



Diamond Hill News

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Diamond Hill Historical Society's

2007 Christmas Candlelight Tour

**Sunday, December 2nd
from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m.**



**Featuring six Diamond Hill
homes decorated for the season:**

G.F. Lucado House (1902), 400 Washington Street
T.D. Christian House (1902), 409 Washington Street
Moorman-Van Lear House (c.1874), 1302 Madison St.
Lemmon-Frost House (1887-88), 1407 Harrison St.
N.B. Handy House (1897), 1416 Harrison Street
R.A. Carrington House (1909), 508 Washington Street

During the tour, tickets will be on sale at each open house. Tickets are \$12 in advance or \$15 on the day of the tour (no charge for children 12 or under). Advance sales are available at Lynchburg Florist & Antiques, 3244 Old Forest Road; at Hardwick's Gifts in the Galleria, 915 Main St.; at All That Gift Shop, 18013 Forest Road; and at the Visitors Information Center, corner of 12th and Church Streets. After your visit, enjoy some home-baked cookies and punch at our hospitality house. Street parking is available throughout the neighborhood—including both sides of Washington Street.

Tickets and information are also available by contacting Mrs. George W. Dooley at (434) 847-6289 or by email at gidooley@att.net.

Christmas Candlelight Tour

Our major fund-raiser for 2007, the Christmas Candlelight Tour, will be held Sunday, December 2nd. No neighborhood cleanup is scheduled before this event; so we're asking members to spruce up their own property before the tour and help any neighbors who are unable to do so.

Over the years, Diamond Hill residents have developed some traditions for seasonal decorations. Many families display a single white candle (electric, of course) in each of their front windows and wreaths or other holiday arrangements on their front doors. Several residents who have beautiful fences in front of their homes also hang wreaths on their gates. Some also floodlight the facades of their homes. Whatever your preference, we hope your family will participate to give Diamond Hill a festive look during the tour and throughout the holiday season.

Please help

On the afternoon of Dec. 2nd, please park your vehicles off the street to provide additional parking space for guests attending our Christmas Candlelight Tour. We have permission from LPD for guests to park on both sides of Washington Street. If you have some free time during the afternoon, please stroll through the neighborhood to greet visitors and answer any questions they might have. We appreciate your support.

R&R for tour volunteers

There will be a reception for families who are opening their homes for the Christmas Candlelight Tour and volunteers who are baking cookies, selling tickets, serving as docents or contributing in other ways. As a thank-you, you are invited to stop by the Lewis-Clark Duplex at 416 Washington Street for a little "Christmas Cheer" between 3:30 and 7:00 p.m.

New house plaques installed

The historic house plaques ordered early this year have finally arrived and have been installed at the following locations:

- Bryant-Brightwell House (1872), 1220 Clay St.
- Handy House (1897), 1416 Harrison St.
- Gannaway House (1899), 500 Washington St.
- Lee House (1897), 501 Washington St.
- Beasley House (1905), 505 Washington St.

Under our Historic House Plaques Program, property owners donate to DHHS the bronze plaques containing historical information about their houses and receive tax deductions for their contributions. Our thanks to the following members for their recent donations: Mr. & Mrs. Robert M. Eugeni, Mr. & Mrs. Scott Carstens, Mr. Dan M. Hague, Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Newton and Ms. Nancy J. Zehmer. Thanks also to Julie Neighbors for heading this project. We now have a total of approximately 30 plaques installed in our historic district.



Ghostwalk Tour attendance exceeds 300

During our Nov. business meeting Sally Schneider, executive director of the Lynchburg Historical Foundation (LHF), reported that 351 ghost-hunters had strolled through our streets on the evenings of October 25-27, while listening to stories about the ghostly gang who haunt our homes.

The first two evenings of tours were sparsely attended because of the chilly, damp weather. Saturday evening, however, was spectacular—a perfect evening to visit our historic district and listen to the talented narrators spin their tall tales.

