

Down in the Valley

The Newsletter of the Hope Valley Neighborhood Association

JUNE 1996

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

TOTALLY FREE



Where Did All the Voters Go?



An Urgent Message from President Brenda Kinney

It is hard to believe, but it is true. In the recent May elections for School Board and primaries, almost seventy-five percent (75%) of our friends and neighbors in Hope Valley did not vote. Most potential voters never found their way to the Parish Hall at St. Stephen's Church and consequently gave away the right to register approval or disapproval for the civic welfare of Durham. Does that mean that the non-voters are generally satisfied with local politics and policies, including the schools? Or does it mean that many have simply become demoralized and given up on the democratic process? Or is the real explanation that we consider ourselves just too busy and don't believe our single vote will make much difference?

Whatever the reason, Hope Valley's turnout was low. The Neighborhood Association believes our public voice is strengthened by demonstrating sizeable voter turnout. Therefore, at the May HVNA Board meeting, your

representatives voted unanimously to continue its policy of encouraging neighbors to exercise their franchise. As in prior elections, the Board will use the Neighborhood Watch block captains' telephone network to call neighbors and urge them to go the polls. Many block captains offered to arrange transportation for any who might need such assistance. But neighborhood awareness of the low turnout is essential. When you take a walk through Hope Valley, attend a party, or simply chat with your neighbors, think about this: three out of four people you see did not vote in May!

I urge you to participate actively in the Durham elections in November. Further, if you have any unique ideas on how to increase our neighborhood's voting strength, please share them with any HVNA Board member.

Have a wonderful summer, and we will see you in November. At the polls.

The HVNA in the Inter-Neighborhood Council

Our Voice in the Larger Community by Norman Krause

The InterNeighborhood Council (INC) is a coalition of neighborhood associations in the City and County of Durham. It seeks the "promotion, maintenance and enhancement of the quality, stability and vitality of the residential neighborhoods of Durham." The Hope Valley Neighborhood Association (HVNA) and 44 other neighborhood associations are members, each assigning a representative to the Council.

The INC meets monthly and members share their experiences with local officials as well as setting forth problems which their neighborhoods face. Sometimes there are guest speakers, and often one or two members of the City Council attend. At each meeting there is a report on the recent meetings of the City Council and the County Commissioners.

The INC is presently involved in several issues that concern all the citizens of Durham. First, it is seeking an active role in the selection of the next Durham City Manager by advocating the establishment of a Citizens Review Committee, including its own participation in such a committee. Orville Powell has stated that he will retire this year and the search process for a new manager will begin soon.

Other initiatives on the INC agenda are:

*Urging the City of Durham to make local officials in communities near the airport more keenly aware of the problems created by building new residential developments too close to runways. Such an initiative may avert possible new flight patterns which

Continued on Back 4

Further Tales of Hope Valley History

Part Two by Mena Webb

Hope Valley, incorporated in 1926, had a sizeable population by the time its country club was dedicated with much fanfare in 1928. Homes in the new suburb were not cheap. No house could cost less than \$8,500; the owner would have to connect it to a common sewer at his own expense and the water rate would be double that paid in the city.

But exclusivity was not to be had for nothing. Being able to fall asleep at night secure in the knowledge that no store, factory, business, hospital, asylum or "place of public resort" would ever be built in Hope Valley; that no signs, billboards or privies would ever deface its landscape; that all fences would be solidly built of brick, stone, concrete or metal, and that nobody would be allowed to keep pigs, provided a satisfaction not to be measured in terms of money.

Another haunting reminder of the Hope Valley Covenant is the enjoinder that "for the purpose of achieving and at all times maintaining an attractive and artistic type of architectural beauty" all prospective homeowners had to submit their house plans to a committee of three local architects (selected by Mebane and Sharp Realty Company) for approval. Homes could vary in value, but nothing could be built which was either extremely eccentric or, God forbid, "tacky," and the committee would ensure that such never happened.

