

# ***Down in the Valley***

## **President's Letter**

By: Mary Tatum 919-493-3934/ marytatum@hvna.org

Dear Neighbors and Friends,

Happy New Year! Hope this finds everyone well, with an abundance of wonderful memories from the Holidays.

Your Board has hit the ground running in 2012. We have several important events planned this month. On February 16<sup>th</sup> we will have a Block Captains' meeting with Officer Penny Stewart of the Durham Police Dept. at 7 PM at Hope Valley Country Club. Penny is a member of the Crime Prevention Unit for Durham Police Department District 3. While this meeting is primarily focused on the role of block captains in the neighborhood, all interested persons are invited.

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will present our annual report from the HVNA Board, and we will be joined by guest speakers Captain Kevin Cates, the Durham PD District 3 Commander, and Dr. Gary Kueber, Chief Operating Officer at Scientific Properties and founder of the Endangered Durham web site and most recently, the Open Durham web site. The meeting will begin at 7 PM at Hope Valley Country Club, but we encourage you to attend, beginning at 6 PM to view exhibits that will on display from local vendors.

Hopefully you are mindful of the dues "reminder" signs that have been placed throughout the neighborhood. While January was the target date for payment, we welcome payment at any time.

Hope to see you at the Annual Meeting!

*Mary*

## **The 1st Annual Hope Valley Night of Lights — Sunday, December 11**



In the past year Hope Valley Garden Club (HVGC) wanted to increase neighborhood beautification and general good will. The discussion came about to create a luminary program.

HVGC quickly realized that with a neighborhood of over 900 homes help was needed to execute the program. HVGC approached the Hope Valley Neighborhood Association to help create awareness about the event and help facilitate the sale of the luminary kits. In an effort for the event to truly be a community event, we also enlisted the help of Town & Country Garden Club, another neighborhood garden club.

HVGC created a flyer that was used in a neighborhood association email as well as a mailing that sold over 7,780 luminaries! The event took place on December 11, 2011. All who participated lit their luminaries at 5 pm that evening in an effort of community good will. Neighbors walked the neighborhood streets and enjoyed the scenery and their community.

Proceeds from the *Night of Lights* went to Habitat for Humanity.

## **Don't Miss the HVNA ANNUAL MEETING!**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 7:00 PM at Hope Valley CC**



# HOPE VALLEY

## Neighborhood Association

## HVNA Holiday Decorations - December 2011 -

This past December marked the 6th street signs and entry markers. It also Wood and her daughter Chesley Sneed have decorated Hope Valley for the have turned over this volunteer oppor-2012. To be a part of this tradition for Tatum (marytatum@hvna.org) or Clay

The Board of the Neighborhood Asso-Chesley, but those who regularly donate Niemann, Cary Gravitt, Craig Butler and initiative, like all those of the HVNA, is all those who love our community to



year that the HVNA decorated our iconic marked a retirement of sorts for Anne who have created the arrangements that Holidays since 2005. Anne and Chesley tunity to others in the neighborhood for this coming year, please contact Mary Chandler (claychandler@hvna.org).

ciation wishes to thank not only Anne and greenery, Mary Barringer, Anna Ho, Anne Tommy Kinney among many others. This entirely volunteer driven and we encourage volunteer within the HVNA.

## Hope Valley Street Sign Project Phase 6

As you may have noticed several cedar posts have appeared on corners throughout the neighborhood. The HVNA, in coordination with various neighbor groups has placed an order with Vega Metal Works for a number of reproduction, replacement, or new Hope Valley Street signs.

There is still time to order one for your corner, or a nearby intersection. Please contact Tad DeBerry at taddeberry@hvna.org to discuss logistics and fundraising. Designs are available for all Hope Valley streets and the HVNA can provide lists of your neighbors to help with canvassing or fundraising.



