

Down in the Valley



HOPE VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

HVNA: Get Involved

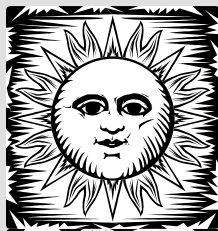
Wondering how to give back to your community? Good works start at home:

Attend a board meeting! We need your input. Contact board for details.

Got an idea for a newsletter article? We welcome news and submissions!

New neighbor move in next door?
Notify us so we can update the directory.

And of course,
Pay your dues!



Beautification Builds Community

By Deborah Matthews

Greetings Hope Valley. I was recently named HVNA Beautification Coordinator. My husband, Toby, and I moved from Colorado last year and were fortunate to find a beautiful home in HV just a short drive from our new rehabilitation business on Fayetteville Road. I have always wanted to live in a neighborhood in which I could volunteer to work outside for everyone's benefit and now I am in a position to encourage others to join me.

With summer in full swing, I hope you've taken advantage of the extra sunlight and basked in the mottled sunshine of Hope Valley. My daily strolls around Nottaway, Darwin, Rugby, and Bristol continue to nourish me with extraordinary landscaping and friendly conversation. What a fantastic neighborhood we have all chosen to call home! While the warm weather lasts, there are countless opportunities to beautify our neighborhood and build community, ... but more about that later.

If you did not have the chance to come to the Annual Meeting, I would like to share

my experience of the guest speaker. Mena Webb, local historian and author of The Way We Were: Remembering Durham, volunteered her time to speak about growing up in HV from 1926 - 1935. Her funny, touching stories painted a very different picture of our beloved neighborhood. When she lived here, twelve houses stood in Hope Valley, located on Dover and Chelsea Circle. As you can imagine, Hope Valley was quite isolated from the bustle of downtown Durham and the landscape was open farmland!

When asked to write an article about the responsibilities and future plans of HVNA Beautification, my first thought was of the importance of community and how beautification activities could serve to connect us with our neighbors and with the outdoors. Many more homes have been built since the 1920's and 30's, yet with the rush of modern life, a sense of community is probably harder to maintain than it was years ago. We are extremely fortunate to live in area where

Continued on page 2...

Development Events *By Cathy Abernathy*

◆ HOPE VALLEY RESIDENTIAL VILLAGE (The townhouse development):

Preliminary site plan can be viewed at www.hvna.org. Residents with questions about the development may attend public hearings or contact Amanda Elam, 489-3610, abelam@unc.edu or Cathy Abernathy, cefabernathy@aol.com. **Next City Council Public Hearing and Possible Vote for Adoption: Saturday, October 4, 6 pm, City Council Chambers, Durham City Hall.** *Additional Zoning Commission mtg. called. City Council Public Hearing, no sooner than 9/7/04.*

◆ UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE & COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Some residents object to the possibility of duplexes being built in vacant lots in Hope Valley. The UDO specifies 5 types of residences that are permitted in RS-10. *Permitted use = single*

Continued on page 3...



Have you heard about Durham One Call?

Now there's one number to call for local government services:

(919) 560-1200

Save this number and call the customer service hotline when you have questions or needs concerning:

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- ✓ Tree trimming
- ✓ Pothole fixing
- ✓ Streetlamp repair
- ✓ Water hookup
- ✓ Garbage pick-up
- ✓ Permits
- ✓ Inspections
- ✓ And more.

For more info, visit
durhamonecall@durhamnc.gov

Be sure to visit the HV website designed to help you stay informed about neighborhood news and activities.
www.hvna.org

President's Letter by Amanda Elam

As the summer comes to a close, things are already hopping here on the board. We have come a long way towards meeting our goals from last year and are looking forward to another good year for Hope Valley and the neighborhood association.

The website looks good. There is still work to be done, but it's coming along nicely. The social events program went well and we are looking forward to seeing more applications for block parties and other neighborhood events this year.

The Crime Alert listserv increases in popularity as more people learn about it. Our new board members have worked hard to get up to speed on what needs to be done for the neighborhood and how we can best achieve these goals. Kudos to you all!

Development issues have grown recently. Most of the folks in our neighborhood do not like change much. That much I have learned this year. I think it would behoove all you developers out there to take note of that fact and to understand that a little courtesy and polite communication can go a long way towards working out solutions that benefit both parties. Nothing feeds controversy like a lack of trust.

I'm pleased to report that negotiations with White Oak Properties and Scott Harmon concerning development of a high-density project (across from the Windsor Road gates on Old Chapel Hill Road) have gone well. Not only did these folks initiate contact with the owners of adjacent properties as well as the neighborhood association, but they also listened to the concerns and opinions expressed by those parties, making it a priority to achieve consensus (i.e., negotiate accommodations) before presenting the plan to the city council. This is an outstanding model of developer-neighbor relations — one that I hope to see prevail in the future. We are only part way there, of course, but given our experience to date, I feel confident that the committed elements will be met.

This fall I turn over the reins of leadership to another deserving volunteer but will stick around to ensure a smooth transition. As always, if you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me or another board member by phone or email. Oh, and don't forget to pay your dues! It helps us achieve our mission — *Providing voice and building community in Hope Valley.*

Beautification ... Continued from page 1

people have the opportunity to build and beautify with a sense of social history and possibility. I hope my (and our) efforts at Beautification can further our sense of community and continue to enhance the intrinsic beauty of this neighborhood we call home.

HVNA established Beautification to care for our neighborhood's structures (i.e., gates), supply general repairs for public areas, and work with the association to support general beautification needs. I also see Beautification as a means to build community relationships.

