



# Diamond Hill News N

Published by the Diamond Hill Historical Society, Lynchburg, VA

February 2011

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

Vol. 33, No. 2

## Diamond Hill Historical Society President's Annual Report January 4, 2011

### Dear DHHS Members,

First I would like to thank the Board and members that have mentored and assisted in my first year as your president. It certainly has been a learning experience.

Now our successes. Once again Mari and Steve Smallshaw planned and executed a wonderful Easter Egg Hunt. It was enjoyed by everyone and had record attendance. Jean and Ted graciously hosted our June Social and the weather cooperated and we all had a wonderful evening.

In September, the Lynchburg Historical Foundation hosted their annual tour in Diamond Hill. Thank you to the families that opened their homes to show off our great neighborhood.

The neighborhood Cleanup in November boasted the higher participation (17 members) and ended with a potluck lunch. If food is the draw, I suggest we continue having lunch after the clean ups.

The duplex 611-613 Washington St was sold. We will monitor the progress of the new owners. Jeff Schneider and Kat Becker presented us with another beautiful calendar and it was another successful fundraiser. Hopefully we can enlist them to produce the 2012 calendar. The process of moving the DHHS records to the Jones Memorial Library was begun and should be completed in 2011.

Now the less shining experiences. Due to financial shortfalls, it was decided that we should maintain the garden ourselves to save money. We now know that was not very good plan. In 2011 we will go back to having professional landscapers maintain the gardens.

Once again we were not chosen for the Friday Cheers participation. It was decided that we will not apply and will not rejoin Lynch's Landing for 2011.

Membership and participation in DHHS continues to wane. Also, rental property and non resident owners still provide difficult parking and up keep issues.

Looking forward to 2011 I believe our focus should be re enlisting members that have not rejoined and to solicit participation from all the membership. We should complete the move of records to JML. I would like to see this renew interest in research of the Diamond Hill.

We also will have the Christmas Tour in 2011 and will work to make that a great success.

Thank you again for all your assistance and guidance and your dedication to Diamond Hill.

Sincerely,

Katheryn M. Brown  
President



### 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 2010:

- ◆ President: Katheryn M Brown
- ◆ Vice-President: Mark Little
- ◆ 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

We also would like to extend our appreciation to all Committee Chairpersons and volunteers who made the activities during 2010 possible.

Special "Thank You" to Jim Carrington for his dedication and commitment to the board for so many years. Jim has been very instrumental in many of the DHHS accomplishments. You will be missed!

### 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: Mark Little
- ◆ Recording Sec: Julie Kibby
- ◆ Membership Sec: Luther White
- ◆ Treasurer: Jean Hannon
- ◆ Historian: Julianna K. Neighbors
- ◆ Director 2010-11: Patrick H. Gatti
- ◆ Director 2010-11: L. Robert Halpin
- ◆ Director 2011-12: Josiani Alvarenga
- ◆ Director 2011-12: Louis Kibby

### Newsletter articles and mailing list corrections

If you have some news you think our members would find interesting, please send it to:

[diamondhill\\_news@yahoo.com](mailto:diamondhill_news@yahoo.com)

Mailing list corrections should also be sent to the same e-mail address.

## LHF 2010 Awards

During the Annual Meeting of the Lynchburg Historical Foundation the evening of January 13, the following awards were presented:

### *New Construction that upholds the integrity of the surrounding neighborhood Award*

Ronnie's Haircuts and Styles

The barbershop, a small red brick structure on Main Street, was the first new building the city's downtown district had seen in decades.