Our treasurer has already received a check from LHF for our shared of the profits. Our thanks to the officers and directors of LHF for this opportunity to work with them again.



New members Kevin and Miriam D'Eustachio won the \$50 prize for best pumpkin carving. This unique arrangement of jack-o-lanterns was actually a series of fountains.



409 Washington Street



Spooky tales at 1411 Madison Street



507 Thirteenth St



1301 Madison Street



Sherri Sackett, Sally Schneider and Pat Gatti found ticket sales brisk on Saturday evening

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 P.O. Box 803, Lynchburg, VA 24505
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Officers & Directors

President: Patrick H. Gatti
Vice-President: Leonard R. Briley
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Membership Sec: Marla E. Potter
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Historian: Jean L. Hannon
Director 06-07: Mari W. Smallshaw
Director 2007: Julianna K. Neighbors
Director 07-08: Jon I. Alvarenga
Director 07-08: James J. Carrington

Committee Chairpersons

Newsletter Editors: Josie Alvarenga
 and Jim Carrington
Neighborhood Watch: L. Robert Halpin
Neighborhood Beautification: Dennis Newton
Tours: Julianna K. Neighbors
Hospitality: Tina Secord
Children's Activities: Mari Smallshaw
Fund-Raising: Kaye Chandler
Endowment Fund: George W. Dooley

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.

Contact Us: dhhscontact@yahoo.com



Frances L. Tunkel dies

Former Diamond Hill resident Frances “Big Mama” Lovelace Tunkel (photo) died Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2007, at Virginia Baptist Hospital at the age of 83. The Tyree-Slaughter House at 1421 Harrison Street was Frances’ home for several years.

Born in Gretna on Oct. 16, 1924, she was a daughter of the late David Lovelace and Doherta Pickeral Lovelace and was the widow of Albert Jack Tunkel.

Frances was a member of the Lynch Station Baptist Church and an active member of the Lynchburg Area Women’s Bowling Association, in which she served in many leadership capacities, including president. In 1991 she was named to the Lynchburg Area Bowling Hall of Fame. Frances owned and operated Tunkel Distributors for thirty years before her retirement in 1997.

She is survived by her four children: A. Robert Tunkel and his former wife Carol of Lynchburg; Suzanne Peters and her husband Dennis of Lynchburg; Lee Morey-Sylvester and her husband Joseph of Kauai, Hawaii; and Carol Larson and her husband Jeff of Forest.

Frances is also survived by her sister Alice Brumfield of Altavista; two brothers, David Lovelace and his wife Jeanette of Gretna and Randall Lovelace and his wife Darlene of Wallace, SC; and sister-in-law Ruby Lovelace of Penhook. In addition to her family, she is survived by two special friends, Carolyn Cawthorne and Roger Reynolds.

A celebration of her life was held October 29, 2007 at Diuguid Wiggington Chapel with the Rev. Rick Boothe officiating. Interment followed in Spring Hill Cemetery. The family suggests that memorial contributions be made to Meals on Wheels or the American Cancer Society.

Our thanks to Genevieve Whittemore, who attended the memorial service, for providing us with the photograph and obtaining the following story from Suzanne Peters: The dress [shown in the photo] was made from pink Charmin toilet tissue and chicken wire, similar to how we would do floats in high school. She wore it to a Halloween party at a club called Thirty-Eleven. She, of course, won first place. She usually did. The prize was a trip for two to Las Vegas. She took my grandmother and they got to see Blue Eyes (Frank Sinatra) and Sammy Davis—my grandmother’s life-long dream. They also took my aunt. She loved to talk about this trip.



Front view of Tusculum before disassembly



Rear of Tusculum during disassembly

Tusculum saved by Sweet Briar

Tusculum, an 18th-century plantation house in Amherst County, was dismantled last year by Heartland Millwork & Restoration to make way for new construction. This historic building, which dates from the 1750s, was the birthplace of U.S. Senator William H. Crawford (1772-1834). It was also the childhood home of Maria Antoinette Crawford, who was the wife of Elijah Fletcher and the mother of Indiana Fletcher Williams, founder of Sweet Briar College. This connection was a major reason the college was interested in preserving the building.

