

A Beautiful Evening: good food, good friends

They came bearing food and beverages—ready for a pleasant evening on the lawn at Carolyn and Don Banker’s home at 400 Washington Street. And it was indeed a beautiful evening for our annual June Social, as the photographs below indicate. Our thanks to Carolyn and Don for accommodating us—and special thanks to Carolyn for chairing the event. Thanks also to all of our talented cooks who prepared the spectacular food for the event.



Congratulations, Jim!

Our editor, Jim Carrington, recently accepted the Grand Prize in the 2007 Literary Award Contest for New England Genealogy, awarded by the Connecticut Society of Genealogists at their annual meeting in May. His winning entry, *The Descendants of Oliver Nye (c. 1798-1883)*, was published by Gateway Press last year. Oliver was Jim’s great-great-grandfather. “It was in incredible thrill—receiving the phone call from the awards committee,” he said. “My 10 years of work is now available at 35 major genealogical libraries and historical societies across the country.”

Website work completed

Mari Smallshaw announces that Jeff Snyder has completed the renovation of our website www.diamondhill.org. Our thanks to Mari for supervising this work, selecting photographs and seeing that corrections were made. What an improvement! The website is now much more interesting to browse and much easier to use.

The May issue of the *Diamond Hill News* has been added to the website and future issues are also being included for those who wish to receive their newsletter via Internet.

Members work Friday Cheers

A crew of some 20 DHHS members showed up the evening of June 29 to help Lynch's Landing with their Friday Cheers event. We were lucky this year—no rain! The band was good, the weather was pleasant, and the beer was cold. Our thanks to Julie Neighbors for organizing our crew. And a hearty *well done* to all of our members who volunteered.



New outfits premiered

Our volunteers working Friday Cheers and neighborhood events will now be smartly outfitted with new aprons stenciled with the DHHS logo and name. Pockets in the aprons are particularly handy for those selling or collecting tickets at Friday Cheers. Our board of directors appropriated funds for the aprons this spring. Many thanks to Julie Neighbors for obtaining quotes and ordering the aprons from High Peak Sportswear. Thanks also to Jim Carrington for providing High Peak with our logo.

LHF Tour and Patrons' Party

Sally Schneider, Lynchburg Historical Foundation's executive director, announces that the organization's Annual Historic Tour & Patrons' Party will be held Sunday, Sept. 23rd. Five homes in the Garland Hill Historic District will be open 1:00-4:30 pm. Tour tickets are \$20 per person.

The Patron's Party will be held that evening 6:00-8:30 pm at 921 Main Street, the home of DHHS members Dr. John R. Seminatore and Mr. James E. Tracey. All proceeds benefit LHF programs. "It's a great way to help raise funds for preservation while enjoying cocktails, wonderful food, music and a fabulous raffle," Sally emphasized. Combination tickets for the tour and party are \$75. For details call (434) 528-5353.

Please mark your calendars

While marking your calendar with the above date, be sure to also mark the following DHHS events. These are major efforts for which we will need many volunteers:

- Oct. 25, 26 and 27: Ghostwalk on Diamond Hill, cosponsored with LHF
- Dec. 1 and 2: DHHS's biennial Christmas Candlelight Tour

Diamond Hill News

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Diamond Hill Historical Society, Inc.
 P.O. Box 803, Lynchburg, VA 24505
 Website: www.diamondhill.org

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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.

Grand Open House: a smashing success!

Lynchburg's historic districts were buzzing on the afternoon of Sunday, May 6. An estimated 200 visitors toured the 20 historic homes being offered for sale in five of the city's historic districts and downtown. Five homes were featured on Diamond Hill, two of which have already been sold. As expected, many of the visitors were just interested in seeing the interiors of these old homes. We have experienced this during other such open houses we sponsored.

Most of the credit for this outstanding event goes to Kaye Chandler, who contacted the other historic districts and the Realtors to solicit their participation. She also created an attractive 8-page brochure containing a photograph and information about each house. These were available to the public at the Visitor's Information Center. Not many people picked up brochures the day of the tour, but the Visitor's Center reported a fairly steady stream on Saturday, the day before. Kaye reports that she saw people using the brochure to check out homes both before the tour and during the weeks after the event.

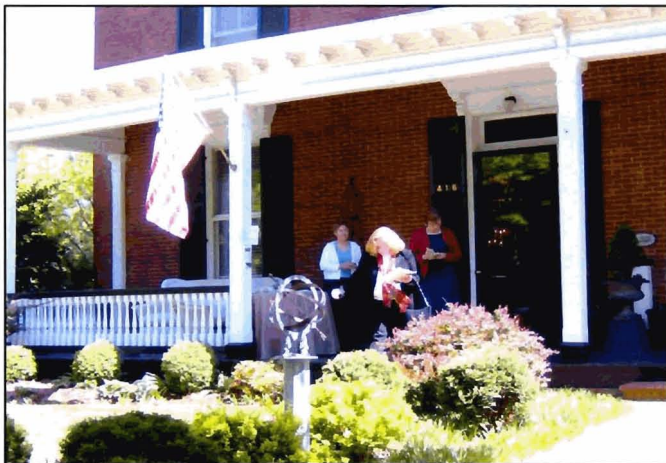
Kaye developed an effective promotional plan for the Open House. Four days before the event *The News & Advance* printed an interesting story, with a large photograph, about the mother-daughter team who renovated 201 Harrison Street. On the day of the tour the *Real Estate This Week* section of the paper featured a 4-page photo overview of the houses featured. Kaye also used some Internet websites to promote the event and received some out-of-state inquiries.