### *Merit Award*

*"to honor those in the community who have performed appropriate external restoration to their building or sites, and thereby, encourage others to do likewise".*

Dabney McCain  
1008 Wise Street

Shad and Denae Hudson  
1000 Wise Street

Hal and Wendy Devening  
322 Overstreet Lane

Gary Farrar  
1432 Pierce Street

William and Sharon Wheeler  
2236 Rivermont Ave

Jon and Josie Alvarenga  
1421 Harrison Street

### *John D. Owen Jr. Award*

*For promoting Lynchburg history through education*

Ted Delaney

### *Volunteer of the Year*

Christian DePaul

### *Preservationist of the Year Award*

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

Gerry Shersyko



## February Events

### Point of Honor

February 21: President's Day  
Point of Honor and the Museum  
will be free to visitors  
10 am - 4 pm

February 26 & March 19:  
Hearth Cooking Class  
Help prepare and eat a meal cooked in the open hearth kitchen at Point of Honor. 2pm to 5pm. \$20 per person - Limited to 12 people so reserve early!

### Lynchburg Museum System

February 4: First Friday -  
Historic Clock Works  
Unveiling the Historic Clock Works from the Old Court House. Come see these rare works from the 1830s restored and once again operational.  
5 pm - 8 pm FREE (Old Court House)

February 18:  
Kids Night at the Museum  
Kids ages 7-12 participate in scavenger hunts and living history, interact with nocturnal animals from the Nature Zone, create night vision art, and end with pizza and a movie 6 pm - 11 pm, \$20 per child (to be held at the Museum within the Old Court House)

### Old City Cemetery

February 12  
10:00-11:30 a.m.  
Tree Dating Workshop  
Find out how old that tree in your yard is! Biology professor Dr. Nancy Cowden will discuss tree-dating methods and date several historic Cemetery trees with core samples.

### Poplar Forest

February 24, 7 p.m.  
Black History Month: New Perspectives of African American Life The John M. Turner Lecture in the Humanities will explore African American life in antebellum Central Virginia. The presentation and discussion will be led by Lori Lee, Poplar Forest archaeologist, Dr. Kirt von Daacke, Lynchburg College associate professor of history, and Andrew Witmer, James Madison University assistant professor of history. Free and open to the public.

## Diamond Hill News

Published Sept. through May by  
**Diamond Hill Historical Society, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 803, Lynchburg, VA 24505  
Website: [www.diamondhill.org](http://www.diamondhill.org)  
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### Officers & Directors

*President:* Kathryn M Brown  
*Vice-President:* Mark Little  
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*Membership Sec:* Luther White  
*Treasurer:* Jean Hannon  
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*Director 11-12:* Louis Kibby  
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### Committee Chairpersons

*Neighborhood Beautification:* Louis Kibby  
*June Social:* TBA  
*Tours:* Julianna K. Neighbors  
*Website:* Mari White Smallshaw  
*Newsletter:* Josie Alvarenga  
*Neighborhood Watch:* L. Robert Halpin  
*Children's Activities:* Mari Smallshaw  
*Auditor:* Todd Leap  
*Endowment Fund:* Jeffery Schneider  
*Parliamentarian:* Julie Kibby

### 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.

## Two local places nominated to VA Landmarks Register

Virginia University of Lynchburg and Diamond Hill Baptist Church were among 15 sites added to the Virginia Landmark Register this month, and Diamond Hill Baptist Church awaits news on possible designation as a national historic site. Diamond Hill Baptist Church, the second-oldest African-American church in the city, was more than a place of worship, serving as a base for those integral to the Civil Rights movement and the integration of Lynchburg. “If you listen to the stories that came out of Diamond Hill during that era you would be spellbound,” said Diamond Hill Baptist Church member Willie Thornhill. Both sites were recognized through a program from the Department of Historic Resources. The agency provides two programs — the National Register of Historic Places and Virginia Landmarks Register — to identify historic resources and promote their preservation.



### *Diamond Hill Baptist Church 1415 Grace Street Lynchburg VA*

The National Register of Historic Places is a listing of structures, sites, objects and districts important to the historic and cultural foundation of the nation. There are more than 2,000 such properties in Virginia. To be included in either registry, agencies must submit a lengthy and detailed application and make a formal presentation to the Historic Resources Board. The Virginia Landmarks Register lists properties important to the state’s history. Lynchburg has 47 state registry landmarks; Nelson County, 18; Campbell County, 13; Bedford County, 25; Bedford City, 6; Appomattox, 6; and Amherst County, 20.

