

# Down in the Valley

The Newsletter of the Hope Valley Neighborhood Association

Winter 1999

Volume 7 Issue 1

Free

## New HVNA Year Off To Roaring Start

Jim McDonald, President

The year 1998-99 roared to life with a highly energetic and exceptionally informative presentation at the Annual Meeting by Police Chief Theresa Chambers. In early December, tension was the order of the day as representatives from the proposed I-40 megamall between Highway 751 and Fayetteville Street and those opposed to it made presentations at an information session sponsored by HVNA.

Coffee With Council is scheduled for 7 p.m. on February 10 at the Hope Valley Farms Club House. Reminders will be posted at the various neighborhood exits.

Important reminder...**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. Prior to making any payments, check to see if you have a "99" on your mailing label. If it's there, that means you have paid your current fiscal dues. If not, we would greatly appreciate it if you would join the Association today. Please note that any donations in excess of current dues are rolled over to the beautification committee.

We presently have a mailing list of about 800 households, of which approximately 200 are dues-paying members. We hope to achieve a 75% participation rate prior to the next annual meeting. Please support your Neighborhood Association. The dues are truly nominal and will go a long way if everyone contributes.

Hats off to Rita Musante who has recently agreed to fill an open Board seat. Rita will direct

our beautification efforts. As always, we have an open invitation to anyone willing to help the Board pursue topics of neighborhood interest. While our agenda is normally dominated by traditional concerns such as zoning, neighborhood watch, membership, newsletter, etc., we have a strong desire to broaden our scope to include additional areas of interest (e.g. schools, parks and recreation). If you are interested in participating on the Board, please give me a call at 419-8452.

Coming soon to a wooded area near you...a mall, three hotels, 490 apartments, an office complex, a new parkway, and a convenience store. By the time you receive this communication, City Council will have voted on the proposed Southpoint Developments and all indications are that the rezoning requests will pass. At the time of this writing, and because of *limited feedback* from the neighborhood, the Board will neither oppose nor propose the rezonings. We will, however, present a list of our concerns and recommendations to Council, particularly concerning the short life of local land use planning. Please give me a call at 419-8452 if you are interested in reviewing this information and I will mail you a copy of our written submission.

One final reminder...**please slow down** as you drive through the neighborhood. While the posted speed limit is 25 MPH, many of us (with small children) would be grateful if you kept it under 35 MPH. With that, I wish you all a Happy New Year.

### **Mark Your Calendar: Coffee With Council February 10**

Expect a lively discussion on Wednesday, Feb. 10 at the *Hope Valley Farms Clubhouse* when members of Durham City Council join ours and nearby neighborhood associations for an informal exchange.

The gathering begins at 7 p.m. at the clubhouse, 4818 South Roxboro Street.

Whether you have questions or concerns about traffic, development, road maintenance, parks, waste pickup and recycling, or other city services, this is an opportunity to let your elected officials know what matters to you.

Once more, we thank Ray McAfoose for his efforts in organizing the opportunity to meet with Council members.

# Romping Down Memory Lane of Mid 20th Century

By Lib Griffin

(Self-described as "fit and feisty during the 1950s" when she moved to Hope Valley, Lib Griffin found it to be a "friendly, fertile, fun-loving neighborhood.")

A wooded area with streams to dam, camps to make and tree houses to build. No more traffic. No more car doors opening, children being dumped outside my door--other folks' children! No more close calls as little folks crossed the busy streets of Durham. With two girls and five boys, could you resist Hope Valley?

We had reluctantly left *Trinity Treat*, our huge 75-year old home on Trinity Avenue. Grace Baptist Church campaigned to buy our property; they needed it for parking. They had enlarged the church and all kinds of forbidden materials were piled temptingly near. My mothering duties were enlarged to include security and police work, not to mention safety. The fenced-in backyard, complete with an old two-story barn, had lost its allure. No match for a next-door construction site!

Hope Valley was in the county then. It had its own sewer and water system since the Country Club was built in 1926. We chose two lots on Somerset Drive for \$2,500 each. There were only two houses on the street--one to left, one to the right. The water lines stopped just beyond the Gordon Ogburn (Erwin Mills) house and so did the pavement. The Carl Harris (Home Savings and Loan Company) home was on the corner of Somerset Drive and Westover. Just one romp in the woods convinced the kids that they had moved to heaven. We lovingly named our new home *Bedlam*. It seemed appropriate for the eleven of us. We moved in 1957. *Bedlam* didn't have the high ceilings or many hiding places of *Trinity Treat*. Its attic and basement were the length and width of the house and it held more bathrooms and an intercom. None of these could compete with the woods. The children promptly named the patch of trees between the Club and our house "The Little Woods" and those in the back were dubbed "The Big Woods."

*Hope Valley was a fun place.* Soon a building boom made it even more fun for my boys. It was also a fertile place. Next came the baby boom and I was part of it! My house was not a home without a baby. Son

No. 6 (Child No. 8) arrived. We mothers had a perfect place to stroll babies and to admire each other's little ones.

*Hope Valley was a friendly place.* Especially when Churchill Circle was carved out of the little woods and it became a neighborhood, still very much a part of Hope Valley. I recall the "older" residents across the golf course counting on some of my boys or girls to play with their grandchildren when they visited.