Fulfilling expectations of Mebane and Sharp, the first homes built were those of Duke doctors and other faculty members. Homes along Hope Valley Road, Chelsea Circle and Dover Road were either bought or built by the following: W. A. Brownell, Harvey Branscomb, W. C. Davison, G. S. Eadie, Wiley Forbus, Paul Gross, William MacDougall, A. S. Pearse, S. B. Shealor, D. T. Smith, H. E. Spence and Newman Ivey White. Other early builders were Durham businessmen

R. J. Mebane (the first) and J. H. Erwin, Jr., Hubert Teer, P.N. Constable, T. E. Sheek, R. B. Fuller, H. M. Snow, W. F. Franck, Watts Norton and George Lyon. Although the steady sound of bulldozers, hammers and saws was music to the ears of Jess Mebane and two of his supersalesmen, Tate Dewey and Bill Lickle, their oversize sign urging folks to "Live in Hope Valley for the Whole Family's Sake" was not getting the response they craved from town dwellers, and Lickle once added a handwritten postscript to the sign that read, "Buy a Lot, for God's Sake!"

Nevertheless, membership in the Hope Valley Country Club increased steadily and when it reached 400 in 1929 the Board of Governors voted to cap the membership. According to a club bulletin distributed that year approximately 1200 men, women and children were enjoying the beautiful 18-hole golf course, the skills of an outstanding golf pro, two excellent sand-clay tennis courts, a large and sanitary swimming pool supervised by a lifeguard, a stable of 15 saddle horses, several sylvan bridle paths, many winding trails for hikers, and a club cafe "with a wide reputation for the excellence of its food, service and artistic appointments". This writer can attest to the fact that the food at the club, prepared under the supervision of Mrs. Allston Stubbs, official Club Hostess, was Low Country excellence at its best.

All of these vaunted privileges were so reasonable, said the Bulletin, since they came with a \$100 initiation fee and quarterly dues of \$15—a real bargain in view of the fact that initiation fees at some North Carolina clubs were as high as \$2,500.

But "Black Tuesday," October 29, 1929, was only months away when that was written, and when the Bull Market collapsed it would almost crush Hope Valley and the country club that was its heart.

At Issue: Guaranteeing That You Will Hear the Birds

George Conklin, Vice President of the Inter-Nighborhood Council (INC) recently raised the possibility that airport noise may soon affect parts of Durham, including Hope Valley. As airport traffic escalates, and there is increasing development very close to the runways in the Cary area, pressure may be applied to convince airport authorities to put more flight tracks over parts of Durham. Making public planning officials aware of the noise problem would help to reduce development too close to airport runways.

The INC has sent a letter to the City Council and the County Commissioners, alerting them to the environmental issue. The letter recommended that City and County officials, along with appropriate public employees, be required to attend an informational course on airport noise. Mr. Conklin indicated that the airport administration would probably be persuaded to pay for such instruction. Upon receipt of the Council's letter, Mayor Sylvia Kerckhoff said she would be happy to work with the INC in addressing this important problem.

Neighborhood Watch Report

by Millie Hershner

There have been very few reports of crime or vandalism in Hope Valley since the last newsletter, January 1996. In mid-February there were several incidents of automobile break-ins, to both locked and unlocked vehicles, on Darby and St. Mark's Roads. There was also one attempted break-in at night on Kimberly, where a security system scared the intruder away.

Please report all theft and vandalism incidents to the police, even though the thefts may be minor. Cpl. Larry Franklin, our police liaison, reminds us that police patrols are sent out depending upon the number of incident reports coming from the neighborhoods. Therefore, if we want our share of police patrols it is important to report all incidents. Also, please report the incidents to your Block Captain, who will then call the report in to the Head Block Captain (currently Millie Hershner). In this way we hope to get an idea of the area

and pattern of any series of crimes.

