

Down in the Valley

The Newsletter of the Hope Valley Neighborhood Association

Spring 1999

Volume 7, Number 2

Free

Public Works Director to Speak

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Jim McDonald

Quiz of the Month. Who is the current Director of Public Works? Don't know, don't care? Please reconsider, particularly if you pay taxes. Public Works is responsible for providing some very basic city services; water, sewer and street maintenance; roadway appearance; stormwater control, and engineering and transportation. Your daily activities and our local concerns are strongly influenced by the effectiveness of the Public Works Department. (Perhaps you're not excited by your water bill, but then again, how did you react when the Herald-Sun reported that the City had inadvertently given away water to some of the area's largest employers?)

Because it is such a critical department, we have arranged for the current Director of Public Works, Katie Kalb, to hold an information session for our neighborhood. ***The meeting will be held at St. Stephen's Church on Tuesday, May 25th at 7 p.m.*** Ms. Kalb will provide an overview of the Department and discuss such issues as the recent flap over free water, traffic, the I-40 widening and the MLK Parkway, water quality and street repairs.

In February, HVNA hosted the annual "Coffee with Council" at Hope Valley Farms. With invitations extended to over 45 area neighborhoods, the format provided a wonderful opportunity for the citizens of Southern Durham to speak directly with their elected officials. And speak we did. The discussions covered a range of topics, including the Heritage Square financing debacle, the impact of Southern Durham's explosive growth, school funding and the city budget, potholes and, of course, traffic, traffic, and traffic. It was a very worthwhile endeavor and many thanks to Ray McAfoose for organizing the event.

Development. Despite strong neighborhood opposition and a highly critical staff report, the City Council voted to approve the rezoning request (Case P98-61) for the SW corner of NC-751 and NC-54. The proposed use is for an 11,000-square-foot drugstore with a prescription drive through window. Next up is Case P98-47, a five-acre development on the northwest corner of the Hope Valley/Garrett roads intersection. This commercial development calls for office space, a restaurant and another pharmacy.

Meanwhile, just to the north on Garrett Road, Duke Power Company is planning to install a 200-foot high communications tower, Case P99-12 for those of you who want to look it up on the city's web site.

A few reminders. Please slow down; the posted speed limit is 25 mph. **Dues are due.** We are currently in the process of collecting dues (\$10 per household) for the fiscal year ending in October 1999. Checks should be made out to HVNA and mailed to our Treasurer, Jim Pyle, at 12 Pilling Place. **Dead need not apply.** We currently have an opening on next year's board. Interested candidates must have a pulse and be willing to contribute 12-14 hours over the course of the year. You will get to work with some really great people. Call 419-8452 and volunteer today! **Oh Fido!** Do you have a dog that likes to howl at the moon, harmonize with the sirens, or just bark at the stars? If you do, please be respectful of your neighbors' right to a good night's sleep and take whatever action is necessary to muzzle Sparky's late night serenades.

HOPE TO SEE YOU ON TUESDAY, MAY 25TH. THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

ALERT: CARS Rifled, STOLEN

by Millie HERSHNER

There has been an alarming increase in car theft and vandalism since the last newsletter report. Almost every week there have been reports of unlocked cars which have been rifled for theft and also in efforts to find a spare key in order to steal the vehicle. Most of the stolen cars were taken by using a spare key stored in the vehicle. These break-ins and thefts occurred in the night.

Words of warning: **LOCK YOUR CARS!** Don't leave valuable items on the car seats--put them in the trunk. It may seem inconvenient, but we know intruders are going through the neighborhood in the middle of the night and looking into parked cars. Just recently we received several reports of cars with windows smashed in order to reach purses and other items.

I have not heard of any home break-ins, but keep up your guard. There is a lot of construction going on and when there are transients, sometimes including workers, there is often a rash of crime.

There have also been numerous reports of mailbox vandalism. After one perpetrator was identified and the police notified, we thought the incidents would stop, but apparently this is not the case. Please continue to report these incidents so that by identifying frequency and location we might identify those responsible.

Please report all incidents of crime, vandalism or suspicious activity to your block captain. You should be receiving a postcard this month with the name and phone number of your block captain. Keep this card in a handy place so you can report any incidents quickly.

POLICE HOLD GANG AWARENESS SEMINAR

Ann McAllister and Millie Hershner attended a seminar held by the Durham Police addressing the presence of gangs in Durham. The police are aware of this presence and are trying to help the public learn to recognize gang activity through patterns of dress and physical behavior.

The presence of gangs is especially problematic in the schools. Gang members will often dress in predominantly one color, or wear a special hat, or a hat with a specific insignia. The police urged parents to note whether their children or their friends exhibit any of these gang signs, and to urge parents to talk to their children about the dangers of getting involved with gangs.

INC Takes to the Web

by Norman Krause

The Inter-Neighborhood Council (INC) has recently set up a web site. It contains a list of "hot spots" where neighborhoods are involved in zoning disputes, the dates and programs of INC meetings, minutes of past meetings, and links to governmental agencies and officials. The address is <http://www.rtpnet.org/-durhminc/>. Pay it a visit sometime!

