



# Diamond Hill News

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## Seasonal decorations

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 windows that face the street 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 use floodlights in the evening to accent the facades of their homes.

Our thanks to Ray Pulliam, owner of Lynchburg Florist & Antiques, who is contributing bows to decorate our street signs. Several of our members usually light the evergreen tree at the corner of Washington and Harrison. Whatever your preference, we hope your family will participate to give Diamond Hill a festive appearance throughout the holiday season.

## Speaker planned for Dec. meeting

President Gatti has invited Norman Hale, the city's new parking manager, to speak at our Dec. 2 meeting. Mr. Hale will describe his plans for improving the parking situation in Lynchburg's downtown area—some of which extends into our historic district. The meeting will provide an opportunity for members to ask questions.



## Cookies: a Christmas tradition

By Mary Kathryn McIntosh

The Golden Glow of Christmas Past is an organization for people interested in Christmas history prior to 1966. Each year at their convention there is a cookie contest in each of 8 different categories. Some of the contestants practice all year and find new cookies to try. I have been fortunate to win a first place for the past two years and one second place. It is all done in the spirit of fun and the prizes vary. This year I received a wooden cookie mold and a homemade Victorian style ornament.

There is also a refreshment bar at the convention, serving tea and coffee as well as cookies brought by the members. I would guess that over five thousand cookies are donated for the membership to enjoy. Attendance usually exceeds 750 attendees and they eat many cookies every day. We also have carol sings around a piano during the evenings before dinner and donate toys for the needy that are placed in a big sleigh.

Bill and I have been to three conventions and will attend again in 2010 when it will be held in Wisconsin. This year I gave a talk on Jaymar wooden ornaments from the 1930s and 40s, which was a thrill in such knowledgeable company. Here's copy of my favorite winning recipe for holiday cookies. Hope you and your family enjoy them.

## Coconut Cherry Drops

### Cookie dough

1¼ cups all-purpose flour  
½ tsp. baking powder  
½ tsp. salt  
½ cup butter, softened  
½ cup sugar  
½ tsp. almond extract  
1 egg  
1 cup flaked coconut  
½ cup chopped pecans  
½ cup chopped maraschino cherries, drained

### Glaze

confectioner's sugar  
milk

### Directions

Oven: 375°

Makes: 30 to 36 cookies

In a large mixer bowl, combine all ingredients except coconut, pecans and cherries. Blend well with mixer. Stir in remaining ingredients; mix thoroughly. Drop by rounded teaspoonfuls onto greased cookie sheets. Bake at 375° for 10 to 12 minutes. Cool. Mix glaze and drizzle over cookies.

## Thanks, cleanup workers!!!

Let's give a hearty THANK YOU to our members who turned out on the beautiful morning of Nov. 8 to spruce-up our neighborhood: Josi Alvarenga, Gofer and Julie Neighbors, Kathryn Brown, Nancy Zehmer and Pat Gatti. They weeded, trimmed and swept the Serpentine Walk, a section of Grace Street and the Rebecca Yancey Garden. The overgrown ivy on Mary Stuart Taylor's wall was trimmed and Nancy painted some of our street signs. Many other residents raked leaves for city trucks to pick up.



### Membership renewal for 2009

It's hard to believe but, just like your magazine subscription renewals that come due this time of year, it's time to renew your DHHS membership. If you haven't already done so, please fill out the enclosed renewal form and mail it with your check to DHHS, P.O. Box 803, Lynchburg, VA 24505. If you want to save a stamp, just bring your dues to our December meeting. Remember: "To qualify to vote at the Annual Meeting, an Active Member's dues must be paid on or before January 1 of that year." [DHHS By-laws, Article IV].

### DHHS Calendars now available

The DHHS Calendar Committee is pleased to announce that *first editions* of our DHHS pictorial calendar, *Scenes of Diamond Hill*, are now for sale! After six months of work, this calendar is the first in what we hope may become an annual fund-raising project. Chairman Jeff Schneider solicited and collected pictures from DHHS members for several months and took nearly a hundred photos himself to create an inventory of scenes for the committee to review and select for use in the calendar.

Committee members Jon Alvarenga, Katheryn and Hampt Brown and Sally Schneider met in October and spent several hours selecting pictures for the respective months, as well as collaborating on the design of the cover. The photographs selected include diverse views of DH houses, porches, wrought-iron gates and fences—even the wonderful skylight inside the Tyree-Slaughter House. If you weren't at our November meeting you missed a chance to see this skylight in all its glory. Many wonderful pictures were submitted and the committee had a difficult time selecting the finalists. All pictures submitted will be retained for possible use in future editions.

Copies of our 2009 calendar will be available for \$15.00 each at our December and January meetings. Be sure to bring your checkbook; you can do some of your holiday gift shopping and help DHHS at the same time!

Calendars will be for sale at the DHHS booth in the Community Market on Saturday, Dec. 13th. Please tell your friends that they can also buy copies at the Lynchburg Visitor's Center (12th and Church Streets) or by contacting Pat Gatti or Jeff Schneider.

### HPC actions

During Oct. and Nov. the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) considered the following requests:

♦ **1420 Church St:** request by Jay Oschrin to cover concrete-block wall behind the house with artificial stone veneer was denied. Blocks were laid on old stone wall without permission. Commissioners encouraged applicant to use natural stone that is already on-site. One commissioner had "structural concerns with this wall."

