



# Down in the Valley

## HOPE VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

### Why Neighborhood Associations are Important

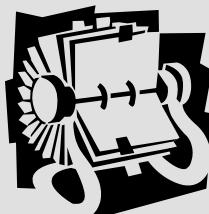
By Amanda Elam

#### SPEAKER FRANK DUKE AT THIS YEAR'S HVNA ANNUAL MEETING

We are excited this year to welcome Durham City/County Planning Director, Frank Duke, as main speaker at this year's Annual Meeting. See you there at 7pm on Wed., May 11<sup>th</sup>, at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 3639 Old Chapel Hill Road.

#### NEW PEOPLE ON THE BLOCK?

Forward their name and address to Debbie Rand at 765-9488 or [drand@earthlink.net](mailto:drand@earthlink.net) so that they can receive the HVNA welcome package!



Someone recently asked one of our board members, "Why spend so much time on your neighborhood association? Isn't it a waste of time?" The question made me think. I have to admit that, while for me the answer is obvious, I have never really thought it through. **Why are neighborhood associations important?**

To paraphrase one city website: *A neighborhood association is a group of homeowners, renters, and local business representatives who organize to improve conditions.* Common areas of concern include safety from crime and traffic problems, voice in local politics, city zoning and planning, historical conservation, beautification, and promoting community. These are exactly the reasons that the Hope Valley Neighborhood Association was established. Our mission statement says as much: *Building Community and Providing Voice for Hope Valley.*

Another way to think about the HVNA's relevance is to ask, **What would happen**

**if we weren't here doing what we do?** To begin with, there wouldn't be this newsletter. Or a website, through which we collect and share neighborhood information — particularly crime alerts and local development news.

It would be considerably more difficult to get the word out when things happen that concern us all. There would be no specific body to receive information and inquiries from city departments, local developers, and other parties. Additionally, someone else would have to keep the entrances and common areas looking tidy, if not attractive.

Two of the biggest challenges facing neighborhood associations are volunteerism and selecting issues to organize around. These are definitely the two most important issues the HVNA board faces and may explain why someone would question our relevance.

*Continued on page 3...*

### The Old Hope Valley Sign Project By Tad DeBerry

I'm taking an inventory of Hope Valley's old wrought iron signs and would appreciate contact from anyone with signs in their yards to confirm that I've found them all. Email me, Tad DeBerry, at [adawcp@aol.com](mailto:adawcp@aol.com) with "Hope Valley Signs" in the message line, to:

- ❖ **Identify present Hope Valley sign locations,**
- ❖ **Give approval for sign repair and painting.** Although in the public right of way, most signs are in residents' yards. So I'd like to secure resident approval for repairs.
- ❖ **Suggest new corner or median locations for additional signs.** I am researching the cost of making replacement signs. These too would need homeowner approval before installation.
- ❖ **Reinstall signs.** Contact me if you have a sign in your basement or attic and would like help reinstalling it.

**Interested in helping finance this project?** Send donations to Jack Hughes, 3818 Regent Road, 27707. Make the check out to "HVNA" and write "Signs" on the memo line.

## Hope Valley Gate News

Tad DeBerry continues to actively promote neighborhood Beautification. By the time you read this, he has probably already met with Philip Brun to discuss flowers for the empty median outside the double gates and heavy pruning at both gates.

If you want a city-maintained area (medians, traffic islands, etc.) included when he contacts the city regarding mowing, notify him via email ([adawcp@aol.com](mailto:adawcp@aol.com)) with "Mowing" in the message line.

## We Need You!

There are tons of ways you can contribute to your community. Making a real difference often requires a lot less time and effort than you think. Consider dedicating a few hours a month to one of the following positions:

### Development/INC Rep:

Represent HVNA at monthly Inter-Neighborhood Council meetings, attend monthly HVNA board meetings.

### Neighborhood Watch Captain:

Track crime reports in HV (primarily through crime alert listserv), liaise with District 3 captain when necessary; attend monthly HVNA board meetings.

### Newsletter Writers:

Write content for HVNA newsletter — human interest and neighborhood news.

### Web Support

Help current volunteers make changes and keep website updated.

