

Down in the Valley

The Newsletter of the Hope Valley Neighborhood Association

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FREE



A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



by Millie Hershner

The Board of the Hope Valley Association is concerned that its composition continue to represent the residents of our growing community broadly and well. We are therefore soliciting early for people who might be interested in joining the 1998-99 Board. We meet the second Wednesday of each month in the Hope Valley Country Club Board Room at 7:30 p.m. and the meetings usually last an hour. We do not meet over the summer and this is one of the reasons we are sending out an early call for candidates. If you are interested in becoming more active in preserving and protecting the unique character of this community, please call me at 493-4321, or telephone any other Board member.

You will notice a new feature on the membership renewal form. It has been suggested that we follow the generous examples of the neighborhood Garden Clubs supporting our maintenance and beautification efforts by providing a way for individuals who are not Garden Club members to share in the projects. Check that space and send your contribution to the HVNA Treasurer.

If you are not sure whether you have paid your dues for the 97-98 fiscal year, please observe the superscript near your name on the envelope. If it doesn't show a "98" we would greatly appreciate your payment now. The publication of Down in the Valley is a major cost even though we have downgraded the format and cut to three issues per year. We try to include in this newsletter pertinent information not easily obtainable from other sources. Our policy has been to send the newsletter to all residents, but it may not be financially feasible in the future to continue this practice for those who do not belong to the Association. Therefore I send this special appeal: if you find the information in the newsletter helpful, please join your neighbors and return a check for your dues.

One last entreaty: we ask that you be a considerate neighbor and drive the speed limit within our neighborhoods. Share this request with your teenagers who are drivers!

ENCOURAGING NEWS FROM THE INTER-NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

by Norman H. Krause, Representative

Recent meetings of the Inter-Neighborhood Council featured interesting speakers. In January, Earl Llewellyn of Durham's Transportation Department spoke about methods of controlling speeding in neighborhoods, e.g. traffic circles, stop signs, lower speed limits and speed humps. Durham will eventually install a state-of-the-art traffic signal system which will provide a central computer and greater monitoring control. February's speaker, Bill Kalkhof, President of Downtown Durham, described efforts underway to improve downtown Durham and to attract more significant development. The most recent guest speaker

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REPORT ON DURHAM CITY COUNCIL AND TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

by Raymond C. McAfoose

Coffee with Council

On January 26, 1998 the Hope Valley Neighborhood Association hosted a Coffee with the Durham City Councilors at the Hope Valley Farms Clubhouse. I moderated a meeting of over fifty people from eleven southwestern neighborhood associations, including Bent Creek, Dunbarton, Eagle Ridge, Hope Valley, Hope Valley Farms, Knollwood, Surrey Green, The Valley, Trotter Ridge, Valley Brook and Woodcroft. Of the thirteen councilors, Pam Blyth, Cynthia Brown, Howard Clement III, Ty Cox, Kim Griffin, Mary D. Jacobs, Erick Larson II, Paul Miller and Mayor Nick Tennyson attended and participated in the open "town meeting" format. Residents were afforded the opportunity of asking questions and expressing their concerns. Traffic in southwestern Durham and the City budget were the most urgent issues.

Transportation Improvement Projects

Because of the interest expressed in traffic at the Coffee with City Council, a public presentation was made to the southwestern Durham neighborhoods on February 26, 1998. The subject was the Durham 2020 Comprehensive Plan and Transportation Improvement Projects in Southwest Durham. Councilor Pam Blyth facilitated this meeting at the Hope Valley Farms Clubhouse. A list of the Transportation Improvement Projects is attached for your information. The indicated projects are planned—some already funded, others anticipating funding, and a number which will not be funded because of other priorities. Some of these projects are funded by the state, some by city/state, and others by private developments. Your NVNA Board will keep watch on these projects as they progress. The attached charts identify the locations.



SIGNS OF SPRING IN THE VALLEY

by Rita Musante, Beautification

The Hope Valley Gates at Windsor Way and Dover are being beautifully maintained once again and promise a colorful season. Special thanks go to Jeanne Henrickson, former chairman of Beautification, who supervised the revised planting last year and gave many hours of yeoman-like service. We are also thankful for the generous contributions of the Daylily, Town and Country, and Four Seasons Garden Clubs. With their help, along with funds from the HVNA, we are able to cover an annual care contract for mowing, weeding, and mulch maintenance. In addition, this year a perennial planting has been added, including yellow Stella de Oro Daylilies and Phlox. Look for color soon, continuing through summer, to brighten our community. It will interest you to know that pictures of the now historic gates were included in the new census of State and National private sculptures, symbols, markers and gateways, being conducted.

