

Down in the Valley



More on Being Neighborly...

By Amanda Elam

Hope Valley is a wonderful neighborhood full of character with whimsical, winding streets, beautiful, mature plantings, and a diverse collection of homes from historic to contemporary styling. I appreciate these things regularly on my daily walks. How lucky we all are to live here.

As with all things there is always room for improvement. In this neighborhood, things are changing. Homes are being renovated, and residents are using landscape services and other service providers. More beautiful houses and better kept yards are, of course, a great plus for our neighborhood. These trends boost property values, help keep crime away, and create even more attractive vistas. Occasionally we hear complaints from residents about noise pollution, unsafe parking patterns, and damaged lawns and roads in the neighborhood.

The HVNA encourages residents to address these situations personally. If you have a concern, contact the offending property owner and address your concern in a neighborly

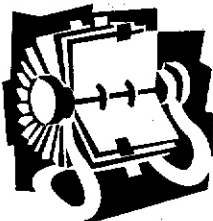
fashion. If you are on the receiving end of such a request, we hope that you would respond with patience and understanding. It all comes down to that "Golden Rule" - "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." You may want to consider including a 'responsibility clause' in your contracts with your service providers.

If this direct approach fails, the neighborhood association is here to help. We are in no way a binding authority, but we can serve as a third party to help you mediate the situation. The HVNA can request that residents take care of their property and ensure that their service providers act respectfully.

Our Neighborhood Association is organized to build community and provide voice for Hope Valley. We hope that you as residents will do everything you can to promote goodwill. The HVNA will continue to focus on issues of broad concern, such as protection of our natural areas, the impact of development on our surrounding streets and providing leadership to our Neighborhood Watch program. □

NEW PEOPLE ON THE BLOCK?

Forward their name and address to
Debbie Rand
at 765-9488 or
dcrand@earthlink.net so
that they can receive the
HVNA welcome
package!



APPEARANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

By Tad DeBerry

The HVNA Historic Sign Project continues to build momentum. The Appearance Committee has received requests for signs from groups representing the Bristol Road cul-de-sac, and Chelsea Circle. These grassroots groups have come together to secure a site for their sign and raise the funds needed to pay for it.

We applaud our neighbors as they begin the process! The Appearance Committee had hoped that the display in the north lobby of Hope Valley Country Club as well as the newly restored signs would spur inter-neighborhood groups to action. We are gratified to begin getting requests before the first phase of restoration has been installed! To request a sign for YOUR street or area please contact Tad DeBerry at adawccpi@aol.com. Newly minted signs are expected to cost about \$600. Copies of old originals are expected to run around \$500. Before making a sign request, please have a site in mind, and permission of the homeowner on whose property the sign will be placed. Street signs are required to be positioned on the line of the city right-of-way.

Currently the 12 original signs are due to be removed and restored, and copies made. It is our hope that this work will be underway or even finished by the time you receive this newsletter. Thanks again to Chris Wood and Walker Harris for their role in this exciting project. Please help us by keeping an eye on these wonderful signs, and reporting any suspicious behavior to the Durham Police Department. For those of us with kids, please deputize them and let's include them in the monitoring of our historic heritage!

Continued on page 3

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 (adawccpi@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.

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 Debbie Rand at 765-9488 or dcrand@earthlink.net

President's Letter

By Debbie Rand

History has proven that when times get 'rough' it is always beneficial to **get back to the basics**. We've witnessed business leaders, politicians, athletes, teachers and many other leaders revert back to the basic fundamental skills we inherently behold to improve status quo. With spring upon us, flowers blooming, 'children' of all ages playing outside, and families vacationing, I strongly encourage you to get back to the basics with regards to safety.

Unfortunately, we live in a world where we just need to be vigilant, even in Hope Valley. Let us simply outsmart those who might try to victimize us. Please lock your car doors day and night and remind your guests to do the same. Whether you are home or not, inside or out, please lock the doors to your home and if applicable set your security alarm. According to my alarm monitoring company, every homeowner should test his/her alarm every two months (at a minimum) to ensure proper performance. Place your alarm monitoring sign in the ground in your yard, it truly does deter burglars. Do not leave bills in your mailbox to be picked up by the postal employee. Go around the corner to the Shannon Road Post Office and drop it in the mailbox there. Set timers on lights in your home to prevent recognition of patterned behavior. If you are going to be out of town, please arrange for someone to pick up your mail and newspapers.

