

Down in the Valley



HOPE VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

YOUR HOPE VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOU !!!

There are open HVNA positions. Contact Amanda Elam (489-3610 or abelam@unc.edu) to help out with:

**Crime Watch
Newsletter
Development
At-Large Positions**

Attend a board meeting! Meetings are open to Hope Valley residents. Meetings are currently scheduled for the second Wednesday of the month in the Hope Valley Country Club boardroom. We'd love to see you January 12th!



Community in Action

The end of October saw two fun HVNA sponsored neighborhood social events. The folks off Rugby Road, near St. Stephen's, held their annual block party and Somerset Drive enjoyed its 5th annual Halloween parade. Of course, neighborhood families came out in droves for trick-or-treating.

It's great to see everyone gathering in Hope Valley; building community is important for all of us. Social research shows that dense community ties improve health and well-being, particularly in times of crisis. But we don't need research to tell us how strong community makes us feel: Safe and connected.

Whether it's providing firewood during an ice storm, watching our house while we're away, or simply hanging out at the mailbox five extra minutes to chat about our day, neighbors make our lives better.



Hope Valley residents come together for socializing and trick-or-treating fun.

Development Update *By Amanda Elam*

City Council voted seven to zero to approve the rezoning request for Hope Valley Residential Village (P04-27) upon the recommendation of the City Planning Commission. The new zoning is RM-D for 11.69 acres on Old Chapel Hill Road.

The plan, proposed by Scott Harmon, property owner and White Oaks Development of Raleigh, is consistent with the adopted Southwest Durham Plan, which calls to medium density use with 4 to 8 units per acre under requested zoning. The City Planning Commission voted nine to one in favor in early October. The committed elements include 59 townhomes with an effective density of 5.05 du/ac.

White Oaks made significant concessions to satisfy Knollwood residents, including reducing the number of units in the townhome buildings from four to three, limiting outdoor lighting height, and doubling buffer zone and landscaping commitments on the west side of the property. Responding to HV board concerns, the developer eliminated condominium units, added a brick fence with attractive landscaping to the entrance, and made plans for a left hand turning lane. White Oaks hopes to break ground toward the end of spring or beginning of summer.

President's Letter *by Amanda Elam*

It's been another great year in Hope Valley. I'm always amazed at the intriguing people and strong relationships in this community. A wonderful way to meet your neighbors and continue building community is by organizing a social event. HVNA provides \$200 sponsorship grants for events, so contact the board to see if you qualify.



HVNA sponsored events: Build community & have fun!

As our year draws to a close, I'd like to update you about what's going on with the board. Tad DeBerry, a long time resident of Hope Valley, has taken over Beautification and is off to a great start. See his article in this issue for more on the plans he's cooking up to keep Hope Valley beautiful. We also welcome Debbie Rand to the board as Secretary. She has already created and distributed signs to help publicize our neighborhood website, www.hvna.org.

We are sad to say that Bruce Waters leaves us this fall. As another long time resident of Hope Valley, Bruce served the board well. We offer him thanks and fond wishes for the future. Our treasurer, Jack Hughes, is reconciling the email addresses you have sent in with the addresses on our neighborhood listserv. Please contact him if you are not receiving Crime Alerts. We haven't had any lately, by the way; an updated list is available on the HVNA website.

As you can see from this newsletter, we work hard to serve this neighborhood. On one hand, I want to emphasize this fact because I want you all to know that your (very modest) dues are being well spent and I want to garner more support for our efforts. On the other hand, however, we need more volunteer support and I don't want to scare off potential board members with stories of the hardship of board tenure. We do work hard, but we do small bits at a time.

More volunteer help means that the burden is less for those who serve now and it means that we can do what we have set out to more effectively. We currently need help in the following areas: Neighborhood Watch, Development, and Newsletter. Volunteer duties can be as little as running an errand or two and showing up for an hour-long board meeting once a month to discuss important issues or to vote on items that require approval, or ... as much as revamping the website, minding the treasury, or editing the newsletter.