An updated list of Block Captains, listed by street address, is included as an insert with this newsletter. Please take a moment to look up your address and note the name of your Block Captain. This is a very important person in the life of your neighborhood. Your Block Captain has agreed to serve as a liaison in your area, keeping note of crimes and reporting them to the other neighbors. The Block Captains are the glue that holds the Neighborhood Watch Organization together and we are very appreciative of their efforts. There are still several areas without a Block Captain, as you can see by the blank spaces. If anyone would be so kind and civic-minded as to volunteer for those blocks, please call Millie Hershner at 493-4321.



Beautification Notes

by Jeanne Henrickson

It is time to go on the offensive in our gardens now. Did any one else lose a favorite bush due to the severely cold winter? How pathetic my beautiful gardenia looks! "Don't despair," I was told. If the bare stems are pliable and appear green when a small portion of the bark is skimmed off, be patient. Cut out three or four of the largest branches; this will encourage the sprouting of new growth on the smaller, more tender, ones. Don't give up or dig up until the end of June.

Keep one step ahead of the spider mites, aphids and white flies: start spraying with insecticidal soap before the damage appears. You can cut the cost of spraying by making your own according to the following recipe. I use 4 oz. of dishwashing detergent plus 2 oz. of Spreader Sticker to one gallon of water. Repeat spraying 2 to 3 days after first application, then 7 to 10 days throughout summer.

Happy gardening and a fun-filled summer!

Happy Membership News for All

by Elsa Horn

The Hope Valley Neighborhood Association continues to grow! According to Treasurer Ed Kennedy, we have the largest membership of any neighborhood group: 789 strong.

Membership gives the residents a voice in matters of moment as homeowners and as citizens. It provides you with this newsletter, encourages you to attend the Annual Meeting, where you can share views and cast votes for Board candidates, and organizes the system of block captains who diligently report breaches of security incidents and concerns. Fun and sociability is provided by the annual Tailgate Party. Above all, HVNA is interested in preserving the beauty, health and dignity of our surroundings so that generations to come will know we have been good stewards.

IF YOU HAVE NOT YET JOINED THE HOPE VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION PLEASE DO SO NOW. YOUR INPUT AND PARTICIPATION IS VITAL. PLEASE USE THE MEMBERSHIP FORM BELOW.

A REMINDER TO FORMER MEMBERS; 1996 DUES ARE CURRENTLY BEING ACCEPTED. (Any questions are welcome: call Elsa Horn at 490-5436.)

**HOPE VALLEY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1996**

Brenda Kinney - President
Robert Drake - Vice President
Carry Van Zile - Secretary
Dot and Ed Kennedy - Treasurers
Elsa Horn - Membership Chairman
Kenneth and Mary Ann Zabrycki
- Social Chairmen
Norman Krause - City Hall
Ruth Franks - Historian
Jeanne Henrikson - Beautification

Marion Salinger - Editor-in-Chief

The HVNA in the Inter-Neighborhood Council

continued from page one

will divert planes over parts of Durham.

*Supporting passage of a new noise ordinance that would outlaw excessive noise from sources such as fraternity houses, "boom boxes" and "boom cars."

*Recommending the purchase of portable speed signs by the City to slow traffic on busy streets such as Gregson Street, Duke Street and Hope Valley Road. These signs flash up the speed at which a motorist is traveling as the driver approaches the sign.

*Sponsorship by INC this year of both a workshop and a seminar. The workshop will examine the production of neighborhood association newsletters; the seminar will cover zoning matters. These programs will be open to all. More details will be available soon.

(Norman Krause is the representative of the HVNA at the INC. He is also Secretary of the INC and serves on its

Membership Application 1996

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Comments: _____

Please send \$10 Per Household to: Dot & Ed Kennedy, 3804 Churchill Cr., Durham, 27707
Make Checks Payable to: Hope Valley Neighborhood Association

Please check committee interest areas:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> City Hall | <input type="checkbox"/> Beautification & Maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Gatherings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Watch | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Distribution |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Distribution | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography |

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