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Thursday, Feb 16 at HVCC

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## 2011 Hope Valley Property Crime Statistics

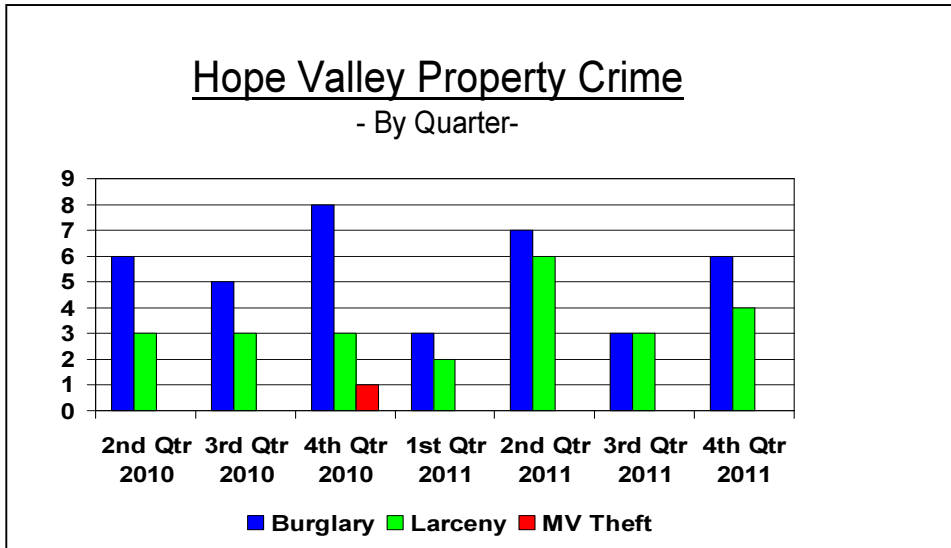
For 2011, the total reported property crime incidents in our neighborhood was significantly lower than total property crimes reported in 2010 — 34 versus 41, or down 17% year over year. This continues a trend since 2009 that has seen reductions in annual property crime incidents. 2009 saw 54 total property crimes in Hope Valley. Thus, 2010 crimes were 24% lower than the previous year.

While the second of the highest number of incidents on record, the 2011 saw more modest. The HVNA and the HVNA has initiated patrols, taken a leadership role with the Durham Police friends continued their typical neighborhood. these measures to have a positive impact on crime

During the fourth quarter of 2010, there were a total of ten crimes, (six burglaries, motor vehicle thefts), fourth quarter of 2010, of 12 property crimes larcenies, and one

Our friends at the Durham Police Department tell us that the most effective way to prevent crime is for each of us to be observant and to call "911" if we see any suspicious activity. Also, they suggest taking the following steps to remove the opportunity for criminals: lock the house and set the alarm (even if you are out working in the yard), do not leave your car unlocked and ensure all valuables are out of sight.

*As always, the Durham police caution our use of the statistics, warning that the statistics only reflect incidents reported, not necessarily crimes committed. Consequently, these numbers are subject to fluctuation as the reports are investigated. The categories used are drawn from the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Handbook. According to the FBI's UCR Handbook (2004), larceny is defined as "The unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another." Burglary is defined as "The unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or a theft." And motor vehicle theft is defined as "The theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle." For additional definitions, please refer to the UCR Handbook available online at: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/handbook/>*



quarter of 2011 had one of property crime incidents other three quarters of numbers of incidents. Durham Police have gently to reduce crime. stepped up private partnership role with the Citigram (COPS), and our from District 3 have vigilantly service to Over time, we expect continue to have a positive incidents.

quarter of 2011 there reported property four larcenies, and no as compared to the when there were a total (eight burglaries, three motor vehicle theft).

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## Home Remodeling in 2012? Put Efficiency On Your Checklist

By Bobby Ferrel, Co-Founder, Green Horizon

With low interest rates prevailing in the North Carolina through 2011 and set to carry through for the foreseeable future, home renovation projects are showing a marked increase, both from homeowners looking to improve their houses for their own comfort and those who are improving their homes for resale in 2012.

While a more spacious master bedroom or new granite counters in the kitchen are often the goal, one of the biggest benefits which homeowners find after renovations is improved energy efficiency, especially in older homes. Working energy efficiency improvements into your home renovation budget and timeline from the start not only makes the most of the existing home life disruption that occurs during renovations anyways, it also pays off for years to come and is a significant advantage for home comfort and/or potential resale value down the road.

### Draft Dodging

North Carolina sports some of the finest historical homes in the US, but unfortunately homeowners often pay the price in discomfort, living in drafty rooms in the winter and dealing with sweltering bedrooms in the summer.

