

Down in the Valley

The Newsletter of the Hope Valley Neighborhood Association

Almost spring, 1994

Volume 2, Issue 1

Totally Free



Photo Montage of Tailgate Party (© Elsa Designs)

Association Meeting is Success

October 21, 1993 - The President, Rita Musante, welcomed all and expressed the joy that so many of us shared in the swift and remarkable development of the Hope Valley Neighborhood Association (HVNA.) She likened our association to a new baby and made that the theme of her speech.

"A lot of people said it could never be done, but as I stand here tonight - I am happy to tell you that our baby, the HVNA, is not only delivered; it's off the bottle and toddling along. We have a lot to learn and we will probably fall down many times along the way, as all toddlers do - but we are off to a fantastic and enthusiastic beginning! In four short months we have surpassed our membership goal and it has become obvious people in the neighborhood want to belong to our group. We have already seen the results of the many, hard working, loyal, people on the board of directors, committee chairs, and members. All are dedicated to give "our baby" a solid foundation. As with all newborns, the future looks bright. Already, this baby is ready to stand up proudly."

We are looking forward to the next stage of growth in HVNA. What a phenomenal start!

President's Corner

Rita Musante, President

Would you believe that almost every area of our city has a neighborhood association representing it? There are Watts Hospital-Hillandale, Colony Park, Cross Counties, Parkwood, Long Meadow, Morehead Hill, Placid Valley, Red Mountain, Walltown, Trinity Park, Chapel Hill Road, and Valleybrook to name a few!! The list goes on and on.

The Interneighborhood Council (INA) is the organization which brings representatives from these neighborhoods together to discuss common concerns and to lobby for neighborhood interests. This small group does influence what happens in Durham. As your president, I have been representing Hope Valley at INA meetings for the past four months, listening and learning about what is happening in Durham, how decisions are made, and how we can use this knowledge to benefit and improve our neighborhood.

The INA meeting format includes an information session which can be of interest. In October Lorisa Seibel talked about the availability of Neighborhood Matching Grants. Our Hope Valley Neighborhood Watch Committee will pursue this. In December Doug Pearson made a presentation on school re-assignment. Because Hope Valley was represented, we secured invitations to the community-wide meeting on school reassignment and were represented there by Mary Ann Zybricki.

In addition to information, there are action items on the agenda. Action items deal with timely and sometimes controversial issues that the INA will vote on. For example, the action issues for the

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upcoming February meeting include R2 Zoning, Quieting of Noisy Parties in the Trinity Park area, and the merger of city-county goals. Next on the agenda are report items dealing with what is happening at City Council and County Commission meetings as well as other topics which could affect neighborhoods like rezoning, ordinances, school issues and openings on boards and commissions.

As an aside, I want to mention that openings on citizen advisory Boards are always announced at INA meetings. I haven't yet determined how these appointments are made - that is how much is pure merit and how much is "who you know" but if any Hope Valley resident is interested, the following openings exist: Environmental Affairs Board (lawyer), Open Space and Trails Committee.

Meetings of the Interneighborhood Council are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 pm in the Community room of the Police Dept on Chapel Hill Street. If you are interested, I encourage you to attend. Call me and we will go together.

Gatherings Committee

Chair: Mac Smith
Patti Harris
Ken & Mary Anne Zabrycki

Article By: Elsa Horn
Millie Hershner
Wendi Oliver

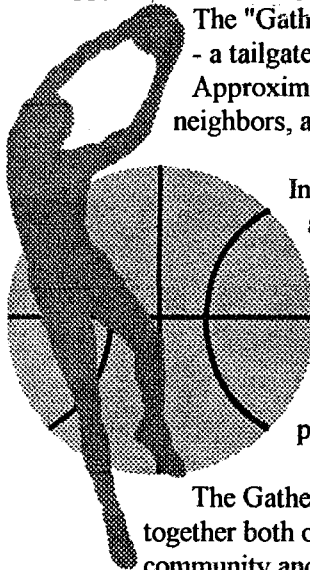
Susan Hewitt
Mac & Nancy Smith



Steve and Elsa Horn
Perry VanDyke

Happy New Year Everyone.