Animals like to adventure out in the spring as well. Know that it is your responsibility to have your pet leashed or restrained by a fence at all times. Please ensure that all of your pets are tagged with your contact information because we all realize that electric fences go down and gates are left open accidentally. Do not approach wild animals. In fact, report strange behavior to Durham Animal Control (560-0630).

It is extremely important to share emergency contact information with one or more of your neighbors. In case of emergency it would really help for someone nearby to know how to contact your relatives immediately. Additionally, if you plan to be away from your home, please let your neighbor know where you can be reached.

And don't forget child safety! Wearing a bike helmet (NC State Law), looking both ways before crossing a street, obeying posted speed limits, or simply by respecting neighbors and the neighborhood should be values shared by our young residents.

These reminders may sound like average daily practices but are often forgotten. I see overflowing mailboxes, newspapers piled up at the end of the driveway, car doors wide open or windows left down, tempting those with bad intentions. Please think twice, *get back to the basics!* The future of Hope Valley is in our hands. □

APPEARANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE *continued from page 1*

Hope Valley Garden Clubs answer the call! Two of the four Hope Valley area garden clubs have become re-involved with the HVNA. The Hope Valley Garden Club which maintains the traffic island at Surrey and Dover, and the Town and Country Garden Club which oversees the southern entrance at Rugby Road and Hope Valley Road have both recently begun working with the HVNA on beautification projects. Both Clubs have contributed either time, money, or expertise to help keep Hope Valley beautiful. Thank you!

Traffic Islands up for adoption. We are looking for a club, group of neighbors, or even an individual to help monitor and maintain HV common areas. The HVNA Appearance Committee will assist, help with funds, and help secure heavy labor from either the City or our staff landscaper. Won't you adopt one of these spaces and help us create a more beautiful Hope Valley? Areas needing care include the traffic island at Cambridge and Devon, the small island at Norwich Way and Surrey Road, the Bristol Road cul de sac, and Windsor Way. Please contact the HVNA Appearance Committee at adawccpi@aol.com.

Show your neighborhood pride!

New Hope Valley T-shirts, Sweatshirts, hoodies and tanks sporting Hope Valley's original 1926 logo are now available! Support HVNA's neighborhood appearance projects by purchasing one of these beautiful new shirts. Half of the purchase price goes directly to the appearance



fund, which supports sign, gate, and common area beautification efforts.

Shirts are available in Adult and Youth sizes, and in

white, yellow, green and grey. The Hope Valley Logo is green. To order, e-mail [Tad DeBerry at adawccpi@aol.com](mailto:TadDeBerry@adawccpi@aol.com), or drop by Tad's office in the Peak, Swirls, and Cavalitto Building (5102 Chapel Hill Blvd., beside University Lights) in the lower level.

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CLEAN ENERGY DURHAM
How Homeowners Can Make a Difference

Have you heard about global warming? Thought there was nothing you could do about it? Think again! Clean Energy Durham has a plan for making Durham a model community.

Join us to hear Judy Kincaid, Clean Energy Durham volunteer and environmental expert. Tuesday, May 2, at 7:30pm at the Southwest Branch, Durham County Library.

Learn how small changes in our homes can make a big impact on our community. We can save money, reduce carbon dioxide emissions, and join in the fun of calculating our progress. Each neighborhood can mobilize an energy committee to promote incremental change. Be the first on your block. Sponsored by the Hope Valley Neighborhood Association. For more information, contact Cathy Abernathy at 489-0394 or cefabernathy@aol.com. □

NEW NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH CAPTAINS!

Help our new captalns by volunteering to be a block captain for your street. Contact Luther Misenthimer luter@cb-wn.com or Tom Morris tom.morris@nmfm.com.

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Advertisement Inquiries to: landerson@fmrealty.com



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Office: 388-1383
nick@whn3.org

Your Name Here
Please volunteer.

Building community and providing voice for Hope Valley

Visit us online at www.hvna.org

Hope Valley Neighborhood Association

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL

_____ Application _____ Renewal _____ Additional Contribution to Beautification

Name(s) _____ E-mail _____

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, 3810 Regent Road, Durham, NC, 27707.
Make checks payable to: Hope Valley Neighborhood Association. Thank you!