Regardless of what room you're renovating for your home, proper insulation and air sealing should be foremost on your list of improvements. Your newly renovated master bedroom will seem much less desirable if you find you have to wear socks to bed to keep warm. Especially for older homes which have large and poorly insulated attics above the bedrooms, investing in spray foam insulation and air sealing will create a benefit that's invisible to the eye but tangible in your utility bills and your level of comfort for your home.

### Making the Most of Living Space

Older homes, particularly those with older radiators, can benefit significantly from improved heating and air conditioning systems. Aside from being enormously wasteful of energy, old radiators also consume several cubic feet of floor space and force odd living behaviors on home owners – you tend to place seating furniture near radiators for warmth, but not so close as to cause damage to furniture.

High efficiency forced air furnaces and ductwork, frees up valuable living space for families, while also dramatically improving the comfort of rooms with continuous and reliable temperature control; while lowering your utility bills.

### Better Air Quality

Before laying new hardwood floors, consider what is beneath your feet – the crawl space. In a home with an unsealed crawl space, up to 60% of the air on ground floor living spaces can come from your crawl space, along with all the ensuing moisture, dust and irregular temperatures.

Sealing a crawl space alone can improve a home's comfort dramatically (particularly for families with young children that spend most of their time on the floor) and improve air quality for all areas of the home. In addition, a properly sealed crawl space can reduce your energy bills by between 5 to 20% and add to the value of your home.

### Working With the Right Contractor

When evaluating and requesting bids from home renovation contractors, consider requesting an analysis of how their proposal will improve the energy efficiency of your home. While building codes are in place for home renovations in North Carolina, often contractors are used to addressing the aesthetics of a home first, with comfort and energy efficiency being a poorly planned second. If your contractor is unable to demonstrate a good grasp of energy efficiency improvements, bringing in a dedicated energy efficiency contractor to work with the renovation contractor can give you the best of both worlds.

#### About Bobby Ferrel

*Bobby Ferrel is co-founder of Green Horizon, with offices in Durham and Charlotte, offering home owners and builders a one-stop shop for energy efficiency and green building.*

*Services include home performance assessments, weatherization, closed crawl spaces, insulation, HVAC installation and maintenance, duct cleaning and geothermal heating and cooling.*

*Reach Bobby directly at [bferrel@greenhorizon.com](mailto:bferrel@greenhorizon.com) or visit him online at [www.greenhorizon.com](http://www.greenhorizon.com)*



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**Don't Miss the 2012 HVNA ANNUAL MEETING!**

**Thursday, February 23, 2012**

**7:00 PM at Hope Valley CC**

## Why We Chose Hope Valley (Twice!)

By Jill Louv

Our family didn't choose to live in Hope Valley once, we chose to live here twice. The first time we started our home search we were living in Kansas City and were all very excited to be leaving the prairie. Bill had applied for a few positions with a variety of pharmaceutical companies. When he interviewed with Glaxo he returned to us raving about the area. Fortunately, the job was offered to him and we readily accepted. We flew to the Triangle and Mary Tatum adopted us. We both liked the area but struggled with choosing the neighborhood we wanted to call home until we drove through Hope Valley. In Kansas City we were living in a new planned community. We knew we did not want to repeat that and Hope Valley filled the bill.

As we drove through the neighborhood we fell in love with the beautiful old homes, rolling hills, and tall trees. All we needed was a house and to select Carolina or Duke as the school to support. As we quickly discovered, team selection was going to be much easier than finding a place to call home. The inventory of available homes was very low and Mary worked hard to find new properties for us to tour. As we were driving through the neighborhood we spotted a small crumpled "for sale" sign on a wooded lot next to the pro shop. We inquired about the property and found that the club was selling it and the idea of building a new home began to blossom. A year later we moved into our new house with the best neighbor we have ever had, the pro shop. They were a group of nice people who took very good care of their property and went home at dark every day.

We spent 12 years in this house which became home. Our boys grew up on the fairways and tennis courts at HVCC and we have made friends that have become family. Since Bill traveled frequently, I had to rely on the kindness and generosity of these adopted family members. They have helped me tie my son's tie for his first night of cotillion and given us refuge when hurricane Fran rearranged our house. The boys and I always felt safe when Bill was working around the world and we can't begin to thank all of you who took care of us.

