



Diamond Hill News N

Published by the Diamond Hill Historical Society, Lynchburg, VA

February 2010

www.diamondhill.org

Vol. 32, No. 2

Diamond Hill Historical Society President's Annual Report January 5, 2010

I have enjoyed my tenure as President for the last two and half years. I would like to thank the membership for their support and involvement during that period.

The Diamond Hill Historical Society (DHHS) had another good year in supporting its mission on a variety of fronts. The foundation of the Society being able to focus on its mission, is its ability to maintain an active operating organization. The longevity of the DHHS has been the main reason for the continuous improvement in the Diamond Hill Historic District. The following is a brief recap of the year's activities.

In January the Board made an accounting change to record all expenses and offsetting donations received for those expenses. This will give the Board a true accounting of all expenses incurred for activities. Jim Carrington worked with the Board on making revisions to the Board of Director's Manual that included a new section on the Beautification Chairperson's responsibilities. I would like to thank Jim for his continued work on assisting the Society in updating this type of documentation.

In February the Board submitted an application to Lynch's Landing to be selected as a Friday Cheers Host. The DHHS was not selected in 2009 but was encouraged to apply again in 2010. The Lynchburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority pursued Spot Blight Property designation for 611-613 Washington Street. The DHHS Board sent letters of support for this effort to the City Manager and City Council. This was approved by City Council on February 10th and the Housing Authority was given authority to pursue the acquisition of the property. They purchased the property from Marcel Constantino, secured the house and began maintaining the lawn

and shrubs. The Housing Authority continues to advertise the property for sale.

March Jeff Schneider conducted a survey regarding the use and management of the Society's Endowment Fund. The survey results were given to the Endowment Fund Committee for their consideration.

Angela Hamilton of Lynch's Landing was the featured speaker at the April membership meeting. In addition to responding to questions about Friday Cheers, she spoke about the continued development of downtown. Mari Smallshaw organized another very successful Easter Egg Hunt in the lots on the corner of Washington and Harrison streets. We all appreciate Mari's lead in organizing children's activities. Diamond Hill was once again represented on the Garden Tour with the opening of the home of Fran and Rad Briley at 416 – 418 Washington Street. As a result of their efforts, their home was considered a jewel of the Tour. Thanks to Fran and Rad for their willingness to participate in this event.

On May 19th the Jones Memorial Library and the Lynchburg Historical Foundation co-sponsored a program on how to research the history of your house. About half of the attendees were from Diamond Hill. The DHHS Spring Yard Sale was conducted again this year, however, it was not considered a successful event. It may be more successful if held every 3 or 4 years.

Jean and Ted Hannon of 708 Pearl Street were once again willing to host the June Social on June 2nd. The DHHS took the opportunity at the Social to recognize Annette Chenault

for her accomplishments as a Planner for the City and as the Secretary of the Historic Preservation Commission. Annette was praised for her many achievements, including her involvement in the establishment of the Diamond Hill Historic District. We wish her a wonderful retirement and ask that she remain in contact with her friends on the Hill.

On July 20th Danny Snapp, a good friend and neighbor died after a battle with pancreatic cancer. A beautiful memorial was held at Court Street Methodist Church in downtown Lynchburg. Many of us attended and were able to enjoy the service that Danny had designed. As a 26 year resident of Diamond Hill Danny will be remembered in part for his significant beautification efforts in our neighborhood.

In August the DHHS Board approved the creation of a new design for the Rebecca Yancey Garden that included incorporating the Grace Street urn into the Garden. At the September Membership Meeting the DHHS approved making a \$500 contribution to the Courthouse Bell Tower project. Connie Snavely of the Lynchburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority was the featured speaker at this meeting. She explained some of the issues she handles regarding blighted properties. On September 16th Cassie Peterson gave birth to Oliver Nathaniel. Congratulations to the Petersons and the Bankers!

