



Diamond Hill News

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Diamond Hill Historical Society President's Annual Report January 8, 2013

First of all, I would like to thank all the members who hosted our monthly DHHS meetings this year, and to the DHHS board members who helped me as President of the DHHS. I sincerely appreciate it.

I believe that the DHHS is an organization that promotes, preserves, protects, and maintains the historical significance, and integrity of the architectural fabric of Diamond Hill area. We want to have an attractive and viable neighborhood, maintaining its character, while also living in the 21st century. We have a very diverse neighborhood, with many of the same ideals, making us unique in this day and age. I do appreciate all that we have here on the hill, and all the work that you do to help us maintain this goal.

As in past years the DHHS has continued to participate in the Lynchburg City Neighborhood Watch Program. Steven Wood, coordinator, has kept us aware of citywide planned activities for our neighborhood. Officer Josh Collins, and Officer Nicole Campbell have attended most meetings, working very closely with us this year keeping us updated on the number of crimes in our neighborhood, and how to make our homes and properties safe. We continue to have concerns about safety for our residents and their children, and the neglect of properties on the hill. Representatives from the City of Lynchburg government, Keith Wright and Rob Fowler, joined us in April at Ray Pulliam's house, and Chief Col. Park Snead attended our DHHS monthly meeting in October at the Briley's, as a guest speaker to address specific issues of nuisance properties, abandoned properties, overgrown areas, and

traffic patterns.

In January, the Diamond Hill Historical Society began its year by investigating the cost of digitizing the approximate 1000 slides of the Diamond Hill area for the past 20-30 years. Jeffrey Schneider was instrumental in this effort. We partnered with the Lynchburg Museum System. Greg Kreger, who is in charge of the Museum systems in-house projects, and was our guest speaker in February, coordinated with Jeff. Many volunteers worked to digitize these, and by June the slides were completed. Many thanks goes to Jeff Schneider, Pat Gatti, Lou Kibby, Luther White, and Jean Hannon for volunteering for such an arduous task. Thanks also to Mark Little for donating the external hard drive. Hopefully, this year we will begin the next phase of this project: Labeling the pictures and their contents.

Also in January, I announced the proposed change to the by-laws: the definition of a quorum. Mary Kathryn McIntosh made the initial motion that we change the DHHS by-laws to accept a majority vote of the members present at any given meeting in lieu of requiring a majority vote of the membership at a monthly meeting. In February, after consideration by the DHHS Board, the Board made the recommendation to change the requirement from 30% to 25%. In April the DHHS membership voted, and approved the change.

PARAGRAPH 4, Article VIII, now reads: "Twenty-five 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."

In February, Vice President, Ray Pulliam began working members, Martha Stokes and Mark Little to resurrect the DHHS Remembrance Fund. Guidelines were drawn up, and will be used to acknowledge illnesses, births, etc. among our neighbors. If you know of any of our neighbors who are hospitalized, you are asked to contact Ray Pulliam or any DHHS board member.

This year we hosted the Victorian Society on October 13th for a progressive dinner. Three houses were selected. Ray Pulliam, 517 Thirteenth Street, hosted the cocktail hour followed by the dinner at the Briley's, 416 Washington Street and dessert at the Potters, 401 Washington Street. Neighborhood volunteers served as guides, servers, and hosts for our 40 guests. This fundraising event was very successful.

Throughout this year our membership secretary, Luther White has again been continuing his efforts to bring in new members to DHHS. In September Ray Pulliam hosted a cocktail party welcoming new neighbors and inviting them to join DHHS. It was a huge success. Perhaps we can continue this, making it an annual event. For a second year in a row, Luther White sent out renewal/membership letters to all residents in the district encouraging them to join DHHS in 2013, in November. Thank you Luther for all your hard work.

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Continuation from page 1, DHHS President's Annual Report

Lou Kibby has continued to work as our Beautification Committee chairman. He has worked on a monthly contract with our Landscaper, Shawn Wright. Our gardens have looked neat, clean, and kept this year. We have had two major clean-ups (in the Spring and Fall) and one clean up prior to the October Progressive Dinner. I want to thank Lou for all his hard work organizing these, and to all those members and non-members who have lent a helping hand, and pitched in to help keep our neighborhood clean, and attractive for visitors. Our landscaper's duties have been rearranged, and the area in and around the Grace Street Urn has been extended and cleaned up. In addition, the area on Grace Street, I have called the gulch has been cleaned up, bushes trimmed, and the area mulched. It looks terrific. I hope that we can work with the city this year to secure the hillside around the gulch, and to cleanup the sinking brick sidewalk running below the Serpentine Walk and Church Street.