When we were told we had to move to Philadelphia for Bill's job I knew I would miss Hope Valley, I just didn't know how much. Prior to living here, we had moved frequently and we tried to convince ourselves that this relocation was another adventure especially since Bill was a native of Philadelphia. We opted for an urban lifestyle and remodeled a brownstone near Rittenhouse Square. We loved our new house but it was not in Hope Valley. After two long years in the northeast we were given the option to return to the Triangle. We couldn't pack fast enough. We missed the ease of living and the gracious hospitality from our old neighborhood.

Once again we piled in Mary's car and went in pursuit of our next home. As we asked, she showed us beautiful homes in Chapel Hill and other neighborhoods in Durham. But as Mary also knew, when we entered the house on Dover, we knew we were home. Even though this house is very different from our first home, we are just as happy living in Hope Valley. We have renewed old friendships and made some new ones. Our dog Cubby was able to live out his golden years overseeing the fairways of Hope Valley. We have revived some family traditions started during our first stay. But most importantly, we rejoined the rhythm of life in this lovely neighborhood and we want it to remain home for a very long time.

## Landscaping and Common Area Maintenance

The HVNA Board has approved a major refurbishment of the Dover Entry Gates and the landscaping surrounding these structures. The Gates, designed by HVCC Clubhouse designer Aymar Embury II, are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, as well as designated Historic Durham Signs by the Durham Historic Preservation Commission.

Work planned includes pruning and replacing of plants, reworking soil, and a general clean up. If you would like to contribute to this effort you may include an extra amount to your annual dues payment.

Elsewhere within Hope Valley we continue to monitor and maintain our unique traffic triangles, entries and medians with the help of the Hope Valley Garden Club and the Town and Country Garden Club. While currently City owned the HVNA and Garden Clubs spend significant amounts annually to fill gaps left by City budget cuts and General Services Department cutbacks. We are working with the City now to formalize this arrangement for better maintenance coverage and reduce redundant work.

The HVNA and Garden Clubs, maintain Windsor Way and Gates, Dover Gates, Cambridge Traffic Island, Norwich Traffic Island, Avon Cul de Sac, Bristol Cul de sac, Rugby Entry at Hope Valley Road, and the Hope Valley Garden Club Memory Garden at Dover and Surrey. We also work with the city on right of way clearing and street maintenance.

### - An Unheralded Anniversary -

Hope Valley quietly turned 85 last year, and this summer the Hope Valley Country Club will mark 85 years since its opening on July 22<sup>nd</sup> of 1927.

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## National Register Work Continues

The HVNA Board has retained a researcher to begin work on the next section of Hope Valley eligible for National Register recognition. A National Register of Historic Places nomination acknowledges significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. It also creates state tax advantages to owners of contributing structures within a National Register District

Owners of qualifying homes and other structures within the current Hope Valley National Register District are eligible for significant tax credits (as opposed to deductions) on their state income tax returns. Qualifying is not difficult; items such as new roofs, painting and repair, and even some renovations or additions make the cut. For more information contact David Christenbury, at david.christenbury@ncdrc.gov or call the Restoration Services Branch of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources 919 807-6574. Structures need only be 50 years or older to qualify, and the National Park Service, the keepers of the National Register list, are growing increasingly interested in mid – century homes and neighborhoods that they feel are threatened by inappropriate renovations and teardowns.

A National Register designation places no restrictions on use or renovation, even allowing demolitions, however there are no tax benefits in a complete teardown.

It is the policy of the HVNA Board to seek National Register recognition for as much of Hope Valley as possible, not only to celebrate its cultural impact but to provide the significant tax credits to our residents. It is the belief of the HVNA Board that Hope Valley's unique character and appeal is rooted in its homes, large and small, from contemporary to the finest revival styles. Highlighting its significance with a National Register of Historic Places listing is the best way to preserve this character while providing tax incentives to those who wish to preserve Hope Valley's built environment. Areas currently under research include portions of Westover Road, Somerset Drive, Churchill Circle, Darby Road, Eton Road, and Bristol Road. Your tax deductible gift to help finance this work is appreciated and can be included in your dues payment.

In the coming months you may notice a researcher walking these streets, photographing the homes and landscape.

