime Prevention Unit and Neighborhood Watch mean to you.

Steven Wood  
Community Services Coordinator  
Lynchburg Police Department  
(434) 455-6070 Crime Prevention Unit  
(434) 455-6158  
(434) 907-9840 Cell  
<http://www.lyncburgva.gov/police>

## Voter Information Regarding Lynchburg City Council General Election

City residents wishing to vote in the Lynchburg City Council General Election on Tuesday, May 1, 2012 and who have not yet registered to vote in Lynchburg or need to change their name or address on record, must file a voter registration application by Monday, April 9, 2012.

Residents may come to the Voter Registration desk at the Department of Motor Vehicles located at 3236 Odd Fellows Road, Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. or call the Registrar's Office at 847-1609 to request an application be mailed. In addition, an application can be printed from [www.sbe.virginia.gov](http://www.sbe.virginia.gov).

In-person absentee voting began at the Registrar's Office on Friday, March 16 and will continue through Saturday, April 28. For the public's convenience, the Registrar's Office, located on the lower level of the DMV building, will be open Saturday, April 21 and Saturday, April 28, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. The deadline to apply for a mailed absentee ballot is Tuesday, April 24, 2012.

## LHF "On the Road Again" bus tour

April 28th  
On the Road Again bus tour  
A day In the Country

The home place "Gedde's" (circa 1762) in  
Amherst County  
Owned by Drs. Norman & Johanna Harris

Humanity Hall (circa 1791) –  
Buckingham County  
Owned by Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Stokes

Members: \$45.00  
Non Members: \$60.00

Fee includes transportation, tour and old  
fashion southern dinner at Humanity Hall

Limited seating – RSVP by April 13th  
These are pre paid reservations through the  
Foundation office @ (434)528-5353.



## Guest Speaker for April DHHS meeting

Keith Wright and/or Rob Fowler will be  
coming to the DHHS April meeting to  
talk about the City Zoning Ordinances in  
place for Diamond Hill District.



*Happy Easter!*

## Change to the Membership Quorum

DHHS Board of Directors has proposed a  
change to paragraph 4, Article VIII: Meet-  
ings of Diamond Hill Historical Society  
Articles of Incorporation to be voted on in  
the April membership meeting:

Paragraph 4, Article VIII: Meetings  
**currently reads: Thirty percent** of the  
voting membership of the Society shall  
constitute a quorum, with the following  
exceptions: Fifty percent of the voting  
membership shall constitute a quorum for  
the Annual Meeting.

Paragraph 4, Article VIII: Meetings  
**proposed change: Twenty-five percent**  
of the voting membership of the Society  
shall constitute a quorum, with the follow-  
ing exceptions: Fifty percent of the voting  
membership shall constitute a quorum for  
the Annual Meeting.

**PLEASE COME THE MEETING TO  
VOTE ON THESE CHANGES!**

## Diamond Hill Easter Egg Hunt

Grab your Easter Baskets and join the Dia-  
mond Hill Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday,  
April 7th\* at 10:30am on the lawn at the  
corner of Washington and Harrison  
Streets. We'll have an "egg" citing morn-  
ing of games, activities and refreshments --  
and don't forget your Easter Baskets! All  
children, grandchildren and friends 10 and  
under are invited to participate.

Donations of plastic eggs and/or candy are  
welcome! Please drop them by the Small-  
shaws' at 409 Washington Street by April  
5th.

Questions? Contact Mari at  
846-3242 or mws1019@aol.com

## April Meeting

**Tue., Apr. 3rd  
7:30 pm.**

at the

**Payne-Perrow House  
(1883)  
507 13th St**

Hosts: Ray Pulliam