Tusculum is one of the oldest and most architecturally significant dwellings in Virginia’s Piedmont; it was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2004. Sweet Briar received a large donation last year which provided funds to carefully deconstruct the building and store the pieces in the dairy barn on campus. Some of the building’s later additions were not saved. After sufficient funds have been raised, the house will be reconstructed within the designated historic district on the school’s campus.

A program was held September 22nd at Sweet Briar during which several leading preservationists and historians addressed Tusculum’s “significance and future use as a far-reaching initiative for historic preservation, education, and history.” Our thanks to Jane Dooley for this story.

Strange cars parked on DH

For several months, one or more strangers have been parking their two cars on Diamond Hill. The Neighborhood Watch officer who attended our November meeting reported that the owner of the cars lives within half a mile of Diamond Hill. The officer agreed to have someone in the police department contact the owner (1) for an explanation of why he is inconveniencing residents of Diamond Hill where parking space is limited and (2) to tell him that LPD has received complaints from residents. More than one person has been observed accessing materials in the trunks of those cars—furtively looking around to see if anyone is watching. LPD’s drug-sniffing dog was unable to detect the presence of any illegal materials.

Design guidelines finally adopted

During their Nov. 13 meeting, City Council approved 6:0 [Ceasor Johnson was absent] the ordinance changes required to activate the revised guidelines used by the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC):

“ Residential Design-Review Guidelines

“ Commercial Design-Review Guidelines

The HPC board uses these guidelines to evaluate requests from citizens for Certificates of Appropriateness (COAs). When citizens request permission to make exterior changes to their historic properties, the commissioners refer to these documents for guidance. The old guidelines were badly out-of-date, having been adopted over 20 years ago.

The city received a state grant for consultant Thomason & Associates of Nashville, TN to work with the HPC in revising the guidelines. Their effort makes the guidelines much more user-friendly, adds many new illustrations and local examples, covers new building materials, and provides more specific guidance for several types of COA requests that have sometimes provoked divided opinions within the HPC.

The new guidelines will not be printed, except for the commissioners and city personnel, but they are already accessible on the city's website. Citizens planning to apply for COAs are encouraged to see what guidance the guidelines offer. To find them, go to website www.lynchburgva.gov and select (1) City Departments, (2) Community Development, (3) Planning, (4) Historic Preservation and then select the guideline you wish to see from the left column.

Councilman attends meeting

City Councilman Scott Garrett attended our October 2nd business meeting and offered brief remarks of encouragement. Thanks for your interest and support, Councilman Garrett.



Happy Holidays!

Diamond Hill properties for sale

- ◆ 1216 Clay Street
- ◆ 1223 Clay Street
- ◆ 1225 Clay St: Harris-Sneed House (c.1882)
- ◆ 1304 Clay: Ryland-Addison House (1906)
- ◆ 1308 Clay: Stokes House (1906)
- ◆ 1313 Clay: Akers House (1904)
- ◆ 1420 Madison: Moore House (1910)
- ◆ 605 Pearl: ½ of Owens-Heald Duplex (1899)
- ◆ 606 Pearl: ½ of Blackford Duplex (c. 1880)
- ◆ 709 Pearl St: McLaughlin-Batte House (1921)
- ◆ 611-13 Washington: Threadgill-Clay House (1893)

Got news?

If you have news you think our members would enjoy reading, please send it to Jim Carrington at jimandbob@att.net. Mailing list corrections should also be sent to Jim.

Building permits

Donald Banker, addition, 400 Washington Street, \$7500.

Dec. Meeting

**Tues., Dec. 4
7:30 p.m.**

at the

**Beasley House
(1905)**

505 Washington St.

Hosts: Kaye and Dennis Newton

Our treasurer will be prepared to receive 2008 dues.