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was Teresa Chambers, Durham's new Police Chief. She recounted efforts underway to make the Police Department more efficient and effective. District Commanders will have more responsibility and autonomy, she said. Chief Chambers wants to encourage her officers to "think outside the box" and to come up with innovative solutions to problems. These speakers gave the impression that Durham may be "on the move" toward dramatic improvement in the perceived and actual quality of life in this city.

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project and several on the direct route from this project to the nearest main road access. If anyone has seen anything suspicious, please call me (493-4321). And, in the future jot down any suspect vehicles or persons, noting the date and time. Keep this note handy so that if a robbery is reported later, your information may be helpful. Meanwhile, use your burglar alarms, even if you leave for a short time.

Also, on April 14th, a woman had her purse snatched in the foyer of the Hope Valley Country Club.

From the Desk of the Treasurer - Kelly Peters

Please make a note- the address printed in the last newsletter was incorrect. Send your membership applications/renewals to: Kelly Peters, 3938 Westchester Rd., Durham, 27707.

The HVNA "year" runs from Oct. 1-Sept. 30. If you have paid your 1998 dues (Oct. 1997-Sept. 1998), a "98" will appear on your address label. If you inadvertently paid twice in '98, you will be credited for '99. There are approximately 350 households that have joined HVNA out of over 750 homes in the neighborhood.

We would like to see more homes represented.

A Note about the upcoming election

By the time this newsletter is printed we all should know whether or not we will be having an election on May 5th. For the School Board this is not a primary, it is the election!!! This is a non-partisan election (everyone gets to vote) but you will only be able to vote for one candidate from your district. Hope Valley is in District 3, and the candidates are Gail Heath and Frank Meachem.

The quality of the Durham Public Schools is significant to us all, whether or not we currently have children in the public schools. The schools not only influence our property values, they are also key to keeping Durham a viable community. The School Board will be facing many important issues in the future; increasing numbers of students due to population growth, improving student achievement, modifying the district's AG program, and preventing drop-outs. Please take some time to learn about the candidates and vote for your choice. Let your voice be heard on these important issues that affect your community.

If a Democratic Primary is held for NC House district 23, five Democrats are running for three seats. Since there are no Republican candidates, the top three vote getters will be elected. The candidates for NC House district 23 are: David C. Smith (not David A. Smith of "Friends of Durham"), Paul Luebke, George Miller, Mickey Michaux, and Keith Hempstead.



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH REPORT

by Millie Hershner



The Hope Valley jewelry and silver burglar is at it again! Here is the latest data:

January ?, Devon near HV Rd., evening, kicked in rear door

Feb. 20, Champaign near Garrett, noon-2:30, opened rear deck window

Feb. 26, Darwin, 11-3:30 PM, broke carport window

Feb. 27, Windsor near CH Rd, daytime, forced rear deck window

If there have been others, please notify me. These burglaries are perpetrated quickly but focus mostly on the master bedroom for jewelry and the dining room for sterling silver. The burglar seems to be escaping into the woods and exiting either on another street or in the Westminster parking lot. Many of the houses targeted are those in which the resident is away on an irregular basis but their houses are being watched. It is also possible that the thief is ringing doorbells or calling from cellular phones to ascertain occupancy.

Since it seems unlikely that anyone would pursue him into the woods, the only way of "catching" him is to locate and identify the escape vehicle (color, make, model and license number). Even if the break-in is reported to the police, chances are he would be gone before they could arrive. Therefore I have included here a map of Hope Valley made from four City Engineering maps. Please keep this map handy, and if you or a neighbor are robbed, note the possible backyard exits and notify residents there. They are the ones likely to have seen a strange vehicle parked nearby for a few minutes. Also ask your neighbors if anyone came door to door to several immediate houses around that time. A number of these robberies occurred a few weeks after the completion of a nearby construction

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HOPE VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1998

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL

Application Renewal Contribution to Beautification

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Comments: _____

Mail \$10 per household to: Kelly Peters, 3938 Westchester Rd., Durham 27707

Make Checks Payable to: Hope Valley Neighborhood Ass'n