

# DOWN IN THE VALLEY

## President's Letter

Happy Summer!

After our very cold winter I trust you are now enjoying some warmer weather. A few bits of HVNA information as the summer quickly approaches:

- The HVNA continues to encourage new residents to join our Association
- We continue to keep our common areas beautiful and encourage residents to keep yards and areas near the road cut back for better driving visibility and road sharing
- We will maintain our extra police patrols through the summer and continue to reassess in the fall
- Continue monitoring our listserv in real time for crime and lost pet notices. Remember photos always help with the lost pets when possible!
- Encourage residents to use our HVNA Neighborhood Bulletin board for posting other items of interest
- Look forward to sponsoring block parties even if you've had one in the past!
- Check out our NEW newsletter format
- Remember alarms and calling 911 for suspicious activity

The Board looks forward to a safe and quiet summer!

*Chase*

Chase Teer-Loew  
President, Hope Valley Neighborhood Association  
919-489-3367 / [chaseteerloew@hvna.org](mailto:chaseteerloew@hvna.org)

*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:

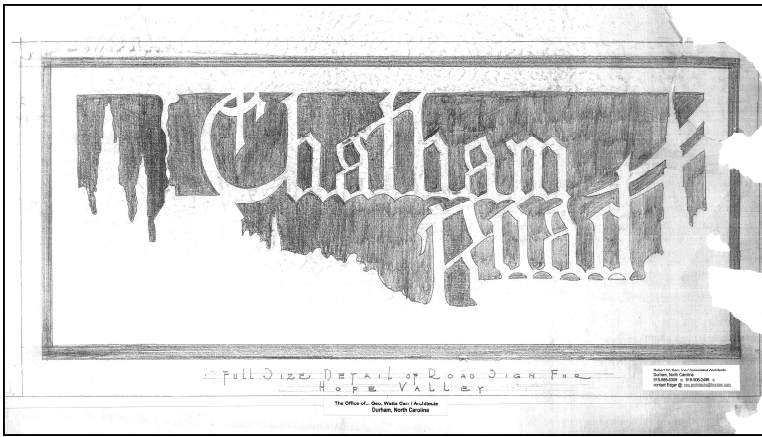
- Recommend a service vendor like a plumber, painter, electrician, mason, etc.
- Ask your neighbors for a vendor recommendation
- Publicize your personal charity activities (Durham or Hope Valley only please!)
- Advertise babysitting, house sitting or pet sitting services
- Advertise a yard sale, house 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, contact Don Stanger, [donstanger@aol.com](mailto: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.

When the City annexed Hope Valley, bringing city services, expanded sewer and water, and trash collection, they also brought the ubiquitous green and white city street signs. Many of the original iron signs found their way into attics, basements, or were left to rust away outside.


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 HVNA continues to ask residents to look for original signs that may have ended up in storage, covered by a shrub or landscaping, or even in local antique shops.

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 this spring marks 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.

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# Identifying Our Furry Neighbors



**COYOTE**



**GRAY FOX**

There have been a number of recent coyote and gray fox sightings in Hope Valley that have prompted a good deal of HVNA listserv posts and email chatter.

Many neighbors are unsure of how to positively identify a coyote or a gray fox. Here is some information from the NC Wildlife Resources web site that may be helpful.

## **Coyote**

The coyote is named from the Aztec word, coyotl, which means “barking dog,” and is a familiar figure as “the trickster” in many Native American stories. The coyote is native only in North America and, of all wild canine species, the coyote has the widest range in this country. This predator is arguably the hardiest and most adaptable species on this continent.

Coyotes in North Carolina look similar to red wolves, but coyotes are smaller, have pointed and erect ears, and long slender snouts. The tail is long, bushy and black-tipped and is usually carried pointing down. Color is typically dark gray but can range from blonde, red, and even black. Size is also variable, but averages about 2' tall at the shoulder and 4' in length. The Eastern subspecies of coyote is normally larger than its Western counterpart. This is attributed to crossbreeding with the grey wolf (*Canis lupus*) in the northeastern part of its range. Because of thick fur, weights of coyotes can easily be overestimated. Adults are about the size of a medium-sized dog and weigh between 20 and 45 pounds. Coyotes may be mistaken for dogs or red wolves, and the existence of both dog-coyote hybrids and red wolf-coyote hybrids, while uncommon, adds more confusion to the identification effort. The coyote has five toes on its front feet and four toes on its hind feet. Its feet are smaller and narrower than an average dog with the same body size.

