

# DOWN IN THE VALLEY

Dear Hope Valley Neighbors,

Clocks have been set back and the leaves are changing, Fall is upon us. I am writing this letter still in amazement at the wonderful Halloween Parade which took place just days ago. This year marked the 18<sup>th</sup> time the HVNA and local residents worked to put on the event and another attendance record was set.

We had kids, parents and grandparents, terrific costumes and absolutely gorgeous weather to compliment the afternoon. Many thanks to the kind neighbors on Somerset Drive who served as host stations for candy; the Durham Police K-9 unit and motorcycle patrol, the local Fire station and lastly, Wool E Bull. Their presence and willingness to take time to speak with everyone added to the smiles and camaraderie of the afternoon.

All ten of the little libraries are now up and running and they have been a big success. If you haven't had the chance to visit one up close, I would encourage you to do so. Books for both children and adults are included and with neighbors' help, the selection is always changing. I would like to thank Mike Fisher, our contractor who built the libraries and Baker Roofing for the slate atop the structures. And yes, the slate is real!

In just a matter of weeks, the Holiday decorations will be going up on our historic street signs and gates. Please keep an eye out for donation requests of magnolia and holly to help create the decorations.

Happy Fall Y'all!

*Tommy Kinney*

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**This service is available to Hope Valley residents only.**

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

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

*[donstanger@hvna.org](mailto:donstanger@hvna.org)*

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

# The 2018 HVNA Halloween Parade!



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# AN INTERVIEW WITH POLICE CAPTAIN BRIAN REITZ

By Betty Mushak

Durham Police Captain Brian Reitz has seen a lot of growth in Durham since he joined the department in 1995. Since May, he has headed up District 3, which includes the Hope Valley Neighborhood.

Reitz oversees and manages 45-55 officers who roam eight beats in four patrol squads and an investigative team that cover some 30 square miles between Highway 147 and Orange County and Fayetteville Road and South Roxboro, the southwest quadrant of the county. He is a graduate of Shippensburg University and earned his MBA at Pfeiffer.

It is a very diverse district, according to Reitz, and the variety is part of its appeal to officers. "You never know what a day will bring you," Reitz said. "Part of my job is to make sure our officers stay engaged. Our goal is to treat people with compassion."

Durham's officers are very well trained, he added. "(Dealing with) crime is a small part of what we do. There are a lot of opportunities to engage. Responding to calls and investigating are core functions." The officers are trained to deal with people in crisis, with more than 200 in the Durham department having advanced training in crisis intervention, he said.

Being a police officer is different from other occupations, Reitz continued. "Professions evolve and this is not just a job. There's a lot of potential and we serve the community." The civic responsibility of the police is to protect the community and Durham makes an effort to identify those officer applicants who are a good fit with Durham's culture and community, he added. "I love this job, even with the trials and tribulations," Reitz said. "I'm exactly where I ought to be. This is the only police job I've had and I committed to Durham a long time ago. It's a great group of officers who work here." Reitz was promoted to captain in 2014 after working as the executive officer to the chief as a lieutenant. Reitz gets out in the community as often as he can around the administrative responsibilities that go with being the commander of

District 3. He likes having officers who are very responsive to the community's needs. At the same time, he wants the officers to be safe, both physically and mentally, and find a good work-life balance. "We want them to have good mental health," he said.

Applications to fill open law enforcement positions are down across the country and some of the expectations around the jobs are media-driven, Reitz noted. Law enforcement professionals will always be needed, he added. The systems in which the officers work continue to change. Reitz remembered with a laugh a recent power outage in which the young officers had to prepare their first handwritten reports (non-computer, non-keyboard).

The Hope Valley neighborhood is very engaged with the law enforcement community. Most of the diverse elements in the district are engaged, Reitz said. "I feel fortunate to be here," he added, remembering the 10-pound banana pudding brought to the office. That kind of community support could be one reason "officers ask to work this district," as the commander said.

In Hope Valley, officers mostly encounter property crimes and fraud. Overall in the district, residential areas see robbery, commercial sites shoplifting and traffic accidents. There is only the occasional violent crime, with no apparent rhyme or reason. Some of the deterrents to needing police response Reitz offered are knowing and looking out for one's neighbors, and seeing suspicious behavior and taking note of what is suspicious about it, what the person looks like, to report to officers.