## Solving the Mysteries of Home Comfort

By Bradley Yoder, Home Performance Specialist, BuildSense

You're miffed. You have a room or space in your house that's too hot, too cold, too musty, too stinky, too drafty, or too something unpleasant. You love the location of your home, its looks or layout, but allergies or respiratory issues are nagging your family, or utility bills are painfully high while recent repeated proposals by utility companies threaten to further increase rates.

Your home is for rest and comfort, peace and security, a place to recover, rejuvenate, and renew. Unfortunately, we learn more and more each day that American homes sometimes do quite the opposite by providing an unhealthy and/or uncomfortable home environment. A news report, a radio piece, a recent internet article, and numerous ads have told you of the various means to repair all sorts of home maintenance problems. Remove the mold and moisture. Replace your windows. Add insulation. Close your crawlspace. Service your HVAC. Add shading systems. The list goes on and on. So, even doing your best, it's hard to figure out which path to choose. When you finally decide to act, who do you call? Is it the window folks, the heating and air people, an electrician, the insulation installers, an interior designer, a general contractor, or somebody else? Are you worried you may be sold something just because the sales person is behind on their quota? All the uncertainty may bring you right back to putting it off again.

Don't put it off. Just ask the right questions.

While all the service providers you considered may be skilled in their individual trades, how do they know your family's unique needs and your home's unique conditions? Are they trained to view your home as a whole system? Do they have extensive knowledge of how all the various components interact with each other to operate effectively or, in many cases, ineffectively? The complexities can be overwhelming, and the solutions may not be obvious. A Home Performance Specialist will listen to your needs, examine your home, and work with you to wade through the plethora of products and services that best suit your needs and budget. Each house is unique, as is each household. How house and household fit together is critical when trying to meaningfully discern solutions that ensure lasting comfort, health, and security for your family. If your home comfort mysteries remain unsolved, do your homework and find a partner who has the whole picture, and your family's best interests, in mind.



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*Please make checks payable to: Hope Valley Neighborhood Association. Thank you!*

## - Hope Valley History: On Line! - By Dr. Harvey Estes

The 80th birthday of Hope Valley community and country club was celebrated in 2006. A historical display was prepared for this event, and it led to the discovery that information and photos about Hope Valley were scattered and uncoordinated. Everyone assumed that the Club had a collection of information, but this was not the case. There were some photographs and some collections of newspaper clippings and programs, but many were unlabeled, and there were vast gaps. Those involved in the historical project quickly came to the conclusion that the situation was deplorable and that there should be a central place for information that was searchable by all, preferably in digital form.

In the six years since that celebration, there has been a concerted effort to collect and coordinate the photographs, articles and lore about Hope Valley, and to use this information for a series of posters displayed at the Club. In addition there was some basic research done on the earliest Hope Valley homes and residents, based on the 1930 census, early city directories, and county deeds and tax records. Over two thousand photographs were accumulated, with accompanying narratives, and many documents were uncovered and added to the collection.

At the same time, others were concerned about the history of Durham, and plans were begun for a Durham history museum. These plans are not complete, but they include a collection of photographs and documents, housed at the Durham County Library. The Durham collection photos and documents will be available in digital form through the Library, will have the added security and expertise of a professional staff, responsible for cataloging and indexing the material, and of environmental protection for original material in a portion of Duke University's archival storage facility.

After consultation with the Hope Valley Country Club Board and the Durham County Library staff, we have decided that the Hope Valley historical collection should be placed with the Library, and become a part of the Durham County history project. The advantages will be that the entire collection will be available on line, properly indexed and narrated, and professionally maintained for the benefit of any who are interested. It will be indexed as "Hope Valley" material, of course, and we hope that it will continue to grow and expand by donations and research done by families and interested individuals, as in the past. Artifacts, such as articles of furniture, china, silver, trophies, etc. can also be accommodated, and will be a part of the Durham County museum when it is complete.

The photographs and documents accumulated over the past several years have already been transferred to the Durham County Library, and a library staff member is at work with the identification and indexing of this material. Hopefully, we can announce the availability of this collection from your home computers soon. In the meantime, this would be a good time to examine your own family files. Any photos, clippings, old letters, documents, etc. which you would like added can be brought to the club. We can duplicate them and return the original, if you prefer that route. We hope that you will enjoy



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