

Down in the Valley

98

The Newsletter of the Hope Valley Neighborhood Association

Fall 1998

Volume 6 Issue 3

Free

Letter From The President

Millie Hershner

Police Chief Theresa Chambers will speak at this year's Annual Meeting, to be held on Wednesday, October 14 at 7:30 a.m. at St. Stephen's Church. The Board urges a good turnout to welcome Chief Chambers. The agenda includes voting for new officers and at-large board members of the association.

The nominating committee is offering the following candidates for election to the board for the 1998-99 year and nominations will be accepted from the floor at the annual meeting (* denotes new board members):

President: Jim McDonald 419-8452
(also Area Development Committee)
VP/President Elect: Ray McAfoose 419-9819
(also City Council Liaison)
Secretary: *Ellen Stark
Treasurer: *Ann Wood, 3409 Windsor Way
489-7383 (Please send your dues to
this address this year)
Past President: Millie Hershner 493-4321
(also Neighborhood Watch Committee)

At-Large Members

Norman Krause 489-5411 INC
Representative
Nonna Skumanich 683-1204 Ext. 24
Area Development
Committee
*James Pyle
*Betty Mushak 286-7193
Newsletter Co-editor

I would like to thank the outgoing members for their diligent work this past year. Many have served on the Board for several years.

In addition to Hope Valley residents, we have many dues-paying members in Surrey Green, The Valley and now Old Hope Creek. The Board voted to

include these areas to further the policy goals set forth in our by-laws of being a "voice for our common neighborhood interests by acting as liaison with governmental bodies and with institutions, schools and businesses in and around our neighborhood." (HVNA By-laws, Art. I, Sec. 2).

Impact, Diverse Interests

The more people we represent, the greater our civic impact will be. However, covering such a wide area also means that not all will be interested in the same immediate concerns. Some members are concerned with speeders on Dover Road, others with speeders on Northampton, Chippenham or Buckingham Road. Some are interested in maintaining the Gates at Dover and Windsor Way, while others are concerned with improving the beauty and safety (specifically overgrown brush) of other entrances to our neighborhoods, such as those at Rugby, Northampton and Champaign.

The results of last year's survey distributed at the Annual Meeting indicated that many residents would like to improve the appearance and safety of the entrance at the intersection of Rugby and Hope Valley roads. One function of the Board is to distribute equitably money from the association's dues-paying members to all of our neighborhoods with legitimate needs.

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Hope Valley Neighborhood Association

1998 Annual Meeting

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

7:30 p.m. Wednesday

October 14, 1998

Speaker: Chief Theresa Chambers

Durham City Police Department

City, Schools Present Plans To INC

By Norman Krause
 HVNA Representative To INC

The Inter-Neighborhood Council's meetings this Spring featured Ann Denlinger, Superintendent of Durham Public Schools; Laura Gill, Durham's Budget Director; and an open meeting to discuss the pros and cons of building Eno Drive.

Dr. Denlinger reported that she has reorganized the District's Human Resources and Finance Departments and given them new direction. A Public Affairs Department has been established. She also expressed her desire to divert the focus of educational discourse from politics to the educational needs of students.

Laura Gill described the recently-approved city budget. Using focus groups, surveys, coffees

with Council, and other forums, the city has attempted to establish a budget reflecting citizen priorities: crime reduction, economic development, affordable housing, and enhancement of Durham's image. The Police Department will get 22 new positions. Four new park rangers will be hired, and plans are underway to establish an environmental court.

The discussion of Eno Drive was spirited. The meeting allowed sharing of thoughts and concerns, but INC will not take sides on this issue. County Commissioner Becky Heron, who will chair a Joint City-County Planning Committee which will address the Eno Drive issue, said she benefitted from exposure to this discussion.

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Neighborhood Watch

New Block Captains are:

- Buckingham Road, 2900-2942: K. and F. Zirkle, 2915 Buckingham, 489-0628
- Darby Road: Carolyn Wright, 3824 Darby Road, 489-6969
- Westover Road, 3603-3633: Harriette Frank, 3603 Westover Rd., 489-0555

There were several incidents of mailbox vandalism over the summer. The vandals at one residence were caught and their parents and the police were notified. In July, an outboard motor was unbolted from a boat, and several yard tools were taken from an unlocked shed in a yard on Dover Road.

