

DOWN IN THE VALLEY

President's Letter

Happy Summer Time!

Enjoy your summer vacation and plan to make it a safe one! Before leaving your home, please check windows, doors and turn on your alarm. We had an uptick in larcenies recently because our residents are making it easy for criminals. Don't leave any valuables in sight and lock the car especially if you car is under a carport or outside.

Please **save the afternoon of Sunday, August 21**. The HVNA and HVCC will jointly celebrate the 90th Birthday of Hope Valley. The HVCC will be offering an afternoon of fun for **ALL** Hope Valley residents. There will be golf, tennis, swimming and fun followed by delicious food. Plan to spend the afternoon with all your neighbors. Keep watching the listserv for updates on the party details.

Have a great summer!

Chase

Chase Teer-Loew
President, Hope Valley Neighborhood Association
919-489-3367 / chaseteerloew@hvna.org

Celebrate Hope Valley's 90th Birthday with Your Neighbors at Hope Valley Country Club August 21st!

Hope Valley Neighborhood Association and Hope Valley Country Club are joining forces to celebrate Hope Valley's 90th Birthday. 90 Years ago some very forward thinking developers and Durham citizens created the nucleus of the Hope Valley we know today.

To celebrate, ALL residents of Hope Valley are invited to the Hope Valley Country Club to enjoy golf, tennis, swimming, dining, and some special birthday surprises for a small donation per family to join the fun .

Please save the date, formal invitations will follow.

*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.

Snakes in Hope Valley — Poisonous or Not?



Copperhead Snake — Poisonous, but seldom fatal.

"Copperhead bites are typically not fatal," says Dr. Peter Bromley, N. C. Cooperative Extension Specialist in Zoology. Small animals, like small dogs, may receive a fatal bite from a copperhead. The venom causes local tissue destruction and secondary infection often sets in. If you or your pet are bitten by any snake that you suspect is venomous, get medical attention immediately. For the most part, if you let snakes alone, they'll leave you alone.

North Carolina has the dubious distinction of the most venomous snake bites of any state in the U.S. Many of these bites could be prevented by avoiding the snake instead of trying to kill it or pick it up. **Avoid Copperhead snakes!** Allow it to go on its way undisturbed. Copperheads bite more people in most years than any other U.S. species, but they also have the mildest venom. University of Georgia Professor Dr. Whit Gibbons is conducting research to learn why copperheads inflict the most bites.

All the snake species tested have had the same initial response to human presence. If given the opportunity, they escape--down a hole, under a ledge, or in the case of cottonmouths, into the water. Escape is even the standard behavior of enormous diamondback rattlesnakes, which will immediately disappear if they have enough warning before they think a person can reach them.

But often escape is not possible, so most snakes hold their ground, ready to defend themselves. A difference between copperheads and the other species appears in the next phase, when they are approached. Most rattlesnakes vibrate their tails and most cottonmouths sit with mouth open when a human comes near. Even some non-venomous snakes vibrate their tails. These displays are merely warnings not to tread on them. They are not aggressive attack measures. The snakes just want us to leave them alone.

So far, the dozens of cottonmouths Dr. Gibbons stood beside have made threat displays but have not bitten the researcher's boot. The same has been true for canebrake rattlesnakes although too few have been tested to declare that they are as passive as cottonmouths. The exciting news (at least for the researchers) is that the copperhead is different from the others. Most copperheads tested have struck out immediately when they felt threatened.

This behavior explains why more people receive legitimate snakebites from copperheads than from any other species of venomous snake in North America. Still to be investigated is another aspect of copper-



Black Rat Snake — Not poisonous & eats garden pests.

head bites: many are not serious enough to require more than minor medical treatment. This may be so not only because the venom of a copperhead is significantly less potent than that of rattlesnakes or cottonmouths, but also because they seldom inject much venom.

The copperhead's initial threat display is to strike. It lashes out at an enemy as a warning. If the enemy is close enough, the fangs may penetrate the skin. However, because this is a threat display, not an attempt to kill, the snake injects little venom. A copperhead has no intention of wasting valuable venom if it can scare away the menace with a minor bite.

