



Down In The Valley

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SPRING 2001

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FREE

Catching Up In The Neighborhood

By Henry Nicholson
HVNA President
(nick@hvna.org)

As we head into Summer I'd like to take this opportunity to update you on the activities of your Neighborhood Association and the progress we've made so far this year. The key to an effective Neighborhood Association is an active board and membership. Specifically, your Association still needs board members to interface with the Inter-Neighborhood Council, to help with Beautification, and to follow development issues. With the areas surrounding Hope Valley under constant pressure from developers we need someone to help follow all of the zoning requests and alert the membership to important meetings and votes by the Planning Commission and City Council.

Our system of area and block captains is being reviewed and our records are being updated. Your block captain should be contacting you soon. If you do not hear from them, please contact Mary Edwards or me. We have a mailing list for the newsletter and information on events that affect our community. I encourage you to sign up on our web site. There have been several break-ins in the past months. If we all participate in this email network, we can be alerted to criminal activities in time to try to prevent further occurrences. If you don't feel comfortable letting everyone on the list know you've been victimized, please call me. I promise to keep the specifics of your incident in strictest confidence.

Web site and email Privacy Statement: Your information will never be shared with anyone for any purpose.

There are a few development issues that you should be aware of:

Developers are trying to derail the I-40/NC54 Corridor Study that so many of us have worked on for so long. Please call County Manager Mike Ruffin or send an email and tell him: "Now is the time to adopt the I-40/54 corridor study."

Mike Ruffin
Durham County Manager
200 East Main Street
Durham, North Carolina 27701
Telephone: (919) 560-0001
E-Mail: mruffin@co.durham.nc.us

(See ...Development on Page 3)

Suspect Caught In Neighborhood Break-ins

By Mary Edwards
Neighborhood Watch

There were several reports of theft occurring in early April in the Old Hope Valley area. Homes on Rugby Road, Westover Road, Dover Road, Nottaway Road and Westminster Church were broken into during the day. The police were called and responded promptly. In addition, fliers notifying residents of the crimes were distributed to affected neighborhoods.

The police report that a suspect has been apprehended. However, there may have been more than one person involved so it is important for all of us to be aware of our surroundings and to report any suspicious activity by calling the police at 911 and then me at 490-6166.

I am looking for Block Captains to cover the following neighborhoods: Chelsea Circle, Churchill Circle, Darby Road, Darwin Road, 3400-3437 Dover Road, 3810-3930 Dover Road, Plymouth Road, 3200-3326 Rugby Road. The responsibilities of a Block Captain are to contact your neighbors on the block for which you are responsible, maintain information (name, phone, address and/or email) of residents on your assigned block, and to notify residents of any incidents. If you are interested in acting as a Block Captain or know of someone I should contact about volunteering with the Neighborhood Watch Program, please call me at 490-6166.

As summer arrives and vacations are scheduled, please remember to cancel newspapers and mail. Newspapers piling up at the end of the driveway are a sure sign that no one is home and could invite a break-in. Be alert!

Social Scores Hit For Neighborliness

By Norman Krause

The second annual ice cream social, sponsored by the Hope Valley Neighborhood Association, took place on Sunday, May 20. Signs posted at the entrances to Hope Valley provided advance notice of where and when the event would take place and invited all Hope Valley resident to attend.

The ice cream social was held on Somerset drive at the home of the association's past president, Jim McDonald.

Dr. and Mrs. Kim Griffin, who raised nine children in what is now the McDonald home, came by during the festivities to see how their former home was faring.

Children and adults enjoyed the free ice cream, cake, soda, chips and pretzels. The event is especially popular with the youngsters, and some arrived more than an hour early in hopes of getting ice cream "before the crowd."

Jelly Bean the clown was on hand to entertain the children who were not eating or playing with each other. Jane Anderson brought an old-fashioned hand-cranked ice cream maker, which some of the children periodically enjoyed cranking. I'm told the hand-made ice cream was excellent.

Our thanks go to Jim McDonald, Tad DeBerry, and Amanda and Cliff Elam for organizing the event, which brings us together as a Hope Valley family.

Understanding Local Government

New City Wards Approved

By Ray McAfoose

It took four tense public meetings for an ad-hoc citizen committee working with the City Planning Department to redraw the city wards from six in number to three.

This change was required to accommodate reducing the size of the Durham City Council from thirteen to seven, a mayor and six council members as approved by the citizens in the December 1998 referendum. The ward system in Durham is designed to provide representation on the City Council from different areas of the City. All council members are elected by all the voters citywide, but ward candidates must live within their wards.

As background and a bit of history for new residents, Durham voters became furious with the City Council during the spring and summer of 1998, after the Council held a series of seemingly frivolous debates ranging from how large an American flag could be flown in the city to whether a plastic cow could remain as the signature display on the roof of a small store. The final straw pushing citizens from laughter to disgust was Council's vote for a 37% pay raise for themselves, without public input.

A petition drive put the Council size reduction on the November ballot but the Council tried to buy time and win back public support by postponing the vote until December. The ploy backfired. Citizens saw the action as arrogant disregard of the will of the voters, adding thousands of dollars in taxpayer money to the cost of the election by having it a month after the General Election. The referendum to reduce the Council's numbers passed easily and the number will drop from 13 to seven in the Fall 2001 elections.

A committee of interested citizens was formed by Council with the charge of drawing the new wards, with the wards to be as close as possible to equal in number without splitting existing precincts. The committee met four times in February, March and April, with much of the discussion addressing distrust among the participating groups rather than the committee charge.

However, the open public process did work! A motion was made by a member of the

committee to endorse one of the options and after little discussion, the vote fell only one shy of unanimous. The recommended option passed City Council on May 7 by a vote of nine to three.

My faith in the committee process is renewed. This fall we will elect one councilor who lives in each of the three new wards for a four-year term and three councilors at-large for two-year terms. After this year's election, all members will serve four-year terms.

Be an informed voter.

...Development

(Continued from Page 1)

Zoning request P00-93, 2.86 acres on the west side of Shannon Road (across from Durham County Library). You can view the report at: http://www.ci.durham.nc.us/departments/planning/zoning_committee/items/P00-93.pdf

Zoning request P01-04, 50.1 acres on the southeast corner of the intersection of Fayetteville Road and Herndon Road (the Renaissance Center across from the Streets at Southpoint Mall). You can view the report at: http://www.ci.durham.nc.us/departments/planning/zoning_committee/items/P01-04.pdf

Both of these projects are recommended for approval. I encourage you to review them and voice your opinion to the planning commission and city council.

We're working to update the newsletter mailing list using the city tax information available on the web. This will result in a lot of new addresses in our area and, we hope, increased membership. As I promised in the last newsletter, I visited new residents to welcome them to our neighborhood and found that one of them was Durham's premier restaurateur, Scott Howell, collector of culinary kudos for his Pop's and Nana's. Please join me in welcoming Scott to Hope Valley.

2001 HOPE VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Henry Nicholson, President 489-9502
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www.hope-valley.org

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL

If your address label includes the notation "2001", 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.*