## **Gray Fox**

The red fox is named for its reddish or orangish coloration. The tail, body and top of the head are all some shade of yellow-orange to reddish-orange. The undersides are light, and the tips of the ears and lower legs are black. While rare in North Carolina, red foxes can occur in other color variations, such as black, silver, or a cross between red and silver, commonly known as a “cross fox.” There is also a rare genetic condition that causes red foxes to lack guard hairs. Red foxes with this condition are called “Sampson foxes” and appear brown or grey in color. They are more likely to be active during the warmer hours of the day since their thin coat lacks insulation power. The tail is long (about 70 percent as long as the head and body length), bushy and has a white tip. Adults are the size of a small dog and weigh from 7.7 to 15.4 pounds.

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# Bringing Rising Energy Costs Back to Earth

Energy prices are on the rise, reflecting an increase in gasoline prices and a jump in the cost of home heating oil. The impact on home heating and cooling expenses has homeowners searching for ways to conserve energy and reduce utility bills.

Geothermal heating and cooling systems offer a solution that brings rising energy costs back to earth, literally and figuratively. Geothermal systems capitalize on the solar energy stored year-round just beneath the earth's surface. This free geothermal energy is an unlimited, renewable source that is captured from the earth by using a series of pipes (an earth loop) buried in the ground. An environmentally friendly mixture of alcohol and water solution transfers the heat energy from the ground to the fluid and then to the home, providing both heating and cooling comfort to the structure. As a bonus, a geothermal unit can provide some or all of your hot water at higher efficiencies, offering additional energy savings.

A geothermal system operates more efficiently than ordinary heating and air conditioning systems, delivering an astounding four units of energy for every one unit of electrical energy used. That translates to a 400 percent efficiency rating and savings up to 70 percent for heating, cooling and hot water costs.

Geothermal systems can be used in new home construction and retrofit applications. For new home buyers, the cost of the system can usually be tied into monthly mortgage payments. Monthly savings from the system will generally cover the additional amount added to the mortgage payment, resulting in an immediate positive cash flow. In an existing home, tax advantages and rebates can offset the initial investment. For a limited time, the federal government is offering homeowners a renewable energy tax credit of 30 percent of the total investment for a residential geothermal installation, and North Carolina is offering a 35 percent tax credit on geothermal systems. Add the benefit of low interest financing, and a homeowner can quickly see positive cash flow in a replacement application.

And while the geothermal system is reducing the cost of home heating and cooling, it's also providing benefits to the environment. The system emits no carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide or other greenhouse gases which are considered to be major contributors to environmental air pollution. In addition, the lower peak demands for geothermal systems help to postpone the need to build more expensive electric generating plants and reduce the need for natural resources like coal or gas used to generate electricity.

For an environmentally friendly heating and cooling system that provides positive cash flow, look at geothermal, which provides homeowners with an option to reduce energy costs and enhance comfort, safety and reliability.

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*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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## Spring Brings Flowers and Four Legs...

By Nancy Carstens

Now that the weather has gotten nice again and we can be outside again *and* several new families have moved into Hope Valley, I have noticed a definite increase in the "animal population." in our neighborhood. By that I mean, dogs/cats.

Full disclosure, I am for the cats as I have one or two, all right, I have three. However, there are a few really, really cute pooches in this area that I would just love to take home as well.

With the beautiful wide streets HV offers and a very friendly population of humans that live around here, I think our pets are pretty lucky to have landed in this neighborhood. I know my cats take full advantage of the extensive water drain systems that provide the perfect "escape" from a car or a fast approaching competitor. The dogs seem very happy to follow their owners on their daily walks or *lead their owners* in some cases, around each curb pausing at their "favorite spot" to let the next guy know who the real boss is.

Pets enhance our lives 100%. Without them we would be less in every way. With a rough total of 17 or so dogs and maybe 4-5 cats (I am sure there are more hiding somewhere) in my two block radius I would say the four-legged species might be running the show around here... and aren't we lucky for it!

Everyone, meet your "other" neighbors:

Zipper	Lily	Sophie	Bella	Lincoln
Beau	Red	Jake	Charcoal	Little
Buddy	Auggie	Pipa	Spooky	Lillie
Hummus	Winston	Dudley	Louie	
Charlie	Cooper	Mamie		

## A Hope Valley Resident Offered These Tips to Protect Your Home This Summer

We try to protect by:

- Varying our schedules
- Having an alarm system that is MONITORED with signs posted in several places around the property
- Having a loud dog
- Warning all workmen about our dog and the system
- Monitoring workmen when they are around our house
- Knowing the companies with which we work
- When out of town, we make sure someone lives here
- Regular housekeeper and not a service
- We often talk about "personal" protection "devices" so that newcomers around will be aware. Taxi-dermied animals on a few walls doesn't hurt either!
- Security lighting around the house, inside and out
- Continued yard and home maintenance even while gone
- Stopping papers, mail and other deliveries (So easy, just a few clicks on your computer)
- Having a neighbor roll your trash cans out on trash day, and put some trash in them if you are gone for a long time
- Making sure all windows and doors are locked, especially basement, garage, or storage areas not used regularly
- Be vigilant!

