



Diamond Hill News

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A Primer on the HPC and Certificates of Appropriateness

As a Commissioner on the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC), I have found that some homeowners, particularly those new to a historic neighborhood, still have uncertainty and, in some cases, a lack of understanding of the role of the HPC and the application of the Historic District Residential Design Review Guidelines. Here's a bit of info that may be of help.

The City of Lynchburg initially enacted historic district legislation within its overall zoning ordinance in 1976, and established the HPC to monitor exterior changes to existing buildings, new construction, and demolition within historic districts. The City uses the HPC, the Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) process and the Historic District Residential Design Review Guidelines to protect the integrity and character of all of its historic districts and structures and ultimately, property values.

A COA is the form issued by the city which indicates that the city (HPC or HPC Secretary) has reviewed the exterior work planned for a historically designated building's rehabilitation or new construction and finds that the intended work meets the criteria of the city's historic district design guidelines. It is essential that whenever a building is in a designated district or is a local landmark and the owner wants to make changes to the exterior of the property, the owner submits in advance of any work, an application

for a COA to the Secretary of the HPC in the city's Planning Department. Obtaining an approved COA is required for actions and alterations as follows:

- ◆ Any construction, alteration, demolition, or removal of a building that requires a building or demolition permit.
- ◆ Any construction, alteration, demolition, or removal of exterior features which affect the exterior architectural appearance even if a building permit is not required.
- ◆ Exterior maintenance, such as painting, porch repair, window/door repair, masonry repair of building components such as walls, chimneys, foundations, etc. (Repairs-in-kind or even repainting a structure with previously approved colors still requires a COA.)
- ◆ The construction, reconstruction, restoration, or alteration of signs, fences, patios, decks, or walls.
- ◆ A COA is NOT required for interior work or landscape work that does not substantially alter the contour of a site or its historical character.

Minor actions that are considered routine maintenance generally do not require review by the HPC but still require an application for a COA for administrative review and approval. Such items include replacing roof materials to match existing, replacing gutters to match existing, repainting, and minor repairs and maintenance to any part of a building when there is no

any part of a building when there is no change in appearance or materials. The Secretary of the HPC will provide the applicant with a COA application and can often provide less than a 24 hour turnaround and approval with submittal of the COA application and supporting documents as appropriate.

Applications submitted after the fact (i.e. the applicant has already completed the work/project) are subject to the same review and determination of appropriateness by the HPC and, as such, are subject to disapproval if not in compliance with the Design Review guidelines.

As an HPC Commissioner, I serve as the Diamond Hill advocate to the HPC and can assist homeowners with interpretation and clarification of the Design Review Guidelines, offer advice on design and acceptable materials, and assist with the COA application process outside the regularly scheduled meetings. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me (846-9139) or Kevin Henry, HPC Secretary, (455-3894).

HOUSE and EMBASSY TOUR

Sunday, September 18, 2011
Washington, DC—\$40

The Woodrow Wilson House in the heart of Embassy Row will open doors to several Washington Embassies and outstanding private residences for the 27th Anniversary Kalorama House and Embassy Tour, Sunday, September 18, 2011, from noon to 4 pm. Sponsored by the Friends of Wilson House, the program benefits Woodrow Wilson House, a National Trust Historic Site.

For more information call 202.387.4062 x 41228.

Poplar Forest September Events

September 11, 2011 Grandparents Day *
Spend a day with your grandchildren!
Tours will focus on Jefferson's visits with
granddaughters, Cornelia and Ellen
Randolph and grandson, Francis Eppes.
Hands-on-History open with games and
activities from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Free with regular admission.

September 11, 2011 J

Jefferson's Passions: Music 4:30 p.m.
Singer and harpist Eve Watters presents
music and stories from Thomas Jefferson's
household with Celtic harp and an array of
instruments. Wine and cheese reception,
stationed tours of the house; \$20. Reser-
vations required. Tickets can be purchased
at
<http://jeffersonspassionsmusic-rss.eventbrite.com> or for the series <http://jeffersonspassionsseries-rss.eventbrite.com>

September 17, 2011

Hill City Master Gardeners are presenting
a series of special talks in Poplar Forest's
heirloom garden Turning Trash into Treas-
ure: A Program on Composting. 2:00 p.m.