This past July 27 to the delight of Diamond Hill residents, our neighborhood children held "The First Annual Diamond Hill Variety Show". Children of all ages performed different acts on the Briggman's front porch (609 Washington St). Our children displayed some very unusual talents. It was a wonderful evening filled with music and entertainment. I hope they will continue this event again in 2013.

Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Pumpkin Carving Contest were held again this year. There were many new faces this year. We intend to continue to offer these each year.

Lastly, I would like to thank Josi Alvarenga for all of her diligent efforts to produce the monthly newsletter, The Diamond Hill Newsletter. She does a fabulous job. This newsletter is a very important tool for us as an historical neighborhood. It is instrumental in getting the word out to the city about peoples and events going on up here on DH.

I can't end this report without mentioning the loss of several past and present residents of Diamond Hill this year. Ted Trevey passed away on January 12th. David Porter passed away on February 15th. A

former resident, Barbara Wilder, passed away on September 18th. All of them were colorful characters (one of a kind), and will truly be missed.

Again, I would like to thank everyone for making 2012 a successful year for DHHS.

Respectfully submitted,

Julianna Neighbors
President DHHS

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 2012:

- ◆ President: Julianna K. Neighbors
- ◆ Vice-President: Ray Pulliam
- ◆ Recording Sec: L. Robert Halpin
- ◆ Membership Sec: Luther White
- ◆ Treasurer: Mark Little
- ◆ Historian: Jean L Hannon
- ◆ Director 11-12: Louis Kibby
- ◆ Director 11-12: Josiani Alvarenga
- ◆ Director 12-13: Marla Potter
- ◆ Director 12-13: Katheryn Brown

We also would like to extend our appreciation to all Committee Chairpersons and volunteers who made the activities during 2012 possible.

Officers & Directors elected

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

- ◆ President: Julianna K. Neighbors
- ◆ Vice-President: Ray Pulliam
- ◆ Recording Sec: L. Robert Halpin
- ◆ Membership Sec: Kathryn Becker
- ◆ Treasurer: Jean Hannon
- ◆ Historian: Josiani Alvarenga
- ◆ Director 12-14: Louis Kibby
- ◆ Director 12-14: Mari White Smallshaw
- ◆ Director 12-13: Marla Potter
- ◆ Director 12-13: Fran Briley



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Officers & Directors

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Director 12-13: Marla Potter
Director 12-13: Fran Briley

Committee Chairpersons

Neighborhood Beautification: Louis Kibby
June Social: Jean Hannon
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
Remembrance Committee: Ray Pulliam
Parliamentarian: Pat Gatti

Any updates to the above committee's chairpersons will be published in further releases.

Meetings

Business meetings are usually held at 7:30 p.m. on first Tuesdays of each month except June, July and August or noted otherwise. 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.

10 Reasons to have Local Historic Districts

Shaping local sentiment and opinions is always a complex task, and planning a local historic district is no exception. While the preservation community understands and appreciates its benefits, not everybody might feel as enthusiastic about it. What's more, all the local stakeholders -- homeowners, government officials, merchants, and property owners -- will endorse, change, or reject proposals depending on how well they understand the issues involved. Here are 10 points to share with our community stakeholders about what local historic district bring to the area.

1. Local districts protect the investments of owners and residents of historic properties. Insensitive or poorly planned development can make an area less attractive to investors and homebuyers, and thus undermine property value. In contrast, historic district designation encourages people to buy and rehabilitate properties because they know their investment is protected over time.
2. Properties within local historic districts appreciate at rates greater than the local market overall as well as faster than similar, non-designated neighborhoods. Findings on this point are consistent across the country. Moreover, recent analysis shows that historic districts are also less vulnerable to market volatility from interest rate fluctuations and economic downturns.
3. Local districts encourage better quality design. In this case, better design equals a greater sense of cohesiveness, more innovative use of materials, and greater public appeal -- all of which are shown to occur more often within designated districts than non-designated ones.
4. Local districts help the environment. Historic districts encourage communities to retain and use their existing resources in established neighborhoods. This reduces the need for cars, cuts back on pollution and congestion, and eliminates landfill waste.
5. Local districts are energy-efficient. Many older buildings were designed with energy conservation in mind, taking advantage of natural light, cross-ventilation, and climate-appropriate materials. Preservation commissions are also increasingly improving their design guidelines to make it easier for historic building owners to use renewable-energy technologies.
6. Historic districts are a vehicle for education. They are a tangible link to the past and a way to bring meaning to history and to people's lives. They preserve the original character of buildings and streets, while welcoming growth and innovation within those spaces. They are a living, active record of communities and their residents.
7. Historic districts can positively impact the local economy through tourism. An aesthetically cohesive and well-promoted district can be a community's most important attraction. According to a 2009 report, 78% of all US leisure travelers are cultural and/or heritage travelers who spent, on average, \$994 on their most recent trips -- compared to \$611 spent by non-cultural and heritage travelers.
8. Protecting local historic districts can enhance business recruitment potential. Vibrant commercial cores and charming neighborhoods with character attract new business and quality industry. Companies continually relocate to communities that offer their workers a higher quality of life, which successful preservation programs and stable districts enhance.
9. Local districts provide social and psychological benefits. People living in historic districts enjoy the comfort of a human-scale environment (a mix of aesthetics and functionality that fit the average person's dimensions and capabilities); the opportunity to live and work in attractive surroundings; a recognizable and walkable neighborhood; and the galvanizing effect of community-based group action.
10. Local districts give communities a voice in their future. By participating in the designation process, citizens can help direct their communities' path. Making these decisions together in a structured way -- rather than behind closed doors or without public comment -- gives everyone involved a sense of empowerment and confidence.