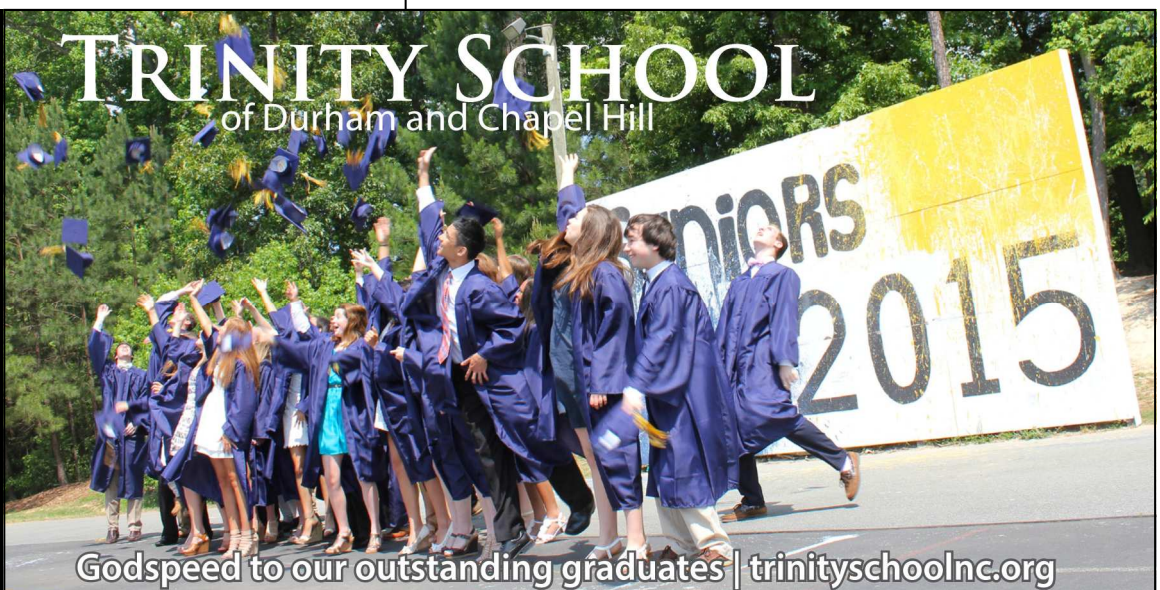
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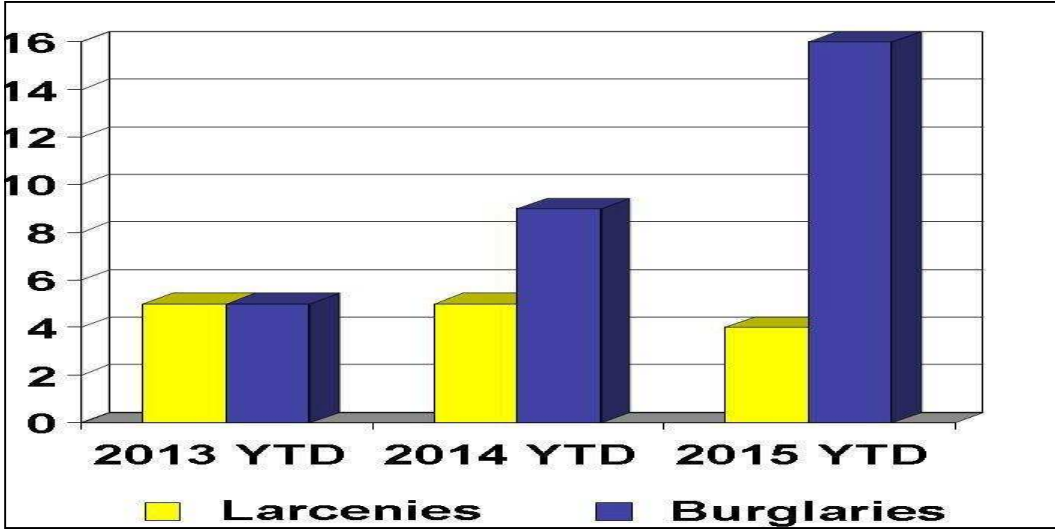
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**Hope Valley  
Property Crime Statistics  
- YTD 2013 through YTD 2015 -**