In October we began the sale of the new and improved DHHS 2010 Calendar. We offer Jeff Schneider our thanks for handling this project. His efforts led to another successful sale. Mari Smallshaw worked with our webmaster on initiating a new section on our website. --Next page

Continuation of the President's Annual Report

The section is entitled Historical Profiles and will give the Society the opportunity to present information on a variety of historically relevant people and events. This section came as a result of the Board seeking a way to recognize the accomplishments of Danny Snapp.

On November 6th the DHHS was given the opportunity to participate in the Lynchburg Visitor Center's Showcase. Thanks to Julie Neighbors and Katheryn Brown for participating in this event on behalf of the Society. On November 10th the DHHS sponsored an Antique Appraisal Evening that was held as a special membership only event featuring Ken Farmer from the Antiques Road Show. Thanks to Mary Kathryn McIntosh for giving Ken and his assistant Bob a tour of some homes on the Hill. Thanks to Julie and Vernon Neighbors for hosting a Board reception and then this event in their home. And finally, thanks to Katheryn Brown for arranging this very enjoyable evening. In preparation for the Christmas Tour the Society held its Fall Neighborhood Cleanup. We had a record number of 25 participants. Thanks to Bob Eugeni and to all who participated in the Spring and Fall cleanups.

The Christmas Parade was once again held in downtown Lynchburg on December 5th, however, this year it began with a special event - the ringing of the new electronically controlled bell, made possible by the Courthouse Bell Tower Project. It is great to once again hear this bell from the homes on Diamond Hill. On December 13th the DHHS hosted Christmas on Diamond Hill – A Tour of Selected Homes. Six homes were open, beautifully and uniquely presented to the public. Some say this was our best tour yet. However, as great as everything was, the weather prevented many people from attending. I offer the appreciation of the society to Julie Neighbors, her committee and the homeowners for presenting some of the best that Diamond Hill has to offer.

In the course of the year the City of Lynchburg has supported many of our requests – from providing a dumpster for cleanups, to vacuuming leaves before the Christmas Tour to cutting down dead trees,

like the cherry tree in the center of the Blackford Garden. The City Police department has faithfully sent Neighborhood Watch representatives in Officer Coleman and Chris Tarbell to all of our meetings

The DHHS has benefited from this involvement and the membership feels this has contributed positively to the quality of the neighborhood.

Downtown revitalization continues with the opening of new restaurants such as The Market and Robin Alexander; the addition of more loft apartments such as the Parlor Lofts; and the construction of the Riverfront Festival Park. The City completed the construction of a Roundabout at the intersection of 5th and Federal Streets that has become a local tourist attraction.

We added some new residents to the Hill this year – Julie and Louis Kibby who purchased 1420 Madison Street and Kathryn Becker who purchased 1307 Clay Street. We appreciate their immediate involvement in the Society's activities.

Mary Kathryn McIntosh continued to lead tours on the Hill. Mary Kathryn and the homeowners involved deserve our thanks for promoting this type of Historic Preservation awareness.

As you can see from some of the activities I've just mentioned, the Society and the neighborhood have had a good year in many respects; however, challenges still exist – vacant homes, property neglect due to absentee owners, Society membership decline, the need for continued volunteerism, and the need for revenue generation to address yearly operational expenses.

As I look ahead I would like to recommend that the Society continue to pursue one of the goals from 2009, that is, to develop a structured historical research plan for homeowners and begin the implementation of the plan, making a significant contribution in 2010.

Finally, I would like to thank the Officers and Directors who served this past year and the many members who participated in a variety of ways in DHHS activities. I offer my best wishes to the new President and Board and look forward to a great 2010!

Respectfully submitted by Patrick H. Gatti, President, Diamond Hill Historical Society, January 5, 2010.

Diamond Hill News

Published Sept. through May by
Diamond Hill Historical Society, Inc.
 P.O. Box 803, Lynchburg, VA 24505
 Website: www.diamondhill.org
 Email: dhhscontact@yahoo.com
 Newsletter articles:
diamondhill_news@yahoo.com

Officers & Directors

President: Katheryn M Brown
Vice-President: Mark Little
Recording Sec: Mari White Smallshaw
Membership Sec: Mary Kathryn McIntosh
Treasurer: Jean Hannon
Historian: Julianna K. Neighbors
Director 09-10: Josiani S. Alvarenga
Director 09-10: James J Carrington
Director 10-11: Patrick Gatti
Director 10-11: L. Robert Halpin

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.