INC is planning a summit meeting in downtown Durham in September. The summit is still in the planning stages, but its goal is to connect neighborhoods with community leaders and a variety of services.

The INC meetings so far this year have included a succession of speakers. In January Ted Abernathy, Director, City of Durham Economic Development, described the objectives of his department and its activities, which are geared to creating new jobs for citizens and simultaneously increasing the tax base. In February the Environmental Resources Department of Durham held a focus group meeting directed at identifying concerns INC representatives have experienced with water and sewer services. In March Patrick Byker from the Durham Chamber of Commerce addressed the INC meeting. April's meeting featured a representative from Smart Growth.

Back in The Valley: Seconds, Thirds, Even A Fourth

Part I: Reminiscences with Happy Residents

By Marion Salinger

Past columns by Mina Webb described early patterns of aims and creativity which led to the building of Hope Valley--its founding families and their dreams for life along the quiet roads and gentle rises we still cherish and tend. In the last issue, Lib Griffin treated us to a capsule of family life in the surge of development which came to Hope Valley in the late forties and fifties. But the story doesn't end there! Many mailboxes bear familiar names though the original cast has changed.

Second, third, and even a fourth generation are living in Hope Valley and the curiosity of this reporter was piqued. Why did they stay, or why did they come back, what are their careers and families adding to life in the Valley, and what memories do they cherish? Inquiry brought some cogent practical responses as well as warm memories.

Let's begin with a "Third": Stephen W. Barringer, 3918 Dover Road, whose grandparents, (the Hubert Teers and the Russell Barringers), as well as his own parents, the Russell Barringer Jrs., all lived in Hope Valley. Steve and his wife, Mimi, have two children, Grace (8) and Veronica (5). The girls are the "fourth" generation. Steve works with his family in a variety of businesses. He wrote, "I wanted my children to grow up in this wonderful place. The golf course is a beautiful neighbor, as is the clubhouse. The peacefulness and serenity of the area cannot be matched. I love the sense of continuity and place. The ability to talk with my children about the things they are doing and being able to say that I had done the exact same thing in the same place.

"My children love Hope Valley. They love running out onto the golf course late on a summer evening and rolling down the hills....they love taking walks up and down Plymouth Road. What's not to love?" Most eloquent are some of Steve's special memories: "I have a ton of great memories about the neighborhood, having lived here for 13 of my 36 years, but the one that makes me smile the most is lying in bed on a warm night with my windows open and being able to hear the band playing at some big party up at the club. It happened all the time when I was 6-10 years old and it was just a great feeling to hear that music wafting over the valley from the club to the house on Chelsea Circle and thinking about my mom and dad, even my grandparents, up there in the ballroom dancing. Great memories!!"

Another "second" who built in Hope Valley is Dr. Charles H. Livengood II, who lives at 3203 Rugby Road, with his wife Faye Thomas and son Nicholas McLeod (9 years old). His parents were Charles and Virginia Livengood, whose family home was on Chelsea Circle. Dr. Livengood is a physician with Duke Medical Center and he says he was drawn back to Hope Valley for reasons of "comfort, safety, tradition and convenience." He finds life here "almost entirely unchanged--a welcome difference from the rest of my life where too much changes too fast!" Moreover, the atmosphere in Hope Valley "engenders consideration of others, friendliness, relaxation, peace, and a wish to contribute to the beauty of the surroundings....no ordinances or committees needed!" His memories well up too when he recalls "every warm hazy early evening in the summer, when I walked along listening to frogs, crickets and watching lightning bugs in Hope Valley. Much of my present fondness for life I learned on those walks."

These appreciative "returnees" are not without criticism and desire for improvement! Steve Barringer laments that "It could be the times, but the neighborhood seems to have lost some of its grace." He hopes that new residents will have an opportunity to understand the traditions and history of our special neighborhood. And Charles Livengood thinks perhaps "we have become too prissy about the golf course--it was more useful when it doubled as a football field, bicycle race track, etc."

I hope you enjoy walking the paths of local history. We will introduce you to several other "been heres" in the next issue of *DOWN IN THE VALLEY*. Send in your memories!

Check It Out-- www.hope-valley.org

Thanks to a generous offer by Henry Nicholson, a computer-savvy "Second", the Hope Valley Neighborhood Association is reaching for the Web. The first effort is this newsletter, which should be up by the time you read this.

1999 HOPE VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jim McDonald, President 419-8452

(and Area Development Committee)

Ray McAfoose, Vice President 419-9819

(and City Council Liaison)

Secretary*--Open Post

Jim Pyle, Treasurer 490-0357

Millie Hershner, Past President 493-4321

(and Neighborhood Watch)

At-Large Members

Norman Krause 489-5411

(and INC Representative)

Rita Musante, Beautification

Nonna Skumanitch 683-1204 Ext. 24

Betty Mushak 286-7193

Co-editors of *Down in the Valley*

Marion Salinger & Betty Mushak