*Hope Valley was an exciting place.* It was very much alive. Soon social organizations began to outgrow the city clubs. The Four Seasons Garden Club (part of the Durham Council of Garden Clubs) was organized in 1957; Girl and Boy Scout troops sprang up and thrived. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church was founded in 1959 and met originally in the auditorium of Hope Valley School. I will never forget that because Son No. 7 (child No. 9) was baptized there. We named him "Stephen," after the new church. Our own list had run out of boys' names and we needed all the help we could get!

About 1965 Hope Valley was annexed by the city. Ready or not, no choice. The handsome wrought-iron street signs were replaced with the green and white metal ones. Parents were faced with school decisions. Our two oldest children finished at Durham High; the others went to Hope Valley School. The third child graduated from Southern. Now citified, the last six attended Jordan.

When the time came to move and dismantle *Bedlam*, I vowed not to look back but only forward. However, I recall the basement with particular nostalgia. It was the neighborhood YMCA and stayed full of children, Ping-Pong and pool, a cold drink box and a telephone booth.

Thanks to *Down in the Valley* for allowing me to stroll down memory lane. My reward? It has been in seeing those children who swarmed the environs of Hope Valley grow up and become outstanding adults, tax-paying citizens, making a difference. I hope you feel blessed to live in Hope Valley. I did.

# Inter-Neighborhood Council Considers Safety, Litter Control

*by Norman H. Krause*

The meetings of the Inter-Neighborhood Council (INC) this fall started off in September with Officer Daniel Edwards of the Durham Police Department as guest. He spoke about personal safety and household security issues, offering hints on personal safety. Home lighting, securing doors and windows, installation of security systems and description of techniques commonly used by house breakers, were all carefully covered topics.

---

Coffee With Council  
7 p.m. February 10  
Hope Valley Farms Clubhouse

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH REPORT

*by Millie Hershner*

There have been no reported home or automobile break-ins since the last issue of this newsletter and there were no reports of stolen seasonal decorations. It appears to have been a peaceful holiday in Hope Valley.

However, it has come to the attention of the Board that many people are using private driveways of homes on Bentley Drive to reach Garrett Road. When cars are parked in the driveways, these trespassers often cut across the lawns to drive around the vehicles. This unauthorized use of private drives to gain quick access either from or to Garrett Road is not only annoying the homeowners, but also damaging their lawns and shrubs. The cut-throughs are being used by high school and college students, by construction and repair workmen, and by food delivery personnel. Signs indicating "private drive" have been removed by vandals.

Our neighbors on Bentley Drive deserve the right to private property that we all desire and enjoy. If you live in an area made accessible by these cut-throughs, please discuss the matter with your children of driving age and their friends. They may not be aware that they're breaking the law as well as imposing on the property rights of others.

The speaker at the October meeting was Bill Anderson, Durham's "one-man litter police force." Mr. Anderson is a private citizen who tracks down persons who illegally dump trash, thereupon either persuading the illegal dumper to pick up the trash and take it to the transfer station, or calls in the police. He is also active in trying to persuade several city departments to attack the illegal dumping problem in a coordinated manner.

The INC is often concerned with zoning matters of moment. In November, speakers from Citizens Against Urban Sprawl Everywhere (the group that is opposing the proposed Southpoint Mall at I-40 and Fayetteville Road) presented their views. This same group was heard at the Hope Valley Association's meeting on December 2, 1998. INC seldom takes a position for or against a rezoning; it will, however, take action if proper procedures are not being followed.

### REASONS FOR YOU TO JOIN AND SUPPORT HVNA

A large percentage of Hope Valley residents do not belong to HVNA. Are you one of them? You probably are receiving *DOWN IN THE VALLEY* anyway but in that case, this service is being supported by the membership dues of others. We think you want to pay your fair share. But you may be asking yourself, "Why should I be a member? What does it do for me? What does it do for my community?" Here are some of the reasons set forth by members of the Board. READ THEM AND THEN PAY YOUR FAIR SHARE.

Publication of this newsletter is a primary form of communication for residents of our area and it is the single largest budget item.

HVNA provides your only Neighborhood Watch network. It is there for you every day and night.

HVNA Board members study and analyze pertinent zoning matters for you.

Our organization has an important voice in the larger affairs of Durham through its representation on the Inter-Neighborhood Council.

Funds for beautification of entrances to Hope Valley, present and future, are apportioned from our budget and gifts from generous Garden Clubs.

# 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)  
 Ellen Stark, Secretary\*  
 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

*Hope Valley Neighborhood Association*  
 12 Pilling Place  
 Durham, NC 27707

Standard Rate
US Postage Paid
Chapel Hill, NC
Permit 251

3-1\*\*\*\*\*5-DIGIT 27707  
 NORMAN & ISABEL KRAUSE 99  
 3506 RUGBY RD  
 DURHAM NC 27707-5434  


## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL

Application  Renewal  Additional Contribution to Beautification

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

→ Mail \$10 per household to: James Pyle, 12 Pilling Place, Durham, NC 27707  
 Make checks payable to Hope Valley Neighborhood Association.