

DOWN IN THE VALLEY

President's Letter

Fall has arrived in Hope Valley!

Seems the leaves are falling fast and the shorter cooler days are here to stay!

Thank you for your patience while dodging detours and orange cones with the road construction project near the Club and many other spots. We've all been waiting for smoother roads in Hope Valley for many years and they will soon be finished. A big note of thanks to Russell Barringer for all his efforts with getting the roads paved. He met with City officials and worked his magic to motivate them to get it done! Soon AT&T will exit with all their trucks and quiet life will begin again in Hope Valley.

We had a fabulous HVNA Halloween parade with a fire truck this year for the kids! Many neighbors came out for the fun! See the photos in the newsletter.

Now, with holidays quickly approaching keep safety and crime in mind when you travel. HV neighbors have really stepped up with Neighborhood Watch and posting on the listserv. Our listserv is a great way to keep everyone informed. We will not post your name or address, but would like to know if something happens at your home so we can pass on the information to the entire neighborhood. It takes everyone's help to put a lid on crime!

Happy Holidays!

Chase

Chase Teer-Loew
President, Hope Valley Neighborhood Association
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***An 'Angie's List' Service for
Hope Valley Residents!***

Join the HVNA Neighborhood Bulletin Board

- An HVNA Members Only Forum -

This new unmonitored email list service is a great way to:

- Recommend a service vendor like a plumber, painter, electrician, mason, etc.
- Ask your neighbors for a vendor recommendation
- Publicize your personal charity activities (Durham or Hope Valley only please!)
- Advertise babysitting, house sitting or pet sitting services
- Advertise a yard sale, house for sale, or rental

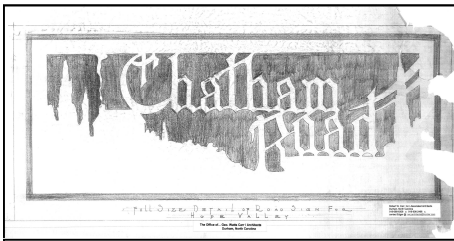
This service is only available to HVNA members who live in Hope Valley and are current on their dues.

No spam, no phishing, just Hope Valley neighbor-to-neighbor communication.

***To join, or to determine whether you have
paid your \$30 annual dues, send an email to:***

donstanger@aol.com

NOTE: This does not replace the current monitored HVNA listserv for crime, emergency, lost pets, and HVNA-related informational posts.



Drawing courtesy Robert E. Carr Architects

Photo courtesy Joe Walston Photography

Historic Street Sign Project Draws to a Close

Over the past decade, the HVNA has worked to restore, replace and replicate the iconic Hope Valley Street signs that were first used in the late 1920's. This effort, along with the City's designation of Landmark Status for the signs, has culminated in the restoration of all the originals, the reproduction of lost signs, and the creation of new signs, in the original style, for newer areas of Hope Valley.

While the exact origin of the wrought iron signs on cedar posts is murky, we believe that Hope Valley Country Club designer Aymar Embury II may have had some hand in their creation. Similar signs appear in Embury's projects in New York City where he was one of Robert Moses' chief architects during Moses' heyday.

The whimsical signs at Embury's large Jones Beach project on Long Island are reminiscent of Hope Valley's signs.

A local designer, George Watts Carr, was likely involved as well. His work on the first 20 homes in Hope Valley is well documented, but too in his files, is a hand drawn proposal and mockup for a Hope Valley Street Sign design very similar to what one sees today on many corners.

Drawing on early examples, developer Watts Norton continued the practice of using the iron signs as he opened Somerset, Churchill and Darby. Long time local company Durham Welding and Brazing created the first set of "reproduction" signs in the 1950's. At about the same time Anne Ivey Norton, then President of the Hope Valley Garden Club, led an effort to repair or replace many of the 1920's originals as well as adding several streets to improve navigation in pre-Durham annexation Hope Valley.

In the mid 2000's approximately 15 original signs, a number of signs from attics and basements, and even an old sample from Durham Welding and Brazing, were sand-blasted, zinc coated, painted and rehung. Interest in Hope Valley's 80th anniversary sparked a drive to replace lost signs and have them listed as Durham City Landmarks. Since that time the HVNA has restored, recreated, and rehung over 100 signs throughout the neighborhood. Signs to be installed this spring mark the end of this effort.

The Hope Valley Historic Street Signs are decorative and per our agreement with the City do not replace the green and white signs which assist police and first responders. Many residents find that they are helpful in navigating Hope Valley's winding streets, however.