A Copperhead snake bite needs medical attention, is extremely painful, and may cause extensive scarring and loss of use. Many people are bitten while trying to kill or handle the snake. Don't take chances -- avoid these snakes.

Keep in mind, however, that even a non-fatal bite needs medical attention, is extremely painful, and may cause extensive scarring and loss of use. Don't take chances--avoid these snakes.

Whit Gibbons is the Senior Professor of Ecology at the University of Georgia's Savannah River Ecology Laboratory in Aiken, South Carolina.

For more information, see:

www.ces.ncsu.edu/gaston/Pests/reptilelessnakepix.htm

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Hope Valley Address Markers Available Again!

The HVNA has contracted with Durham's Vega Metals for another round of address markers. The design of these custom made wrought iron address markers are based on Hope Valley's iconic street signs. Two kits are available, sign and bracket for \$200, and sign, bracket, mounting hardware, and cedar post for \$230. Our minimum order is 25 and we are nearly there.

The address markers are heavy duty, and high visibility, with large white numbers that are highly reflective at night. Mark your house in style with one of these great signs.

The markers may be installed in many ways. Great examples, already seen in the neighborhood include, on mail box posts, low walls, fences, trees, on homes, on custom posts, and of course on Hope Valley's iconic cedar.

Please send your check to HVNA Address Marker, PO Box 51338, Durham, NC, 27717 or visit hvna.org and click the payment link. Questions? Contact Jill Louv jilllouv@gmail.com

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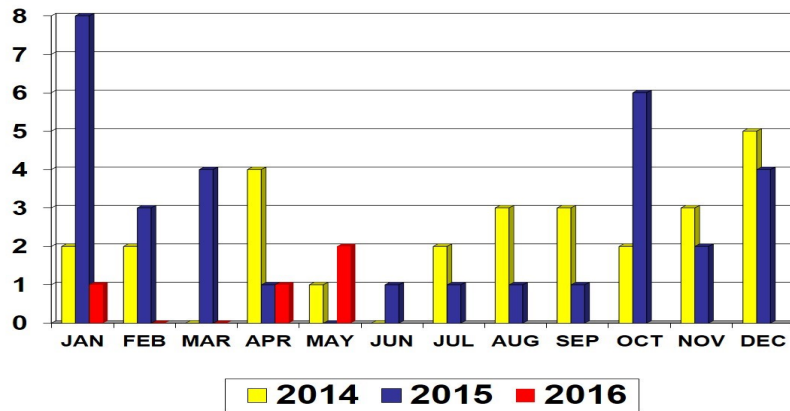


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Hope Valley Burglaries - 2014 through May, 2016 -



Last year at this time, we were lamenting the fact that we were experiencing a record number of burglaries in Hope Valley — 16 burglaries in the first five months of 2015. This, despite the fact that we were paying for additional police patrols every week. Because we were not seeing an appreciable reduction in burglaries during the first part of the year, the HVNA board decided to eliminate the expenditure for extra patrols at the beginning of last summer.

Except for last October, the number of burglaries during the last eight months of 2015 was reduced when compared to the last eight months of 2014. This lower trend has continued so far this calendar year. There was one burglary in the months of January and April. There were no burglaries in February, March, and two in May. At five burglaries, the first five months of 2016 set the record for the lowest number of burglaries since we have been keeping detailed statistics in 2009.

Larcenies have continued to remain low, however, we had two motor vehicle thefts in the past month. These are the first motor vehicle thefts since 2009.

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, and **call '911' to report anything or anyone that looks suspicious.**

HOT OUTSIDE? COMFORT INSIDE.