Bacon Castle, Surry County, VA

Bacon's Castle, also variously known as "Allen's Brick House" or the "Arthur Allen House" is located in Surry County, Virginia, USA, and is Virginia's oldest documented brick dwelling. The house became known as "Bacon's Castle" because it was occupied as a fort or "castle" by the followers of Nathaniel Bacon during Bacon's Rebellion in 1676. However, contrary to popular folklore, Bacon never lived at Bacon's Castle, nor is he even known to have visited it. Today Bacon's Castle is an historic house museum and historic site open for guest visitation. Bacon's Castle is an official Preservation Virginia historic site and operates under its 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit status.

The Castle concluded general admission operations the weekend following Thanksgiving. Between December 2012 and February 2013 the Staff will focus on deep-cleaning the Castle, marketing the site to group tour operators and school systems, soliciting and securing new volunteers and interns, and managing an ambitious 2013 Calendar of Events. Staff will also continue strengthening relationships with community, industry, and tourism partners. Be sure to follow Bacon's Castle on Facebook to learn of the latest goings-on and the 2013 Calendar of Events. Although Bacon's Castle may be closed to general admissions over this winter dormancy, the site is still available for private group tours with at least one-week advance reservations. Please contact Todd Ballance at (757) 407-8829 to schedule a private tour.

Information for this article was extracted from the Preservation Virginia web site and Wikipedia.



Happy Valentine's Day!

February Activities:

Academy of Fine Arts

Mark your calendar!

Empty Bowls
 Saturday March 2: 11 am to 2 pm
 Bowl & Meal are \$15
 Benefiting Daily Bread

The basic idea for Empty Bowls is simple:

Potters and other community members donate handmade ceramic bowls. A simple meal of soup and bread is served. Guests donate \$15 then choose a bowl to use that day and to keep as a reminder that there are always Empty Bowls in the world. New for this year will be a group of special bowls donated by noted potters in our area which will have higher prices.

Old City Cemetery

Seasons in the Cemetery
 Peak of Bloom for Antique Roses:
 Last two weeks of May
 Peak of Bloom for Lotus Pond:
 July and August
 Peak of Fall Foliage:
 Last two weeks of October

Birds & Butterflies
 Peak of Bird Population:
 First week of June
 Peak of Butterfly Population: August

Lynchburg Museum

Feb. 1—First Friday
 Lynchburg Museum
 5 pm - 8 pm Free

Feb. 18
 President's Day
 10 am - 4 pm—Free

An American Turning Point
 The Civil War In Virginia
 Waging War
 January 12 - May 5, 2013

The exhibit features over 200 significant artifacts and state-of-the-art interactive audiovisual programs. In Waging War, visitors are asked to explore why the Civil War was the first modern war, what was the deadliest enemy, should black men be asked to fight for the North or South, and did the war really end at Appomattox?

Point of Honor

Feb. 15
 Kids' Night
 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm
 \$25 per child

Feb. 18
 President's Day
 10 am - 4 pm—Free

Feb. 23
 Federal Period Hearth Cooking Class
 11:00 am to 2:00 pm
 \$20 per person

DHHS March Membership Meeting

The next meeting will be in March. Newman Franklin from the City of Lynchburg Government will be our special guest speaker. We will discuss 4 way stop signs to control traffic on Diamond Hill. Please plan to attend!



February Meeting

There is NO Membership Meeting in February

The next meeting will be in March. Additional information will be provided in the March Diamond Hill Newsletter edition.