The bad news is that there were 16 burglaries in the first quarter of 2015, equal to over half of the total burglaries committed in Hope Valley during calendar year 2014; the good news is we have only had one burglary over the past two months. There are several possible reasons that we have had a good two months. Our local District 3 police team has been working hard to arrest suspects in these burglaries. In addition, our neighbors continue to take precautions to reduce the risks of being burglarized. Also, we are continuing extra police patrols that are focusing on parts of our neighborhood that have been burglarized in the past

At the same time, larcenies in our neighborhood have steadily decreased over the past two years. Through the first five months of 2015, Hope Valley only experienced four larcenies, down 25% from the comparable period in 2014. This is the lowest number of larcenies in the past six years. 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 outside, 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

*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. Burglary is defined as the criminal offense of breaking and entering into any dwelling or building illegally with the intent to commit a felony*

**Notice from HVNA  
Board of Directors**

The HVNA Board continues to work with the Durham Police to combat crime in Hope Valley. *Unfortunately, we have experienced a high level of burglaries over the first five months of 2015, i.e., 16 burglaries have occurred, up 78% versus the comparable 2014 period.* We have researched the installation of neighborhood-wide security cameras and have concluded that the cost of a system outweighs the potential benefits. **Placing enough premium quality cameras in locations where they can access reliable power and network connectivity while still being out of reach of vandals is cost prohibitive, and doesn't guarantee a reduction in crime.**

**However, we have determined that installing surveillance camera signs, in conjunction with community vigilance, can have a deterrent effect at a much lower cost. As such, we will be adding notices to our 12 welcome signs in the next several weeks.**

**In support of this, we are asking neighbors to increase their vigilance and photograph or video any suspicious activity, vehicles or persons, with their cell phones, cameras, or home security cameras and post these photographs to our list serv. Please do this in a way that does not put you or others in danger. Durham PD will monitor our list serv and use our self generated photos in conjunction with information from your 911 calls to track and identify those who might attempt to victimize our neighborhood.**

**Please CONTINUE to call 911 to report ANY suspicious activity, this is the preferred reporting method for the Durham Police Department.**

**Your Neighborhood Association Board will continue to monitor criminal activity within our boundaries and take additional steps as conditions warrant.**

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

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# A Fond Hope Valley Memoir

- Hope Valley History -

By Don Stanger

Wihelmena Katherine Fuller Webb “Mena” passed away on Wednesday, May 23rd, 2012 at the age of 97. Among her many talents, Mena was an able chronicler of Durham society (she was Society Editor for the Durham Sun), as well as a student of Durham and Hope Valley history.

When she was 12, she and her parents, Ralph Bell Fuller and Caro Bacon Fuller, moved from downtown Durham to 3938 Dover Road in Hope Valley (the current home of the Hughes family). In her 2003 book, *The Way We Were—Remembering Durham*, (published by the Historic Preservation Society of Durham, Mena fondly recalls her time in Hope Valley:

*The summer of 1929 was one of my happiest in Hope Valley, where we already lived on Dover Road for two years and long since adjusted to being “out in the country” instead of on Main Street in bustling downtown Durham. My father, true to his Scottish roots, had fallen in love with golf, and my mother with her new house, so different from our rambling Victorian home in town. The Dover Road house boasted an electric stove, refrigerator and furnace, and three gleaming white-tiled bathrooms. Such conveniences kept my mother smiling and singing much of the day, and kept my eighteen year-old sister and my fourteen year-old self free of household chores.*

*For us, life could not have been sweeter. With our new friends, the Mebane girls, we played tennis when no adults were using the courts; mounted the slowest, most predictable horse in the Hope Valley Riding Stables whenever we could scrape up a dollar for an hour’s ride, and swam in the club pool. Evenings, evenings at our house or the Mebane’s, we mostly waited for boys to check by, and mostly they did. Then we danced, sometimes not too successfully, to jazz from a self-playing Magnavox. All of us, boys and girls, were practicing To be grown-ups in what is now called a “safe environment — under watchful parental eyes.*

*It seems pretty tame in retrospect, but whenever I look back to the stock market crash and the Great Depression that nearly destroyed Hope Valley, I see it as one of the best of times, before one of the worst of times made us grow up too soon.*



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