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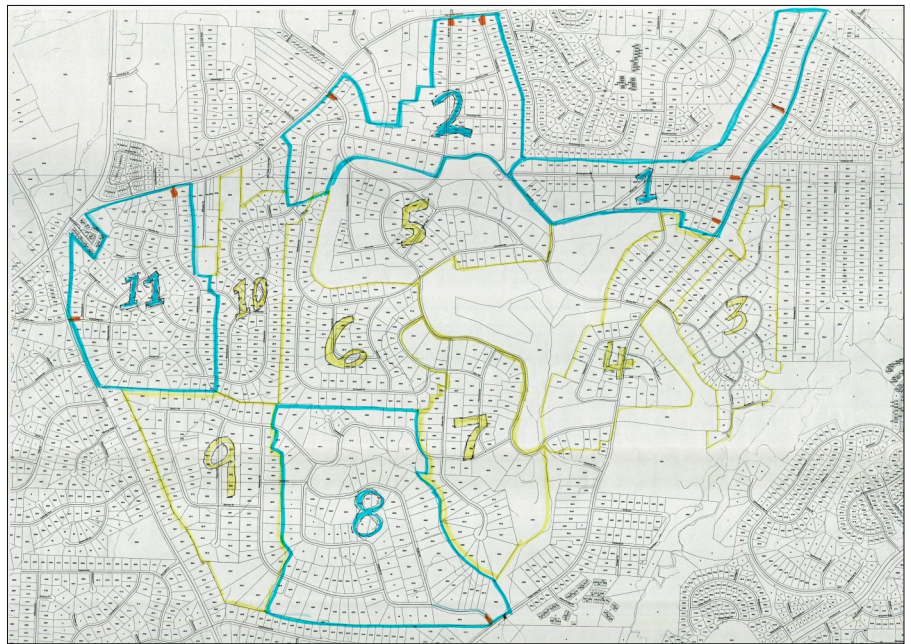
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Locally owned and operated by Hope Valley residents Bobby Ferrel and Walker Harris

We Need Hope Valley Area Block Captains!

At our 2016 HVNA Annual Meeting in late February, we announced the launch of Hope Valley Areas, a new component to the HVNA Neighborhood Watch program.

There are approximately 950 Residencies within the HVNA boundaries. The HVNA board recognized that the size of our neighborhood requires a different approach that segments our neighborhood into smaller units, i.e., 11 Areas (see map to the right) Further, the Board prioritized the 11 Areas into those with highest incidences of recent property crimes.



Following the creation of these Areas, the board initiated the recruitment of an Area Captain (AC) for each area. The primary duties of the Area Captains will be to help recruit future Block Captains in their areas, insure all block rosters are updated regularly, and share best practices with other AC's. This should reduce the time everyone spends performing their Block Captain duties.

Our first Area Captain is Steve O'Donnell. Steve has volunteered to serve as Captain for Area 1. Area 1 consists of the NE section of Hope Valley. The streets included on Area 1 include: Reynolds, Sheridan, Devon (2802-3114) and Buckingham (2900-3120). Over the last three years, burglaries have been reduced on Sheridan as a result of neighbors getting to know each other, noticing when someone doesn't belong on their street, and getting neighbors to call 911 when they see suspicious activity. Also, neighbors on Sheridan have used the \$300 Grant available from the HVNA to support a block party. A block party is a great way for all your neighbors to get to know each other and learn more about who lives near them.

The three other initial Area boundaries are:

Area 2 - North Central: The streets included in Area 2 are; Westover (3603-3634), Devon (3120-3325), Windsor, Banbury, Tonbridge, Dover (3401-3437), and Cambridge 3400-3541).

Area 8 - South East: The streets included in Area 8 are; Rugby (3424-3613), Trafalgar, Kimberly, Bentley, Darwin, and Nottaway.

Area 11 - North West: The streets included in Area 11 are; Northampton, Colville, Pilling, Acornridge, Dunsinane, Champaign, Westchester, Chippenham, and Cricket.

Please email Al Martindale at almartindale@hvna.org if you are interested in becoming an Area Block Captain for one of the three Areas listed above.

Thanks in advance for helping make our neighborhood an even greater place to live!

- introducing the -

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GET YOUR AC PREPARED FOR THE SUMMER HEAT

We take the summer heat seriously and heed warnings on scorching summer days about overheating and heat strokes. But we don't always extend that concern to our home and proactively make sure our AC unit is working properly and functioning correctly. A broken HVAC system at the wrong time, when heat indexes in North Carolina can hover well above 100 degrees, can impair your health, and create an extremely grumpy household.

You don't have to live in the Nevada desert to understand the importance of an AC unit; you simply have to have hot summer months each year that allow you to understand how warm it can get and how valuable your AC unit is.

