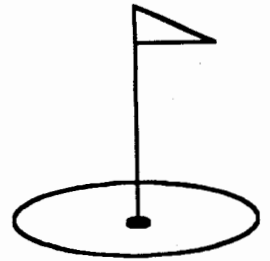




# Down in the Valley

*Newsletter of the Hope Valley Neighborhood Association*



Spring 2000

Volume 8, Number 2

Free

## Lively Exchange With Council Informs

**By Ray McAfoose**  
**HVNA President**

Your Association hosted a coffee with members of the Durham City Council on February 29th at the Westminster Presbyterian Church on Old Chapel Hill Rd. Only four such meetings are held each year prior to City budget preparation.

We were pleased to be chosen once again to host the meeting for Southwest Durham.

With a lighter turnout than we had a year ago, members of the Council sat in a circle with those present as they heard opinions and expressions of community needs. Some of the topics of discussion were the merger of City and County governments, proposed development projects in Southwest Durham, infrastructure to support those projects, and redevelopment of the downtown area.

Council members also emphasized that 45% of the current budget is spent on police, fire and other public safety measures, in direct response to residents' concerns.

We want to thank all members of the City Council for meeting with us, especially Lewis Cheek, new member of the Council from Hope Valley.

### Durham County Matching Grants Program

Durham County has a matching grant program that is designed to preserve open space lands and promote recreational opportunities in Durham County. The program is intended to be a partnership between Durham County and a community organization.

Projects eligible for grants must be publicly accessible recreational facilities or open space lands in the County. The grant program also requires that grant recipients provide a matching contribution for the project. The guidelines are designed with the needs of non-profit citizen organizations in mind with the "match" provided in a variety of ways.

The grants are awarded on an annual basis, with up to \$100,000 per grant cycle. The Durham Open Space and Trails Commission manages the grants program and makes recommendations for funding.

The Hope Valley Neighborhood Association Board does not have a project in mind at this time but is receptive to working on a grant with our members. **Contact Ray McAfoose, President, for more information.**

*If You Haven't Joined The Association Yet, We'd Like Very Much To Have You*

## Vignettes of Hope Valley Women Choosing a Home, Pursuing Careers I. Nonna Skumanitch

By Marion Salinger

A mysterious *deja vue* came over Nonna Skumanich when she first moved to Durham in 1995 from the State of Washington.

As she experienced the sight of trees standing in beds of leaves, where you could look through the woods to a further landscape that included shrubs and streams, she began to recall dreams throughout her years in Colorado and Washington which had been a mystery to her. These were landscapes she couldn't identify—but here they were, before her very eyes.

And then she realized that she had been dreaming about her high school years at the North Carolina School of the Arts in Winston-Salem and the beauty of the state that would eventually be a new home for Nonna.

Nonna, a practicing lawyer who had received her J.D. at the University of Washington, and her husband, Jeffrey Chase, who had been called to be a faculty member of the Computer Sciences Department at Duke University, were moving South.

The new home was an older home, originally built on

Rugby Road by Dr. and Mrs. S. P. Perry in 1954. What delighted Nonna and Jeff was the house plan, which contained such lovely outdoor living space.

They had been veteran mountain climbers, skiers, and above all, lovers of nature and dimensions of its flora and fauna. In the woods of Hope Valley and its roads around the vagaries of Hope Valley Creek, they could find enchantment enough to want to live here. In the years that followed, the Skumanich-Chase house has been certified by the National Wildlife Foundation as a "backyard wildlife habitat".

This was no small achievement and meant that Nonna and Jeff kept their property hospitable for birds, frogs, and other creatures great and small in our natural environs.

Meanwhile, Nonna's professional life, after she was admitted to the North Carolina Bar, has focused on volunteer work with the Dispute Settlement Center of Durham and her employment as legal writer on employment issues. She has lately set up her own practice in mediation, where she works to help people settle their disputes outside of

court.

Nonna cares about Durham and Hope Valley. She would like to see more park development and wonders whether the golf clubs might set about a program of walking tours at their natural peripheries for certain hours each week.

She also envisions a network of walking trails stretching through Hope Valley where nature walks permitted by neighbors through special areas would provide occasions of exercise and relaxation, as well as observation of Hope Valley's lovely venue of woodland and gardens.

"In family strolls there will be an opportunity to learn together," Nonna said. Since Nonna was a ballet dancer at the N. C. School of the Arts, and later a soloist with the Boulder Ballet Ensemble, she might be executing a *pas de deux* among the white oaks, red oaks, hickory and ash which once frequented her dreams.

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### E-NLIST

*To sign up for the newsletter on the Web and get on the e-mail list, send an e-note to [HVNA@hope-valley.org](mailto:HVNA@hope-valley.org).*

## Inter-Neighborhood Council Names New Prexy, Plans October Summit Session

By Norman Krause

Stan Hoffman from Garrett Farms Neighborhood Association recently stepped down as President of the Inter-Neighborhood Council (INC) and was replaced by John Dagenhart of the Trinity Park Neighborhood Association.

Plans are still under way for the Second Annual Neighborhood Summit, which will be held on a Saturday morning in October at the downtown Armory. The Summit is open to all and is designed to help neighborhood residents and leaders to become more informed on issues facing Durham and to allow residents to talk to some of Durham's "movers and shakers."

At the February INC meeting Ellen Reckhow, a County Commissioner, spoke on the

topic *Travel Demand Management (TDM)*. TDM is a set of tools and strategies to encourage travelers to use alternatives to driving alone. It seeks to reduce congestion and improve air quality.

The county and city governments are considering adopting a proposed trip reduction program. The program would require major employers to do a yearly survey and prepare a travel reduction program. Under the plan, goals are set by employers, not the government.

Travel reduction measures may include ride-sharing, van-pooling, subsidized bus fares, telecommuting, flex hours, etc. There was no January meeting due to the twenty-inch snowstorm.

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## Neighborhood Lanes and Speeding Cars: Or, How Speed Humps Are Arranged

Did you ever wonder why some roads in Hope Valley have speed humps and others don't?

ANSWER: Speed humps in Durham are installed by the City Transportation Department only after specific criteria have been met. One of these is that at least seventy-five percent of the property owners within the affected block must sign the Department of Transportation petition requesting the hump. The street must be residential in nature and must have a posted speed of 25 mph or less, a minimum of 500 vehicles per day and a maximum of 2,500 vehicles per day. The Department of Transportation will review the traffic when a request is made.

If you and your neighbors would like to have a speed hump on your road or would like to protest a proposed speed hump, call Joyce P. Manning, Department of Transportation (560-4366) for a copy of the *City of Durham Speed Hump Policy* and the official *Petition for Speed Humps*.

Seventy-five percent of the houses on Rugby Road (3400 and 3500 blocks) have signed a petition against installing a speed hump on their street. The City administration is reviewing the current policy regarding speed humps.

# 2000 HOPE VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL

*If your address label includes the notation "2000", your dues are up to date.*

Application  Renewal  Additional Contribution to Beautification

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

**Mail \$10 per household to: Albert Gard, 11 Pilling Place, Durham, NC 27707**  
**Make checks payable to Hope Valley Neighborhood Association.**