While we are near the official end to this project, the HVNA maintains an archive of designs, and a relationship with the fabricator. If there is an intersection near you that you would like to see marked with an Historic Sign, please contact the HVNA Appearance Committee.

The world has changed. Your financial life should too.

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The 2015 Hope Valley Neighborhood Halloween Parade!



Is Your Home Prepared for the Winter Cold?

The days are shorter, and colder weather is imminent. Homeowners are turning on their heat, and using lights earlier and earlier. Energy consumption is up, which means higher energy bills. There are measures you can take to offset these costs, from simple DIY items to improvements involving an HVAC or Home Performance contractor. Now is the time to plan ahead for the colder days to come.

DO THE EASY STUFF FIRST

There are many easy steps that homeowners can take themselves to improve their home's energy efficiency.

- **Check your windows and doors.** Keep doors and windows closed as much as possible. That includes overhead doors on attached garages. Check window frames for cracks and fill them with a silicon caulk. Putty-like "rope caulk" can help seal large cracks and save you up to 5% on your energy bill.

Check all exterior doors for air leaks and weather-strip and caulk as needed. A one-eighth-inch gap around a door is equivalent to a 6-inch-square hole in the side of your house and causes a lot of energy loss. Install a door sweep to keep air from getting underneath. If your windows are old and not energy efficient, consider installing a window insulation kit, available from home stores.

- **Adjust the thermostat.** Lowering the temperature in your home by 2-4 degrees while you are away from your home, or at night, can reduce your heating bill by 5-10% a year. If you do not already have a programmable thermostat, installing one will help control the temperature while you are away and at night.

When you are home and awake, set your thermostat as low as is comfortable. For every degree you lower your thermostat you save approximately 2% off your heating bill.

- **Faucet covers.** Install outdoor faucet covers which protect your faucets from freezing, which can lead to costly repairs
- **Take advantage of the sun.** Open curtains on your south-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home, and close them at night to prevent heat loss.
- **Reduce heat loss from your fireplace.** Keep your fireplace damper closed unless a fire is burning. Leaving the damper open is the equivalent of having a 6" hole in the wall of the room the fireplace is in. If you use your fireplace regularly, consider installing a wood stove or a heat-air exchange system that blows warmed air back into the room.
- **Lower your water temperature.** Water heating can account for 14-25% of the energy consumed in your home. Turn down the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting (120°F). Anything higher is generally wasteful and a lower setting is also recommended as a safety precaution for homes with children.
- **HVAC Tune-up.** Schedule a bi-annual service for your heating system. HVAC systems are the biggest single energy consumers in your home, accounting for up to 50% of your total energy expenditures. It's not uncommon for our customers to report 10-15% savings on their gas or electricity bills after having an HVAC tune-up.

Bobby Ferrel, a resident of Hope Valley, is co-founder of Green Horizon – a Durham based company offering home owners and builders a one-stop shop for energy efficiency and green building. Services include energy audits, crawl spaces, insulation, HVAC installation and maintenance, and geothermal heating and cooling.

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Thanks to Karen Pappas for this picture of a recent visitor to the Pappas's yard on Dover Road!



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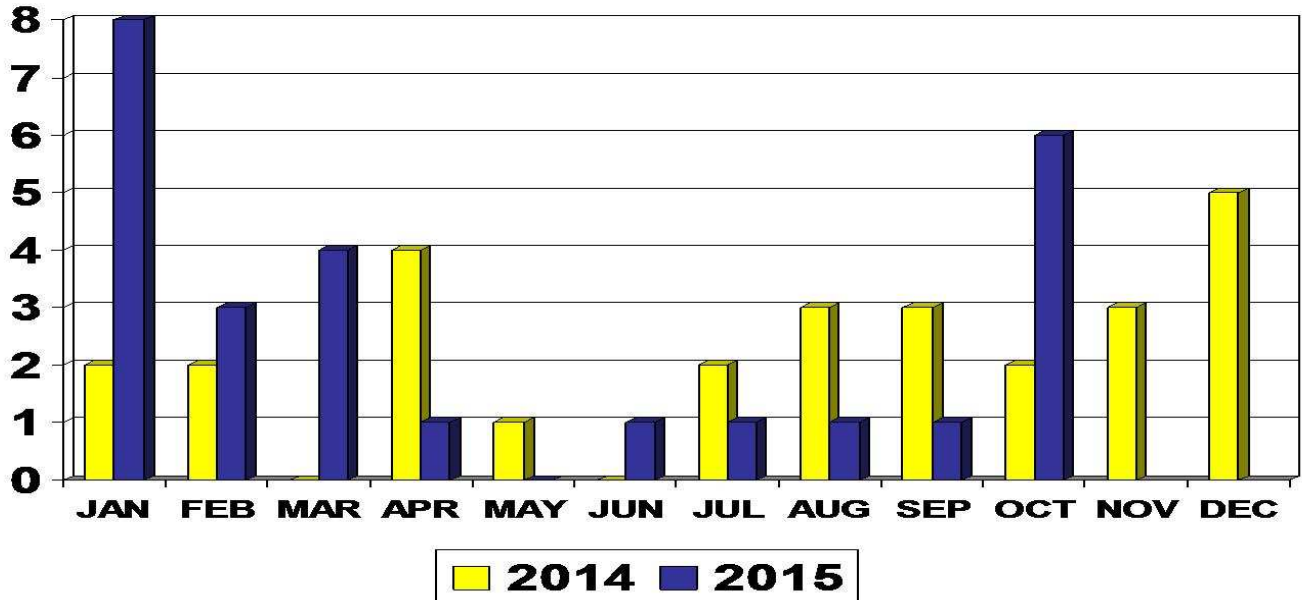