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\*at the home of a Middle and Upper School family. RSVP for location/details.

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# Hope Valley Crime Report

So far, 2018 has been an historically low property crime year for our neighborhood.

As of the first week in November, we have experienced five burglaries, ten larcenies and no motor vehicle thefts. This compares with 15 burglaries last year; 16 in 2016; and 32 in 2015. At this same point in 2017, we had experienced seven larcenies; six larcenies in 2016; and eight larcenies in 2015.

In Durham Police District 3 (comprising southwest Durham), property crimes year-to-date are down around 17%.

What accounts for the dramatically lower property crime incidents this year? A number of factors could be responsible: more arrests, convictions, and incarcerations that remove habitual property crime offenders from our community, more effective crime prevention measures implemented by homeowners, and an improved economy that is providing more jobs.

*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 the wrongful taking and carrying away of the personal goods of another from his or her possession with intent to convert them to the taker's own use.*



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# The Hurricanes of 2018

By Courtney Alston



Hurricane Florence made a beeline straight for Durham and it's with not just a little sigh of relief that our neighborhood gives thanks for being spared by its last-minute left turn to the south. The impact, however, was still severe with the worst flash flooding that many neighbors have seen in a generation.

Roads flooded around the neighborhood including Dover, with the worst flooding at Buckingham which took the worst of the storm. To date it's impassable and is estimated to take about six months to repair (as of October). Finally, the golf course turned into something of a water park under the effects of the flash flood. The National Weather Service reported 6-8 inches of rainfall in Durham; keep in mind this was on top of already-saturated soil.

Regionally, southwestern North Carolina withstood the largest rainfall with as much as 35.93 inches of rain (nearly three feet!) in Elizabethtown over the course of four days and over 26 inches of rain in Wilmington. New Bern saw some of the most severe rainfall and winds

with about \$100 million in both residential and commercial structural damage. All told Hurricane Florence caused somewhere between 38 and 50 billion dollars in damage in the Carolinas.

All this rain, high winds and flash flooding left severe damage, misplaced residents, and a need for aid and support. In the spirit of helping their neighbors, our North Carolina-based hockey team, the Hurricanes, collected relief goods to the tune of 92 pallets and delivered them in three truck loads to relief sites. In Hope Valley we saw much of the same neighborly spirit with neighbors helping neighbors move downed trees, check on flooding creeks, and remove debris.

On the heels of Hurricane Florence and then the additional rain of Hurricane Michael not far behind, many of us are thinking about how to help those who face severe repercussions from the storm. If you'd like to make a direct impact and support our neighbors in Eastern North Carolina visit: <https://www.wral.com/hurricanehelp> for ways you can help.



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# The NC State Historic Tax Credit

## - Hope Valley History -

By Don Stanger

Income tax incentives for the rehabilitation of historic structures are important tools for historic preservation and economic development in North Carolina.

Since Hope Valley is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, qualifying structures in our neighborhood are eligible for state tax credits for rehabilitation expenses.

Since 1976, over 3,100 completed "certified rehabilitation" projects have been reviewed by the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, representing almost two billion dollars of investment in historic properties. The spin-off from all this activity includes job creation, downtown and neighborhood revitalization, improved community appearance, and greater community pride. Historic preservation is smart growth, and smart investment.

Here are a few details:

### Historic Properties Homeowner Tax Credits

- Property must be National Register listed or be contributing to a National Register listed Historic District.
- Available credit equals 15% of eligible rehabilitation expenses up to project cap.
- Project minimum threshold is \$10,000 in rehabilitation expenses.
- Project cap limits eligible rehabilitation expenses to \$150,000 - maximum credit is \$22,500. • Eligible rehabilitation expenses must be incurred within any 24-month period.
- Credit may be taken in year structure placed in service and carried forward for nine years.
- Credits may be transferred with property so long as transfer of property occurs before it is placed in service.
- Taxpayer is allowed to claim credits for a rehabilitation once every five years.
- New credit effective January 1, 2016, sunsets January 1, 2020.
- Graduated fee schedule based on total rehabilitation expenses.

For more information, visit the State of North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office web site at:

<https://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/tchome.htm>

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