**To volunteer or simply learn more, contact Amanda Elam at 489-3610 or [abelam@unc.edu](mailto:abelam@unc.edu)**

## President's Letter *by Amanda Elam*

Spring is here! Daffodils are blooming and trees are budding. I love the spring. There is such great energy in the air, like waking up from a long nap with great plans. And that's just what we've got going on here on the board — great plans for the spring! In this issue, you'll read about Tad DeBerry's beautification plans for refurbishing HV's old wrought iron signs and entrance gate plantings. Debbie Rand has created welcome packages for new residents and offers great spring cleaning advice. Also, in this edition of *Down in the Valley*, I ponder the question of why we have a neighborhood association.

Mark your calendars for this year's Annual Meeting. Frank Duke, Durham City/County Planning Director, has graciously agreed to speak at our Annual Meeting on May 11. We can't wait to see you! Bring your questions and ideas.

The board is engaged with usual business as well — collecting dues (hint, hint), sending out crime alerts, updating the web page, calling on the city to attend to regular maintenance, and so on. We hear that mailboxes are having a rough time these days (we need to talk to our teens, perhaps) and there has been at least one (probably isolated) bit of property crime. We continue to work hard to update the neighborhood listserv. We want to ensure that everyone with an interest is in the loop. Check out our website, if you'd like more information: [www.hvna.org](http://www.hvna.org).

*Presently, only 93 HVNA residents — about 10% — have paid 2005 dues! See back of newsletter to renew!*

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## Spring Cleaning By Debbie Rand

Time to get rid of a winter's worth of dust and dirt. It's also the time of year when we want to be outside. Create a plan to spring clean efficiently, and you'll have plenty of time to stop and smell the newly budding roses!

- ❖ Prepare a supplies caddy that includes rags, paper towels, and trash bags.
- ❖ Turn off phone and TV; turn on favorite music.
- ❖ Wear sneakers and comfortable clothes that can get stained.
- ❖ Be ruthless in uncluttering your home! If you haven't used it in over a year, it goes!
- ❖ Make separate bags for trash, giving to charity, and selling (garage sale, consignment shop, or online auction).
- ❖ Donate old toys, or sell them and tell your children they can keep the money.
- ❖ Always dust first, then vacuum.
- ❖ Always, always work top to bottom (dust and dirt falls).
- ❖ Only keep necessary items on surfaces; store everything else in cabinets or closets.

- ❖ Rotate clothes, linens, and photos.
- ❖ Wash or change air filters and smoke detector batteries.
- ❖ Finish the job. Put cleaning products away, take out trash, and make plans for give-away items.
- ❖ Consider paying for a junk removal service if needed.
- Additional Tips**
- ❖ Spray oven with cleaner the night before cleaning.
- ❖ As you clean and organize pantry and medicine cabinets, check expiration dates and make a list of items that need replacing.
- ❖ Clean doorknobs, handles, phone, and trashcan with disinfectant.
- ❖ Flip and rotate mattresses.
- ❖ Deep clean carpets.
- ❖ Take the house cleaning outside! Wash blinds with a mild ammonia solution and rinse with garden hose. Take houseplants outside to wash and wipe away dust.
- ❖ Clean debris from gutters; ensure downspouts are clear and directing water away from house.
- ❖ Go play!

## Neighborhood Associations ...Continued from page 1

Compared to some of the issues that other neighborhood associations must deal with, such as gang-related crime or serious environmental threats, our work borders on the mundane. For this we are grateful! But just because we are not currently burdened with serious problems, does not mean there is no work to do.

Lack of crisis, means time to improve quality of life. Presently, the HVNA works to keep Hope Valley tidy and safe, give people a place to communicate concerns and direct questions, disseminate neighborhood information, and encourage effective and active citizenship. If serious issues surface that threaten our neighborhood, there'll be an entity in place that can effectively respond.

Board members donate their time to serve you and this neighborhood. I deeply appreciate this service. So much, that I have volunteered to continue to lead the association for a bit longer. I encourage you to come out and help us. If you want to know where the life of this neighborhood is, it is largely here on the neighborhood association board. Come check us out!



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## HOPE VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION 2005 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Home: 493-2006  
[rita.musante@verizon.net](mailto:rita.musante@verizon.net)

# Shall We Dance?

## Spring Special! 5 sessions for \$25 per person

- First 25 callers • No partner necessary
- New adult students only

**489-4313**



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**Building community and providing voice for Hope Valley**

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## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL

Application

Renewal

Additional Contribution to Beautification

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

**Not sure how long it's been since you paid your dues? Check the date next to your name on the mailing label!**

Annual Dues are \$15 per household. Mail application and check to: Jack Hughes, 3818 Regent Road, Durham, NC 27707.

*Make checks payable to: Hope Valley Neighborhood Association. Thank you!*