The "Gatherings" Committee would like to thank all of you who worked enthusiastically and attended our first event - a tailgate party on November 6, 1993. It was a huge success. We were thrilled with the incredible response!! Approximately 70 brave souls celebrated - amid rain and ankle deep mud - shared wonderful food, met exceptional neighbors, and re-discovered many of our fine friends. We think the enclosed picture says it all!!!



In the meantime, we are continuing our "quest" of getting to know you and plan again to "gather" on **March 5 from 7-10pm in the sports bar at Hope Valley Country Club**, to enjoy the Duke vs. Carolina Game. We discovered many could not get those elusive tickets to the game -- so we were inspired to provide a place for all to cheer for their favorite team. We will have delicious hors d'oeuvres, fun hoop contests and fabulous prizes-all for only \$5.00 per person. Cash bar will be available. Bring a neighbor, bring a friend - but call early for tickets (by February 28th, if possible) since space is limited!! Susan 493-4410 or Elsa 490-5436. See you there.

MARCH 5TH

The Gathering committee is very enthusiastic about future events. We hope to build on our experiences - "gather" together both our big dreams and little dreams, bring enticing social celebrations to your doorstep -- and build a sense of community and shared joys. We HOPE you will join us!!

Traffic And Zoning Committee



Chair: John Rasmussen 493-9336

Update by: Riley Stallings

Jane Davis
Tom Howerton

Dan & Susan Flye
Linda Jennings

Doreen Yarborough
Bill Livingston

Albert Roberts
Karl Mrozek

Shirley Collins
Riley Stallings

Steven Davis
Jane Hart

Construction on the northern end of Shannon Rd has begun and paving on the southern part of Shannon and the unpaved part of the MLK Parkway will begin as soon as the weather warms up enough so that the asphalt can be laid properly. The contract for the construction of the northern extension of the MLK Parkway from University Dr. to Highway 15-501 interchange has been awarded and construction should begin as soon as the weather permits.

Beautification Committee



Chair: Debbie Carver 493-5806

The Beautification Committee has completed several projects. Volunteers worked diligently spreading mulch and pruning on the corner of Dover and Hope Valley. We also had the gates on Old Chapel Hill Road spruced up by a landscaper. Our current project is the median on Windsor Way. The **next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 16 at 7:00pm in the board room of Hope Valley Country Club**. If you have an interest in the beautification of your neighborhood, please plan to attend. Many thanks to all the joggers and walkers who pick up litter on their daily workouts. Thanks also to the Garden Clubs which have given the HVNA Beautification Committee financial support.

Neighborhood Watch Committee

Chair: Ted Griffin 489-2429 Mal King 489-0502

Article by: Mille Hershner



Anne McAllister had an organizational meeting of the Neighborhood Watch Committee before Christmas. Twelve people attended: Mary Clayton, Lee Dennison, Anna Felter, Larry Finnegan, Lee and Millie Hershner, Ruth Jones, Mal King, Anne McAllister, Gary Maxwell, Marilyn Montague and Marlene Morrison.

Mal King volunteered to head the committee with the task of dividing the neighborhoods into watch groups. Mal obtained tax maps of the neighborhoods and using little colored stick-on dots as a visual aid, the task of dividing up the neighborhood into small neighborhood "blocks" was accomplished. Mal, Lee and Millie Hershner, Gary Maxwell and Mary Clayton worked with the fifteen tax maps covering the designated areas. We tried to group together between 10 and 20 houses which face each other on the same street or in the same general location. These groups are for organization and transfer of information. In the actual neighborhood watch program, neighbors would watch the surrounding houses, whether or not the houses are in their group.

There were approximately 850 houses in the Hope Valley neighborhoods, including Sheridan Drive and Trail 23. These were divided into 68 block units, which gives an average of 12-13 houses in each "block". For each "block" we need a captain and a co-captain. Many people have expressed an interest in being on the Neighborhood Watch Committee, and it is hoped these people will agree to be block captains. But with 68 different units, we need more people to volunteer.