September 24, 2011

Smithsonian Museum Day
10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Free admission to Poplar Forest with a
Smithsonian Museum Day ticket. Hands-
on-History family activities will be avail-
able 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Learn more about
Museum Day and download a free admis-
sion card at
<http://microsite.smithsonianmag.com/museumday/>.

September 25, 2011 Jefferson's Passions:
Hops at Poplar Forest 4:30 p.m.

Brewer Doug John speaks about the theory
and practice of brewing in Jefferson's time,
including tasting Jefferson-era beer reci-
pes. Stationed tours of the house; \$20. Res-
ervations required Tickets can be pur-
chased at
<http://jeffersonspassionshops-rss.eventbrite.com> or for the series <http://jeffersonspassionsseries-rss.eventbrite.com>

**September Meeting is on Sep.
13th @ 7:00 pm!**

September Events**Jones Memorial Library**

September 15
THE IRISH IN EARLY LYNCHBURG
by Kimball Payne

The presentation will cover the topic of Irish
immigrants in early Lynchburg, using the
presenter's great-great grandfather, Michael
McLaughlin, as an example and putting his
sixty years in the city in context by describing
individuals and projects to which family lore
connects McLaughlin.

All lectures are held at the Jones Memorial
Library and begin at 5:00 P.M. For more
details call (434) 846-0501.

Lynchburg Museum System

September 2: First Friday
Lynchburg Church Architecture
Lynchburg has a large number of
churches designed in a variety of styles.
Come learn about church architecture
and the history of nearby churches.
Hours: 5pm to 8pm FREE

September 5: Labor Day
Visit Lynchburg Museum and Point of
Honor. Hours: 10 am to 4 pm FREE

Household Hazardous Waste & Electronic Recycling

The last 2011 collection date for house-
hold hazardous waste and electronic recy-
cling will be conducted on Saturday,
October 8 from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00
p.m. at the Concord Turnpike Regional
Landfill located at 2525 Concord Turn-
pike in Lynchburg. This is a free service
for residents of the City of Lynchburg,
the Counties of Amherst, Appomattox,
Campbell and Nelson, and the Towns of
Altavista and Brookneal.

Residents must present a photo ID and
bring items in non-returnable containers.
Amherst, Appomattox and Nelson
County residents must bring a voucher
from their county solid waste depart-
ment.

visit www.region2000.org.

For more information call Citizens First
at 856-CITY (2489).

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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 Dia-
mond 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 subscrip-
tions 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 educa-
tion, research and restoration—the historical and
architectural integrity of the Diamond Hill His-
toric 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.



Lynchburg HOME Real Estate & Appraisals

Dewitt Clay, neighbor and longtime Diamond Hill resident, will be moving soon. He has just reduced the price on his home at 617 Washington Street to only \$19,000. The house is one of the oldest on Diamond Hill. It is in need of complete restoration but has great potential to be a charming, comfortable home with modern conveniences within walking distance to downtown amenities. The floor plan would allow updating with first floor bedroom and baths and has scarce offstreet parking. The house presents a great opportunity, at this price, to restore an historic property. By taking advantage of available Federal and State tax credits and City of Lynchburg tax abatements, the cost of restoration will be very reasonable.

If you or anyone you know may be looking for an historic renovation project which provides substantial tax credits, this is very worthwhile. Pass this along.

Please contact Jim Tracey at 434.455.4336 if you would like to see the house or have any questions.

LHF

Annual Tour & Patrons' Party
 Sunday, September 25
 Time: 1:00pm - 4:30pm
 Location Rivermont Avenue Historic District

The Lynchburg Historical Foundation Board of Directors is delighted to announce the Annual Tour and Patrons' Party 2011. On Sunday, September 25, 2011, from 1:00 PM – 4:30 PM you may tour several houses, in and around the Rivermont Avenue Historic District.

At 6:00 p.m. The Patrons' Party will start at one of the private homes on the Avenue. This home is not open for the Tour. Enjoy an evening with friends, sipping a cocktail, enjoying delectable hors d'oeuvres and listening to the sweet sounds of music. We will top the evening off with announcing the winners of our raffle.

Tickets for the Tour are \$20.00.