Still giddy about the recognition the church has received, Thornhill is making plans for a commemorative plaque and celebration. “We’re really excited about the designation for the state of Virginia and we are looking forward to the National Parks Service putting us on the National Register of Historic Places,” said Thornhill, who spent 13 months working with church members and historians to garner the designation. “Diamond Hill has a rich history in this community,” and for the nation, said Thornhill. Built in 1886, the church became known for its efforts to establish equality for African Americans.

From 1958 to 1963, under the leadership of the Rev. Virgil Wood, a PhD out of Harvard, the church became a destination for civil rights activists. Wood, who now lives in Texas, served with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as a member of the National Executive Board of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. During the historic march to Washington on April 28, 1963, it was Wood who coordinated details in Virginia. Court cases that led to the desegregation of Lynchburg City Schools and of Lynchburg’s public places in 1963 got their start in the meeting rooms of Diamond Hill. It was also where leaders strategized and activists planned campaigns to register and turn out voters, desegregate lunch counters and protest discriminatory hiring practices.

The titans of that era — Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and successor Ralph Abernathy — visited Diamond Hill, a training ground for non-violent protestors and sit-in participants. “All of the people that were progressive back then, went to Diamond Hill,” Thornhill said.

**Congregants expect to hear a final ruling on the church’s status in February.**

*(Information for this article was extracted from News & Advance dated January 2, 2011)*



## Lynchburg Humane Society

The Lynchburg Humane Society is a private organization that is governed by its board of directors and run the executive director. The Society has a contract with the city to provide the state-required pound services. If this contract didn't exist the city would have this function. Currently the Society receives 20% of its operating budget from the city. The Society is not animal control and has no legal authority to investigate or prosecute animal offenses. The Lynchburg Humane Society works with animal control but these are two separate entities.

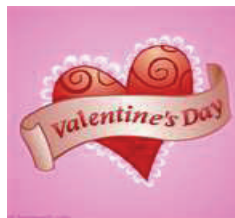
About 56% of the Society's entire income for operating funds comes from private donations and events. 21% is received from services like adoptions, cremation, spay/neuter and return to owner fees, 1% comes from grants, and 20% is from the city for being the their contracted pound. This is how you can help the Lynchburg Humane Society:

◆ **Foster Parent:** the Society provides the pet, you provide the love, attention and space. The society receives many undertaken kittens and puppies that just need a place to go until they are old enough to get adopted. A home is a better environment for these little creatures whose immune systems have yet to develop completely. The Society will also need help this spring and summer with dog foster homes. You can even be part of screening new homes if you like.

◆ **Feral and free-roaming (stray) cats:** If you are feeding cats living in your neighborhood, it's just best that you get them fixed and return them back to your neighborhood. You may wonder why you shouldn't just get rid of them in one or another. Studies have shown that cats are in a location for a reason, usually a food source. If you humanely trap those that are "wild" and take them to a shelter, you must trap every single one and stop the food source. If ou only trap a few, the cats that remain will instinctively breed at a much higher rate in order to maintain the natural balance. Bringing cats and kittens to the shelter each year will not solve the problem.

If you would like to help or make a donation please visit the Lynchburg Humane Society website at:

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



## DH property sold

◆ 1311 Madison St. has been sold for \$170,000 from Todd W. and Miyuki K. Stone to M & J Developers Inc..

◆ 611-613 Washington St was sold on 12/22/10.

## DH properties for sale

- ◆ 1301 Clay Street
- ◆ 607 Pearl Street
- ◆ 1301 Madison Street
- ◆ 1600 Opal Street
- ◆ 503 Washington Street
- ◆ 517 Washington Street
- ◆ 515 13th Street

*Happy Valentine !*

## Feb. Meeting

**Tues., Feb. 1**  
**7:30 p.m.**

at the

**Jones House**  
**(c.1887)**  
601 Pearl St

Hosts: Kathryn & Hampton Brown