The role of the block captain would entail the following: first, to meet with the police department one evening to learn about the city neighborhood watch program. Then the Captain would meet with the people in his/her block to pass on this information. All crimes would be reported to the specific block captain as well as to the police. The block captain would then call the Head Block Captain and also all the people in the block unit to report the crime and to see if anyone saw anything unusual which might help catch the perpetrators. We might also have Section Captains overseeing several block units and one or more of these section captains could be notified of the crime to transmit this information to the other block captains and eventually reach most of the people in the surrounding area of the crime. By calling people in this information network quickly, they can be on the alert for any further crime and they might remember details they would be likely to forget if questioned days or weeks later. Perhaps people could recall what workmen were working in the area, when and where street crews were working, what salesmen had been around, and if any suspicious cars had been cruising the neighborhoods. In this information net, no one would have to call more than 11 or 12 people, if co-captains would share phone duty especially in the larger neighborhoods. The head block captain would also keep in touch with Larry Franklin, who is the Crime Prevention Officer for this area.

Rita Musante has been checking regularly with Officer Larry Franklin for crimes which have occurred around Hope Valley. Fortunately there were none in Hope Valley in the last month's report. Let's keep it that way. Join the neighborhood watch program.

If you are interested in being a block captain or a section captain (head of 11-12 block units) please call Mal King at 489-0502 (evenings) or Millie Hershner at 493-4321 (days or evenings).

Newsletter Committee

Tom Morris
Ruth Shaffer
Donna Merritt
Marlon Salinger

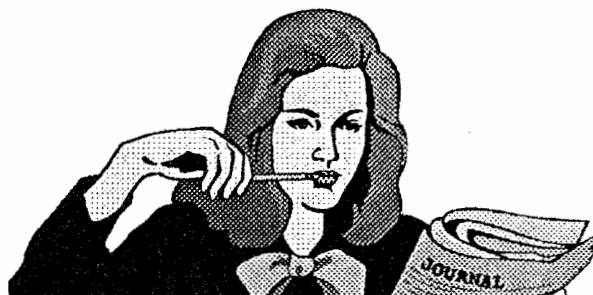
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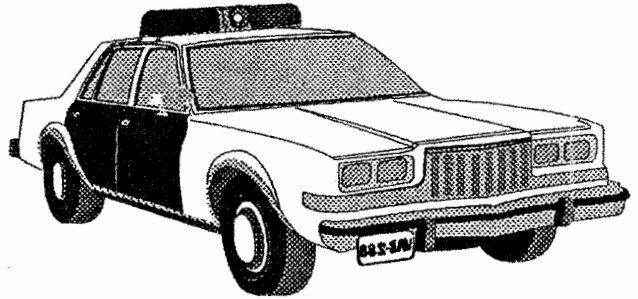
Jane Taylor
Nancy Livingston
Sue Kimdrall



POLICE LOG

What is actually happening in and around our neighborhood? Will this change when the new tenplex movie theater opens?

The following is a summary of incident reports provided by Officer Larry Franklin as part of our effort to monitor crime in the southwest area. The good news is that to our knowledge, there has been no crime inside the Hope Valley area (and we want to keep it that way).



- Be alert at Kroger late at night (after midnight). Report of loiterer at pay phone approaching a male shopper and demanding cash. Suspect displayed a pistol.
- Avoid late night stops at convenience stores. The Pantry on Hope Valley Rd had two incidents - one of armed robbery with a 45 cal weapon at 1:30 am.
- Do not park vehicles on the street overnight. Two incidents of a smashed car window and stolen property.
- Pumping Gas and not paying- this type of petty incident is keeping our police busy with calls. Starvin Marvin and other local retailers reported more than 10 such incidents in the batch of reports received.
- Area Merchants - One report of late night break in at PD Quix, one at Kerr Drug on Chapel Hill Rd., one at Rockwood Cleaners, and one at Toys R Us. Typical time is on the weekend when store is closed. Entry gained by breaking a back window or door.
- Yorktown theater - car window broken and stereo stolen.
- Breaking and Entering - Apartment at Hawks Nest broken into. Entry gained through sliding glass door. VCR and telephone answering machines stolen.
- Breaking and Entering at Archdale residence - occurred between 12 and 2 pm. Hand guns stolen.
- Breaking and Entering at Ridge Rd residence - front door kicked in- occurred between 11 am and 7 pm. Guns stolen.



Membership Application

Name(s): _____
Address: _____
Telephone: _____
Comments: _____

Mail \$5.00 for each member (\$10 per couple) to:
Aubrey King, 2816 Devon Rd., Durham 27707
Make Checks Payable to: Hope Valley Neighborhood Association

Please circle committee interest areas:

City Hall Beautification & Maintenance Neighborhood Gatherings
Neighborhood Watch Newsletter Distribution Photography