Fran and Rad Briley opened their home to serve as the Hospitality House during the event. Visitors had the opportunity to ask about life in the historic districts and historic tax incentives and enjoy refreshments. 52 visitors took the time to complete a survey form at the Hospitality House. Of these, six want to buy a historic house now as their private home, five would like to buy one in the future, two want to buy when they can afford it, six already own historic properties, and three were investors. Most of these people learned about the event from the *News & Advance*.

"The realtors that I spoke with after the event were very pleased with the turnout and the event in general," Kaye said. "One homeowner stated that her Realtor estimated that 20% of the people who came to that property in Daniel's Hill were prospective buyers."

Several people and organizations deserve our deepest thanks for helping to make the Grand Open House such an outstanding success:

- Kaye Chandler for organizing and coordinating the event
- Rad and Fran Briley for hosting the Hospitality House
- Don and Carolyn Banker for printing the brochures
- Lynn Shapiro of John Stewart Walker for coordinating Realtors
- Visitor's Center for distributing brochures and maps
- Jim Scow for coordinating Daniel's Hill participation
- The News & Advance* for publicity
- Our members who furnished cookies and other refreshments



Fran and Rad Briley provided the Hospitality House for the Grand Open House



Visitors touring open houses in the 1300 block of Madison St.

611-613 Washington St.

Lynchburg Redevelopment & Housing Authority has notified Marcel A. Costantino that they intend to acquire his derelict property at 611-613 Washington St. if he does not make necessary repairs by the end of August. He replied that he intends to comply. In the meantime the property has been listed for sale.

DH properties for sale

- ◆ 1223 Clay Street
- ◆ 1304 Clay: Ryland-Addison House (1906)
- ◆ 1308 Clay: Stokes House (1906)
- ◆ 1313 Clay: Akers House (1904)
- ◆ 1420 Madison: Moore House (1910)
- ◆ 606 Pearl: 1/2 Blackford Duplex (c.1880)
- ◆ 605 Pearl: 1/2Owens_Heald Duplex (1899)
- ◆ 611-13 Washington: Threadgill-Clay House

HPC Actions

- ◆1418 Harrison St: approved request of Brian & Sharon Beagle to install an iron fence along Harrison and Pearl St. sides of property, but tabled request to build pergola from Harrison St. to front door tabled for lack of detail.
- ◆707-709 Fourteenth St: approved request of James E. Hemphill to renovate duplex per plans. Front doors must be wood.
- ◆ 1411 Madison St: approved request of James J. Carrington to replace terne roof on kitchen wing with copper.
- ◆1300 Clay St: request of Jody L. Vantassell and Alma A. Hesson was approved to "repair/rebuild retaining wall on left side along 13th Street using same materials (stone) and repair/rebuild concrete walk in front, coloring concrete to match as closely as possible existing color." Contractor began demolishing the wall Friday afternoon, July 20, and completed it over the weekend. Instead of stone, the wall was rebuilt using concrete blocks. Numan Franklin, the city's neighborhood program coordinator, described the work as "a major construction project" for which a work permit should have been obtained. A call to the city's Inspections office determined that no work permit was obtained. City asked owners to (1) use the original concrete slabs to cap the wall and (2) stain the concrete wall, after submitting color samples for approval. HPC will discuss this project Aug. 20.

*Brandon rides again*

7-year-old Brandon Parker from Brooklyn, NY visited the Smallshaw family for a second straight year as part of the Fresh Air Fund. During his 10-day visit, Brandon enjoyed horseback riding, swimming, visiting Amazement Square and attending a Lynchburg Hillcats game. He also enjoyed meeting some of the neighborhood children during an ice-cream party at the Smallshaw's.

Property transfers

- ◆ Jones House, 601 Pearl St.
- ◆ Blackford House, 618 Pearl St.
- ◆ Redcoat Gallery, 1421 Main St. (only the parking lot is in historic district)
- ◆ Duplex at 707-709 Fourteenth St.
- ◆ Anderson House, 310 Washington St. (sale to HROK, LLC recorded 6/15/06)

Building Permits

- ◆ 313 Washington Street: Andrew Acevedo, repairs, \$1,500
- ◆ 1415 Grace Street: Diamond Hill Baptist Church, repairs, \$7,129

*Congratulations*

To Cassie, Erick and big sisters Caroline and Eleanor:
William Soren was born on August 4, 2007 with 7lbs., 11oz and 20.5 inches long! Also congratulations to the grandparents!

Sept. Meeting

**Tues., Sept 4st
7:30 p.m.**

at the

**Handy House
(1897)**

1416 Harrison St.

Hosts: Bob and Shirley Eugeni

Diamond Hill Historical Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 803, Lynchburg, VA 24505

www.diamondhill.org