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Hope Valley Burglaries



We continue to focus on reducing Hope Valley crime in general and burglaries, in particular. At the start of this year, we were appalled that we experienced eight burglaries in the month of January. The January burglaries, the highest monthly since we have been keeping detailed statistics (2009) were followed by three burglaries in February and four in March, bringing the first quarter total to 15, also a record. Other than speculating that the high number of burglaries were the result of one or two perpetrators who were targeting our neighborhood, we were at a loss to determine definite factors that we could address. Burglaries have also spiked to six in October.

Larcenies in our neighborhood have steadily decreased over the past two years. Through the first ten months of 2015, Hope Valley only experienced eight larcenies, equal to the number in the comparable periods in 2013 and 2014. This mirrors the low incidence of larcenies in DPD District 3, where larcenies have not grown significantly over the past three years.

The most effective strategy for reducing property crime in Hope Valley is for each of us to take an ACTIVE role in crime prevention. The most important actions that we can take to minimize the opportunity for criminals to target our property are:

- Ensure our house alarms are armed when we are working out side, away and at night
- Watch out for any suspicious activity around our homes and those of our neighbors
- Call '911' to report **anything or anyone** that looks suspicious

Burglary is defined as the criminal offense of breaking and entering into any dwelling or building illegally with the intent to commit a felony or crime. Larceny is defined as the unauthorized taking and removal of the personal property of another by an individual who intends to permanently deprive the owner of it; a crime against the right of possession.

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HVNA Membership Application & Renewal

Annual dues are \$30 per household. To join or renew your membership, go on line or mail application and check to:
HVNA, P. O. BOX 51338, DURHAM NC 27717

Please make checks payable to: Hope Valley Neighborhood Association. Thank you!

- New Application
- Renewal
- Additional Contribution to Beautification

Name(s) _____ Email _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Comments _____

You can pay your 2016 HVNA Annual Dues now – just go to www.hvna.org

A Grande Dame of Hope Valley

- Hope Valley History -

By Don Stanger

If many Hope Valley neighbors did not know Mrs. Victoria Doreen Johnson Yarbrough personally, they knew of her. Mrs. Yarbrough, who passed away peacefully at her home in Hope Valley this September 14, was a fixture in Hope Valley for nearly 70 of her 99 years.