2010 DHHS Membership Meeting Schedule

Dates	Hosts	Address
Jan. 5, 2010	Jane and George Dooley	508 Washington St
Feb. 2, 2010	Martha and Ray Stokes	305 Washington St
March 2, 2010	Josie and Jon Alvarenga	1421 Harrison St
April 6, 2010	Sally and Jeffery Schneider	307 Washington St
May 4, 2010	Shirley and Bob Eugeni	1416 Harrison St
June 1, 2010 (June Social)	TBD	
Sept. 7, 2010	Julie and Lou Kibby	1420 Madison St
Oct. 5, 2010	Fran and Rad Briley	416 Washington St
Nov. 2, 2010	Mark Little and Todd Leap	618 Harrison St
Dec. 7, 2010	Kat Becker	1307 Clay St
Jan. 4, 2010	Jane and George Dooley	508 Washington St

Market at Main opened its doors. The lunch counter is open for breakfast and lunch seven days a week. The store is open Monday through Friday 7:00 am to 6:00 pm, Saturday 7:00 am to 3:00 pm and Sunday 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. 904 Main Street 434-847-9040.

Some options to celebrate **Valentine's** in downtown Lynchburg are:

The Main Street Eatery will be open for dinner on Sunday, February 14, 2010, from 4:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. For information call 434-847-2526 or visit: www.mainsteatery.com/

Shoemakers American Grille – call (434)-455-1510 or visit website for menu and additional information. www.shoemakersdining.com/

Robin Alexander an American Bistro --call (434)-845-1601 or visit website: robinalexander.yolasite.com/

DPO-The Depot Grille-Favorite place for steak and seafood- call (434)-846-4464 or visit website: lynchburg.depotgrille.com/

Interested in Maple Syrup?

The Old City Cemetery will offer a program "Maple Syrup Tapping" on February 20. By tapping the Cemetery's great sugar maples, participants will learn how sap is made into syrup and the importance of pollinators in the process. For more information call (434) 847-1465.

COA approved for Diamond Hill properties

- ◆ 515 13th Street
- ◆ 1421 Harrison Street
- ◆ 401 Washington Street

2010 Officers & Directors elected

Our thanks to the following officers and directors who will be serving our organization this year:

- ◆ President: Katheryn M Brown
- ◆ Vice-President: Katheryn M Brown
- ◆ Recording Secretary: Mari White Smallshaw
- ◆ Membership Sec: Mary Kathryn McIntosh
- ◆ Treasurer: Jean Hannon
- ◆ Historian: Julianna K. Neighbors
- ◆ Director 2009-10: James J Carrington
- ◆ Director 2009-10: Josiani S. Alvarenga
- ◆ Director 2010-11: L. Robert Halpin
- ◆ Director 2010-11: Patrick Gatti

Roofs

Historic roofing reflects availability of materials, levels of construction technology, weather, and cost. Throughout the country in all periods of history, *wood shingles* have been used--their size, shape, and detailing differing according to regional craft practices.

European settlers used *clay tile* for roofing at least as early as the mid-17th century. The Spanish influence in the use of clay tiles is found in the southern, southwestern and western states. In the mid-19th century, tile roofs were often replaced by *sheet-metal*, which is lighter and easier to maintain.

Evidence of the use of *slate* for roofing dates from the mid-17th century. Slate has remained popular for its durability, fireproof qualities, and its decorative applications. The use of metals for roofing and roof features dates from the 18th century, and includes the use of *sheet metal, corrugated metal, galvanized metal, tin-plate, copper, lead* and *zinc*.

New roofing materials developed in the early 20th century include *built-up roll roofing, and concrete, asbestos, and asphalt shingles*.