I was notified of only one break-in since the last newsletter. It occurred on Sunday, June 21, on a street off Champaign while the occupants were away for the weekend. Police caught the intruder.

A Hope Valley resident whose house was burgled last Spring recovered some of the stolen silver at Replacements on Highway 40 in Greensboro.

The store was very cooperative and turned over all the items identified as well as the name of the individual who sold them the silver.

The HVNA Block Captain network and Neighborhood Watch is working. If you experience vandalism or a break-in, call the police and notify your Block Captain, who should then report to the Area Captain (see the blue sheet of Block Captains inserted in last January's newsletter) or to me. If you see something suspicious, follow the same procedure.

Mark Your Calendar

7:30 p.m.

October 14

Welcome the Chief

and

Support Your

Neighborhood Association

THEY MOVED TO HOPE VALLEY

An Occasional Memoir by Mena Webb

Much of Hope Valley's history is contained in the fabric of its original homes and its clubhouse, all built at least seventy years ago. But it was the people who lived in those houses, and played at the club, who were to give the community its flavor, its legends and its secrets. In this writer's memory, the most unforgettable of those were the R. J. Mebanes, Hope Valley's "first family," who lived in its first house.

The Shepherd-Mebane-Peete home, said to be oldest in Durham County, had been moved from Hope Valley Road to 2814 Chelsea Circle by Jess Mebane, formerly of Greensboro, who developed Hope Valley. Extensive renovations, additions, decoration, and landscaping transformed the original farmhouse into a showplace becoming the center for many wonderful parties. The charming, indefatigable Mebanes, by their own example, encouraged residents to play golf and tennis, to ride horseback, swim, to attend weekly bridge games and monthly dances in the club ballroom, and to enjoy the good life.

The Mebane household was comprised of parents Jess and Pearl, their children, Robert, Anne and Esther; their widowed sister-in-law Sadie Mebane and her sons, Cummins and Gilmer (aka Cump and Gip); and Grandmother Mebane and her "spinster" daughter Anne (aka Mamoni and Partner). The six-bedroom house seemed capable of expanding to fit any number, and the dining room table, which easily seated 12, often made room for more, including this writer.

The summer of 1929 was one of my happiest in Hope Valley, where we had already lived on Dover Road for two years and long since adjusted to being "out in the country" instead of on Main Street in bustling downtown Durham. My father, true to his Scottish roots, had fallen in love with golf, and my mother with her new house--so different from the rambling Victorian home in town. The Dover Road house boasted an electric stove, a refrigerator, a furnace, and gleaming white-tiled bathrooms. Such conveniences kept my mother smiling and singing much of each day, and kept my 17-year-old sister and my 14 year-old self free of household chores.

For us, life could not have been sweeter. With our new friends, the Mebane girls, we played tennis when no adults were using the courts; mounted the slowest, most predictable horses in the Hope Valley Riding Stable whenever we could scrape up a dollar, and swam in the club pool. Evenings, at our house or the Mebanes, we mostly waited for boys to "check by," and mostly they did. Then we danced, sometimes not too successfully, to jazz from the self-playing Magnavox. All of us, boys and girls, were practicing to be grown-ups in what is now called a "safe environment"--under watchful parental eyes.

It seems pretty tame in retrospect, but whenever I look back to the stock market crash and the Great Depression that nearly destroyed Hope Valley, I see it this as one of the best of times, before one of the worst of times made us grow up too soon.

Lighting Up

Durham's Transportation Engineering Specialist, Terry S. Thompson, has sent a letter explaining the city's policy on street lighting. He tells us that street lighting is available on a block-by basis through petition by 51 percent of the property owners on the block; on a cul-de-sac through a petition signed by 100 percent of the owners.

If you would like to request additional lighting for your street, call Mr. Thompson at 560-4366. In addition, you may report damaged or burned out street lights by calling 560-4366 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and at other times by calling the Emergency Response office at the non-emergency number, 560-4209. Keeping the street lights burning helps reduce and prevent crime, Mr. Thompson noted.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL

 Application Renewal Additional Contribution to Beautification

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Comments: _____

*Mail \$10 per household to: Ann Wood, 3409 Windsor Way, Durham, NC 27707
Make checks payable to Hope Valley Neighborhood Association*

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