As with any relationship, the first step is communication. I encourage all of you to think of ways in which Beautification could improve our neighborhood and

communicate those ideas to me. I will keep you updated on initiatives the Association and I are undertaking and how you can become involved.

Ideas currently under consideration include: neighborhood gardening groups, wildflower and bulb plantings, a community stream and roadside pick-up day, Earth Day 2005 celebrations, volunteer landscaping assistance for community elders, and painting the neighborhood gates. Funding is available to neighbors who petition the association for block parties, gardening, and other community-building projects.

I look forward to hearing from you, Deborah Jarboe Matthews, 4021 Not-taway Road, td.matthews@verizon.net.

Neighborhood Crime Watch By Jonathan Ward

Watch Those Vehicles!

Here in Hope Valley, we all lock our houses and make sure we take precautions against crime (we DO, don't we?). We also have to extend that crime vigilance to our motor vehicles at home and away. Personal property left in a car is easy to see and easy to access, and thefts from vehicles in Durham (that are reported to the police, anyway) average around 100 per week. The Durham Police Department doesn't have the resources to do much more than file reports in so-called "theft from vehicle" cases.

Parking lots at local big-box stores are being used as "supermarkets" by car burglars. When you think about it, these big store parking lots are perfect for criminals. Based on the sheer number of vehicles, the odds of finding something valuable are excellent. And given the size of the lots, thieves can usually count on being ignored while they work.

Parking lot car burglary hit close to home recently when my parents' car was entered at the Home Depot on Mt. Moriah Road. At about 9:00 on a weekday morning, they parked near the store's front door. My mother decided to stick her purse under the front seat rather than carry it inside with her. After a few minutes in the store, they returned to the car to find a window smashed and the purse missing.

Aside from the very unpleasant feelings of shock and violation, it took a couple of days' work to change bank account numbers, alert credit card companies, and replace lost documents. The car had to be repaired, as well. The really creepy part is that the criminal obviously watched as my mother placed her purse under the seat.

So with that cautionary tale in mind...

• **Don't leave anything in your car that you would mind losing to a thief.** Articles in a car are fair game, because thieves know the chances of their being caught are minuscule. Lock property in the trunk, or better, take it with you.

• **Lock your vehicles when they're parked in your driveway.** Seems excessive, maybe, but leaving a car unlocked in your driveway with a garage door remote control inside is equivalent to handing your house keys to an intruder.

• **Remember, too, to pay attention to cars and trucks here in Hope Valley.** Chances are, anyone who comes here to commit a crime will make his escape by vehicle. If you see suspicious activity — or witness a crime in progress — the most valuable thing you can do is to get the complete license tag number from the vehicle. (I say "complete" because each three-letter prefix can be used on thousands of tags, thus making the first three letters of the tag number nearly meaningless.) The tag number is usually the only useful information the police have to work with in identifying perpetrators in property crimes.

• **Join the Crime Watch Listserv at www.hvna.org** to stay informed and to warn neighbors about crime or suspicious activity.

By paying a little extra attention, we can make it really hard to steal our property. A worthy objective, wouldn't you agree? To discuss concerns about crime in Hope Valley, you can reach me at 451-3458 or jjw@jonathanward.com.

Development ...Cont'd from page 1

family home and family care home. *Permitted but limited use* = duplex, semi-attached house, and patio home-zero lot line. Duplexes and semi-attached houses appear to be limited to cluster homes on 4 acres or less.

Next City Council Public Hearing & Possible Vote for Adoption: Mon., Sept. 7, 6 pm, City Council Chambers, Durham City Hall

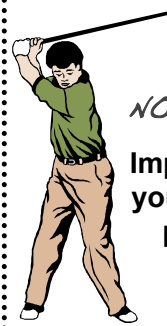
◆ NEIGHBORHOOD HEROES IN HOPE VALLEY

The InterNeighborhood Council is presently selecting the Second Annual Neighborhood Heroes Award. Eleven heroes in 2003 were honored for beautifying public spaces, creating a website, organizing to reduce crime, opposing a large development, helping a terminally ill neighbor, and intervening against a doorstep mugger.

We look forward to the results of this year's award process. Take time to notice those neighbors who work hard to help out and make a difference. You'll know whom to nominate next year!

GOLF GAME NOT UP TO PAR?

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STRUCTURE AND
NOT YOUR STROKE...*



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HOPE VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION 2003/2004 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Amanda Elam, President
3860 Somerset Drive
Home: 489-3610
abelam@unc.edu

Jack Hughes, Treasurer
3818 Regent Road
Home: 489-9504
bughej@aol.com

**Cathryn Abernathy
Inter-Neighborhood Council**
3903 Darby Road
Home: 489-0394
cefabernathy@aol.com

Deborah Matthews, Beautification
4021 Nottaway Road
Home: 493-5141
td.matthews@verizon.net

Jonathan Ward, Neighborhood Watch
4024 Nottaway Road
Cell: 451-3458
jnw@jonathanward.com

Bethany Ward, Newsletter Editor
4024 Nottaway Road
Cell: 451-6253
bward@rolfusa.com

Henry Nicholson, Webmaster
3429 Rugby Road
H: 489-9502 O: 388-1383
nick@whn3.org

Bruce Waters, At Large
3856 Somerset Drive
Home: 493-7792
chryssos@mindspring.com

Rita Musante, At Large
3101 Cornwall Road
Home: 493-2006
rita.musante@verizon.net

Building community and providing voice for Hope Valley

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3818 Regent Road
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Membership Application & Renewal

___ Application

___ Renewal

___ Additional Contribution to Beautification

Name(s) _____

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Pay your dues today! It's easy:

Annual Dues are \$10 per household. Mail application and check to:
Jack Hughes, 3818 Regent Road, Durham, NC 27707.