♦ **1418 Church St:** approved request to remove deteriorating slate roof and chimney, install Majestic artificial slate (10-inch, gray) and replace flashing and gutter metal.

♦ **505 Washington St:** approved request by Dennis Newton and Kaye Chandler to build 10' x 10' utility building behind house and paint it same colors as house. Board recommended use of horizontal siding, rather than vertical.

♦ **603 Grace St:** request withdrawn 11-17-08.

### Reminder for officers and chairmen

The *DHHS Officers and Directors Manual* states, "The officer, director or committee chairman responsible for an expense must OK with his/her signature and date any invoice for which he/she is responsible." But the manual goes on to say, "Expenses which are specifically included in the annual budget [the bill for our PO box, for example] can be paid without endorsement."

So—if you have an invoice for our Treasurer to pay, please check it for accuracy and take a moment to write "OK to pay," your signature, and the date on the invoice before you give it to him. Our financial accounts are audited each year and our auditor will be looking for your approval. He should not have to track you down for your signature.

*Happy Holidays*

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**Diamond Hill Historical Society, Inc.**  
 P.O. Box 803, Lynchburg, VA 24505  
 Website: [www.diamondhill.org](http://www.diamondhill.org)  
 Email: [dhhscontact@yahoo.com](mailto:dhhscontact@yahoo.com)

### Officers & Directors

*President:* Patrick H. Gatti  
*Vice-President:* Leonard R. Briley  
*Recording Sec:* Nancy J. Zehmer  
*Membership Sec:* Marla E. Potter  
*Treasurer:* Jeffery Schneider  
*Historian:* Jean L. Hannon  
*Director 07-08:* Jon I. Alvarenga  
*Director 07-08:* James J. Carrington  
*Director 08-09:* Julianna K. Neighbors  
*Director 08-09:* Robert Halpin

### Committee Chairpersons

*Neighborhood Beautification:* Dennis Newton  
*Hospitality:* Fran D. Briley  
*Tours:* Julianna K. Neighbors  
*Website:* MariWhite Smallshaw  
*Newsletter:* Josie Alvarenga & Jim Carrington  
*Neighborhood Watch:* L. Robert Halpin  
*Children's Activities:* Mari Smallshaw  
*Street Restoration:* Jon Alvarenga & Larry A. Wollan, Jr  
*Auditor:* Charles Bedat  
*Endowment Fund:* Jeffery Schneider  
*Parliamentarian:* Charles K. Bradner

### 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.



### Halloween Spirits on Diamond Hill



*Above left: Sharon and Bryan Beagle  
Above right: Bill and Mary Kathryn McIntosh  
On the left: Ted and Jean Hannon  
Below from left to right: Josie and Jon Alvarenga, Shirley Eugene, Bill and Sue Baldwin, Pat Gatti, Bob Eugene, Vernon and Julie Neighbors*



### Building permits issued

- ◆ 505 Grace St: W&T Enterprises (Grace St.
- ◆618 Pearl St: Bailey Grey LLC, repairs, \$8000.

### Diamond Hill "on the move"

In 1954, when contractors cut through the ridge at the southeast end of Diamond Hill to permit the Lynchburg Expressway to run beneath Grace Street, a large retaining wall was built to hold the hillside in place. By the early 1990s, however, city engineers noticed that the wall was moving.

An inspection completed last December by local engineering firm Schwartz & Associates, Inc. concluded that nearly a third of the 360-foot-long wall is visibly buckling under pressure from the soil and rock behind it. Numerous incidents of cracking, crumbling and shifting were also reported. In some places, the wall is now two and a half feet closer to the Expressway than when originally built.

Dee Dee Conner, an engineer with the city, recently reported the results of the independent inspection to a City Council committee. "The summary basically is that some part of the wall will go," she said. "The question is when." Conner added that it would likely take a hurricane-scale storm to bring the wall down.

*Happy Hanukkah*

### Lynchburg makes Top 50

*This Old House Magazine* has named the top place to buy an old house in each of the 50 states. In Virginia, that place is Lynchburg! The magazine's website notes, "It's a head-scratcher that Lynchburg isn't so famous as other Southern historic architecture hot spots (think Charleston or Savannah). This city on the James River survived the Civil War intact and sports some of the best examples of antebellum structures below the Mason-Dixon line, as well as a stunning lineup of Federal-style houses. It's home to seven national historic districts, thanks to progressive city planning, tax breaks, and private donations. Arty Lynchburgers work for entities including the town's Academy of Fine Arts and the area's seven colleges, many of which emphasize the creative disciplines.

"The Federal Hill Historic District contains dozens of early Federal homes, which count among the city's oldest and finest dwellings. Other notable homes, built between 1817 and 1940, include examples of the Georgian Revival, Queen Anne, Italianate, Greek Revival, and Center Hall Colonial styles."



### Help STOP auto break-ins!!!

We've had thefts from a couple of vehicles in our neighborhood recently. One of those vehicles was left unlocked, which made easy pickings for the thief. Here are a few ways you can protect your vehicle and possessions:

- ◆ Keep the doors locked at all times
- ◆ Leave nothing of value inside your car
- ◆ Park in well lighted areas
- ◆ Leave nothing visible to people passing by
- ◆ Report to LPD anyone you see peeking into cars



## Dec. Meeting

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

at the

**Lee House  
(c.1897)  
501 Washington St**

Hosts: Sarah and Scott  
Carstens

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