Identifying, retaining, and preserving roofs--and their functional and decorative features--that are important in defining the overall historic character of the building. This includes the roof's shape, such as hipped, gambrel, and mansard; decorative features such as cupolas, cresting, chimneys, and weathervanes; and roofing material such as slate, wood, clay tile, and metal, as well as its size, color, and patterning.

Stabilizing deteriorated or damaged roofs as a preliminary measure, when necessary, prior to undertaking appropriate preservation work.

Protecting and maintaining a roof by cleaning the gutters and downspouts and replacing deteriorated flashing. Roof sheathing should also be checked for proper venting to prevent moisture condensation and water penetration; and to insure that materials are free from insect infestation. Providing adequate anchorage for roofing material to guard against wind damage and moisture penetration. Protecting a leaking roof with plywood and building paper until it can be properly repaired.

Repairing a roof by reinforcing the historic materials which comprise roof features using recognized preservation methods. The new work should be unobtrusively dated to guide future research and treatment.

Replacing in kind extensively deteriorated or missing parts of roof features or roof coverings when there are surviving prototypes such as cupola louvers, dentils, dormer roofing; or slates, tiles, or wood shingles on a main roof. The new work should match the old in material, design, color, and texture; and be unobtrusively dated to guide future research and treatment.

For more information:

www.preservationnation.org/issues/weatherization/resources/roofing.html

LHF 2009 Awards

During the Annual Meeting of the Lynchburg Historical Foundation the evening of January 14, the following awards were presented:

Reservation Award**For a renovation in progress**

John Binder—1000 8th St.

Merit Award**For outstanding external restorations**

Michael and Kathy Bedsworth

404 Cabell St.

The Carriage House Inn Bed and Breakfast

The Carriage House Conference Center

Bill Jackson and Ron Burchart

612 Harrison St

Kay Butterfield

322 Harrison St

Rudolph and Rebecca Poe

614 Norwood St.

Brad Palte and Don Lee

1534 Rivermont Ave

Marty Donovan

2921 Rivermont Ave

John D. Owen Jr. Award**For promoting Lynchburg history through education**

Clifton and Dorothy Potter

Preservationist of the Year Award**For individuals who exemplify "a commitment to the preservation of Lynchburg" and directly support the Historical Foundation**

Ralph Wilson and Tara West

Report a Litterer

Is a program sponsored by the Citizens for a Clean Lynchburg and the Lynchburg Police Department.

All Licensed drivers have a responsibility to make sure debris is not accidentally or intentionally discarded from their vehicle. The Report a Litterer program will serve as a reminder to drivers and passengers that it is illegal to do so.

Littering is illegal and anyone convicted of this offense can be fined up to \$1,000 and/or sentenced up to 12 months in jail.

If you witness someone in Lynchburg littering from their car, you may report the incident by calling 434-528-2366.

The following information is needed to report someone littering from their car:

- ◆ Type of vehicle (car, truck or other)
- ◆ Color, make and VA license #
- ◆ Littering done by driver or passenger
- ◆ It was tossed or dumped from vehicle
- ◆ Type of litter
- ◆ Date and time of violation
- ◆ Location of vehicle

Thank you for your participation!



**Happy
Valentine's
Day**

Thanks for the Good Job!

On behalf of the Diamond Hill Historical Society, we would like to thank the following officers and directors who served our organization during 2009:

- ◆ President: Patrick H. Gatti
- ◆ Vice-President: Katheryn M. Brown
- ◆ Recording Sec: Mari White Smallshaw
- ◆ Membership Sec: Mary Kathryn McIntosh
- ◆ Treasurer: Jeffery Schneider
- ◆ Historian: Fran D Briley
- ◆ Director 2008-09: Julianna K. Neighbors
- ◆ Director 2008-09: L. Robert Halpin
- ◆ Director 2009-10: James J Carrington
- ◆ Director 2009-10: Josiani S. Alvarenga

We also would like to extend our appreciation to all Committee Chairpersons and volunteers who made the activities during 2009 possible.

Feb. Meeting

**Tues., Feb. 2
7:30 p.m.**

at the

**Langhorne-Beck House
(c.1852)
305 Washington St**

Hosts: Martha and Ray Stokes