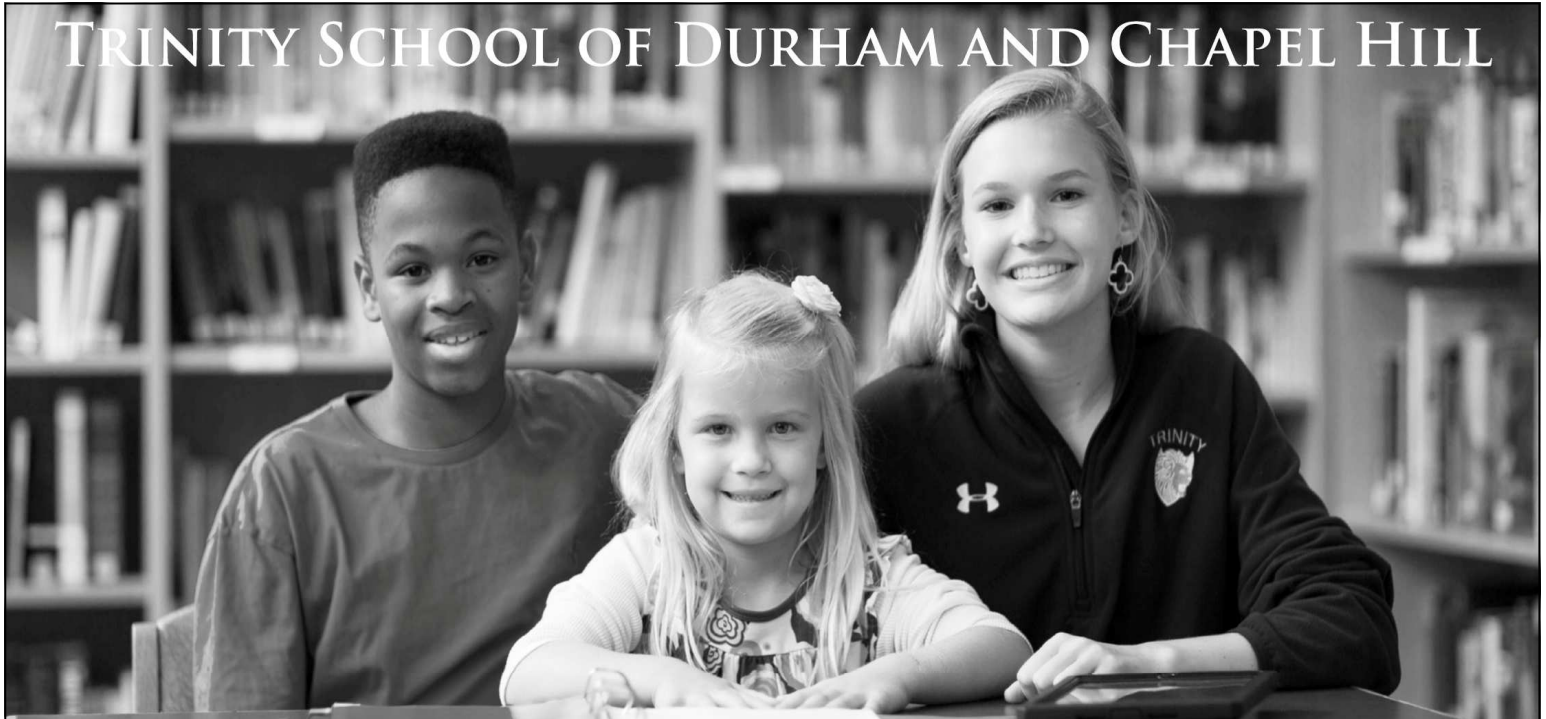
Doreen Johnson was born during World War I in England, February 28, 1916 to Stuart and Marjorie Johnson of Henshall Hall, Congleton, Cheshire. After graduating from St. James Boarding School in Malvern, England where she was captain of the tennis and lacrosse teams, she completed her education at the Sorbonne University in Paris, France. Doreen was an accomplished tennis player from a young age and competed at the Wimbledon Tennis Tournament for three years. She was an avid equestrian and a member of the Cheshire Hunt Club. At the age of eighteen, Doreen was presented at Court to King George V and Queen Mary at Buckingham Palace.

Doreen began her long life of dedicated service to her community and country during World War II. As a sergeant in the British Women's Auxiliary Air Force in the Bomber Command Division on the east coast of England, she performed classified duties in the control tower. During this time, Doreen met Captain Edwin S. Yarbrough, Jr. of Durham who was stationed in England while serving in the Quartermaster Corps of the United States Army. The Bishop of Chester married them on June 30, 1945 at Astbury Church, her hometown church built in 1066. Following her marriage, Doreen was presented at a Buckingham Palace Garden Party.

In October 1946, Doreen and her infant daughter Victoria "Vickie" bravely immigrated to the United States on the maiden voyage of the refurbished Queen Elizabeth I, used to transport troops during the war. The Yarbroughs reunited in Durham and settled in one of the original homes in Hope Valley (previously owned by Judge Ed Bryson). Doreen became a naturalized US citizen in 1949 and embraced her new homeland with patriotic spirit.

Doreen was a dedicated and loving wife, mother of six, grandmother of eighteen, and great-grandmother of sixteen. Doreen was an avid advocate and supporter of the Durham County Public Schools and an instrumental volunteer at Hope Valley Elementary School, Sherwood Githens Middle School and Charles E. Jordan High School. At Jordan High School, she founded and coached the girls tennis team with her daughters' participation and won a state high school championship. Doreen was a charter member of Epworth United Methodist Church. With public kindergartens nonexistent, she founded a kindergarten at Epworth and was chairman of its board for ten years. Doreen also taught Sunday School and joyfully served as a Girl Scout leader for many years.

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