Tickets for the Tour and Patrons' Party are \$75.00. For further details call the Foundation office 434/528-5353

***September Meeting is on
 Sept. 13th @ 7:00 pm!***

Lynchburg Economic Development Authority Unveils Revolving Loan Fund for City Businesses

The Lynchburg Economic Development Authority (LEDA) and the Office of Economic Development (OED) have established a \$1,000,000 Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) to enhance the ability of business owners to secure necessary capital to finance start-up or business expansion projects. In addition to bridging financial gaps for business and helping to stimulate job creation and retention, the LEDA RLF also supports the redevelopment of under-utilized commercial and industrial properties. Loans will range from \$50,000 up to a maximum of \$250,000.

Mark Varah, LEDA Chairman, explained that the RLF loan program "was created in response to feedback from both the business and banking communities to accelerate growth opportunities for Lynchburg based companies."

"Business retention and expansion is a critical part of our economic development efforts, and the RLF is another tool to assist our business and entrepreneurial community by providing access to needed capital," said Marjette Upshur, OED Director. Upshur noted that this critical business and development loan program was made possible by the repayment in 2009 of a \$1,000,000 loan made to the Riverviews Artspace Project. "The success of one project fuels creation of another innovative program," said Upshur.

The LEDA RLF will be administered by the Business Development Centre (BDC), currently the region's full service "one stop shop" for local entrepreneurs. The BDC provides professional housing for entrepreneurs in a small business incubator, offers small business start-up training, and has borrowing opportunities to assist entrepreneurs in the community. The BDC also houses the Small Business Development Center (an arm of the Small Business Administration), providing training and counseling for those interested in starting a business or helping existing businesses that need assistance to expand.

For more information about the LEDA Revolving Loan Fund, contact Byron Steward of the Business Development Centre at 582-6100 or loanfundmgr@lbdc.com or Marjette Upshur, Director, Office of Economic Development for the City of Lynchburg, 455-4491 or marjette.upshur@lynchburgva.gov.

Two Lynchburg Businesses Are Finalists in Tayloe Murphy Resilience Awards

Two Lynchburg businesses are among 14 finalists for the University of Virginia Darden School of Business' Tayloe Murphy Resilience Awards. L&R Precision Tooling, Inc. and Thomas A. Johnson Furniture Company have been recognized for their business acumen, leadership and community involvement, all while weathering the most difficult economy in decades.

The 14 finalists, including the two Lynchburg-based companies, were selected from more than 80 business nominees from across Virginia. They will be competing for five winning spots this September in the second annual Tayloe Murphy Resilience Awards competition. The Tayloe Murphy Resilience Awards honor the most resilient businesses in Virginia - those which displayed growth, a dogged entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to community.

Five winners will be announced at a special dinner, reception and awards presentation in the Dome Room of the University of Virginia's historic Rotunda on Wednesday, Sept. 7, where all finalists will join state and local officials, economic development and business leaders, and Darden representatives. "The goal of the Resilience Awards is to bring well-deserved attention to highly successful businesses in parts of Virginia that some might unwisely overlook," said Greg Fairchild, executive director of the Tayloe Murphy Center. "These finalists demonstrate the strength of Virginia's main street businesses, even in the face of significant economic obstacles. With average annual profit growth rates of 42 percent and average annual employment growth rates of 20 percent, in areas where the average company is actually declining, these firms embody resilience."

The stories of the two Lynchburg finalists exemplify the spirit of the Tayloe Murphy Awards. giving.

"Every year we are proud to nominate our most resilient businesses and recognize the entrepreneurial tenacity of the Lynchburg business community," said Marjette Upshur, Director of the Lynchburg Office of Economic Development. "When two of those nominees become finalists for the awards, it shows how well the business environment in Lynchburg compares to the rest of the Commonwealth," said Upshur. "Congratulations to L&R and Thomas Johnson, and I thank them for being such outstanding business ambassadors for Lynchburg."

A Beautiful Evening: good food, good friends

They came bearing food and beverages—ready for a pleasant evening on the lawn at Jean and Ted Hannon's home at 708 Pearl Street. And it was indeed a beautiful evening for our annual June Social, as the photographs below indicate. Our thanks to Jean and Ted for accommodating us. Thanks also to all of our talented cooks who prepared the spectacular food for the event.



Sep. Meeting

**Tues., Sep 13th
7:00 p.m.**

at the

**Yancey-Suhling House
(c.1857)
700 Pearl St**

Hosts: Mary Kathryn and William McIntosh