Please consider donating some of your very valuable time to the leadership of this neighborhood. If you have interest or questions, feel free to contact me at abelam@unc.edu or 489-3610. Thanks so much for helping this neighborhood thrive!

How can you help your community?

Got an idea for a newsletter article? Contact Bethany Ward (451.6253 or bward@rolfusa.com). We welcome news and submissions!

New neighbor move in next door? Notify Jack Hughes (489.9504 or HugheJ@aol.com) so he can update the directory.

Come to a board meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for January 12th in the Boardroom at the Hope Valley Country Club.

Not sure how long it has been since you paid your HVNA dues? Check the date on the mailing label!

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Being Neighborly By Amanda Elam

Folks often ask me if I hear people talking about the goings-on in HV. While people often send a note of thanks with dues, I can honestly say the board rarely hears complaints.

When we do, more often than not, it involves issues that affect our everyday neighborhood experience — speeding cars, dogs roaming free or pooping on lawns, poorly kept landscaping, bashed-in mailboxes, or construction mess. These complaints may appear minor to some, but they pose basic threats to our safety or property.

The board can't do much about these issues. We post crime alerts on our neighborhood listserv and offer links to city services on our website. We work hard to maintain the appearance of common areas and serve as a mediating body for development issues. We encourage folks to work out their concerns with the involved parties in a way that meets the interests of all.

Central to this goal is mindfulness and consideration. In an attempt to start the year right, here are areas to consider to improve the quality of life for you and your neighbors:

- ⌘ Notice your driving speed in HV. Consider slowing down when you see pedestrians or as you round a curve with low visibility. Teach less experienced drivers in your household to do the same.
- ⌘ Respect neighbors' landscaping and pick up dog droppings or make sure they end up in non-offensive locations. It's no fun to remove dog poop from the lawn or around the mailbox each week.
- ⌘ Appreciate how neighbors may react to strange dogs approaching their home or children. I love dogs but understand that off leash they can be scary for others.
- ⌘ Consider what it's like to open your door everyday to an unkempt home or yard. A couple of houses went without a mow for what seemed like months last year. Standards are wide (thankfully) in this neighborhood, so strive for the minimum at least.
- ⌘ Remind the folks who work on your house or yard to be respectful of your neighbors by keeping trash and mess to a minimum.
- ⌘ Be especially mindful when you approach neighbors with complaints. Sometimes there are very good reasons why yards are left to seed and dogs run loose. Find out what's going on before you demand changes — you may be able to help a neighbor in need.

Keeping Hope Valley Beautiful

By Tad DeBerry

As of this newsletter, I have agreed to chair the beautification committee of the HVNA. As a life long resident of Hope Valley, I often wondered who maintained the common areas and the gates, well now I know!

Our first project was the gates on Old Chapel Hill Road. They have been painted and repaired. Before the gates could be painted, we had to trim and rework the landscaping around them. So if you noticed activity around the Dover or Windsor Gates, that was your neighborhood association at work! By the way, the gates look great.

As members of the HVNA and the community of Hope Valley, it is our responsibility to help maintain our common areas. Earlier this spring, the Windsor Way Community banded together and raised the needed funds to have the Crepe Myrtles in the median pruned after they had been damaged by the most recent ice storm. What a great example of smaller groups helping to keep the appearance of their street looking good. The HVNA matched the funds raised the help complete this project.

So as you ride in and out of HV notice the work you and your neighbors paid for, and perhaps identify a project in your area that we could work together on completing.

I am currently working on an informal survey of the old 1920's wrought iron street signs, and getting quotes for repairing and restoring some of them. If you have one in your yard or basement that you could contribute to this project, email me at adawccpi@aol.com with HVNA in the subject line. Please use this email to send me other suggestions, concerns, or complaints. I look forward to serving our community.

Happy Holidays

from everyone at
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Building community and providing voice for Hope Valley

Visit us online at www.hvna.org

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Durham, NC 27707**

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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 \$10 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!