Include your AC unit in any maintenance you are doing around the house, especially since it needs to be cleaned and maintained every year. Unless you are a specialist who works on HVAC units, it is best to call a specialist and allow them to look at your unit, fix any problems, give it a boost of freon if necessary, and change the air filter.

In order to maintain your AC unit, the following items need to be considered:

- 1. Do you need to refill the freon?** Refilling of freon is not always necessary because freon should last for years in the unit, especially if the unit is not used every single day.
- 2. Are the coils clean?** The coils in the unit also need attention, and this is something that a specialist will be able to look at. Clean coils help your system run more better, cooling the home more efficiently and leading to improved comfort.
- 3. Check the ductwork. Is it all secure and tight?** If you have central air in your home, then the ductwork needs to be in good working order to allow the AC unit to work correctly. Have the specialist look for tears within the ductwork, which can allow warm air to come from the attic into the ducts, which means you'll get warm air when you're trying to cool down the home with the AC. The specialist can also make sure your ducts are properly sealed.
- 4. Are there major problems? Do you need to consider replacing the AC for lower energy bills?** You may need to consider an AC replacement, especially if you don't have an energy efficient AC unit. A high efficiency air conditioner is the best choice because you'll be able to see a smaller energy bill but have a cooler home when you get units such as these. The high efficiency air conditioner you want to purchase should be available in many locations at a good price, and remember that these units can last for decades if they are well-maintained.
- 5. Is the air filter clean? Does it need to be replaced?** A clean air filter allows proper airflow within your AC unit, and is important to keeping your house cool.

Once you have an AC unit that functions correctly, then you can start enjoying the summer indoors, and you will also enjoy the following:

- 1. Cool Room Temperatures.** When your AC unit works correctly, you can walk into any room in the home and know that it's going to be cool. If you have a different AC unit for each level of your home, then the home should still be cooled properly, but you may want

to consider the upper level of the home, especially if it's rather humid. Some homes hold humidity more on the upper level of the home, so adding a dehumidifier to your central air system may be necessary to keep both the upstairs and downstairs at even temperatures.

- 2. A Hiding Place from Outside Temperatures.** When it's too hot outside to even be outdoors, then it's nice to know that you can be inside and have the AC running. You'll also be able to keep elderly persons as well as children indoors in a cool environment, and no one will have to worry about heat strokes or problems with the heat because the indoors will be cool enough for everyone.
- 4. An AC Unit That Can Be Programmed.** An AC unit that functions well is good, but having a programmable thermostat on the unit is even better. Once you leave home for the day, you can turn off the AC if you forgot to do it before you left the house.

If you know you'll be gone for several hours a day; then you can keep the AC off until the time that you're about to come home, and then you can program the unit to turn itself on to cool the home before you arrive. There are programmable thermostats that work off of Wi-Fi, which means you can go on the Internet to program your thermostat anytime. Keeping your AC unit set at a higher temperature when you are out of the house is a huge energy bill saver.

LET THE PROFESSIONALS HELP

If you haven't already made an appointment to have a specialist come to check on your AC unit, then now is the time. Many will be lining up to get their AC units maintained and repaired because of the upcoming summer months. Make your appointment early, so you don't have to wait or be caught off guard by the heat.

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.

Community Resource Officer

Ever wondered if your home has security issues that need to be corrected to make it more secure? Good news. You have a resource within the Durham Police Department that can help you make your home more secure.

Our Community Resource Officer for District 3 is Lawanda Mock. Here are a few things Officer Mock can help you with around your home: Neighborhood Watch, Security Surveys/CPTED, Emergency Call-Back, Fraud Prevention, Stranger Danger, Kids ID, Community Events, and Robbery Prevention.

Officer Mock can be reached at: 919-257-8524 (Cell)

or

Lawanda.Mock@durhamnc.gov

Anne & Watts Norton — Hope Valley Pioneers

- Hope Valley History -

By Tad DeBerry

In 1927 Hope Valley was still very much the dream of Jesse Mebane and Walter Sharpe, but a few intrepid souls could see the vision and began home building in “the colony.” By 1928 Watts Norton and his wife Anne had settled into their new brick home at 3812 Dover Road (Soon to be known as the Burkert House!) The very restrained Tudor was designed by George Watts Carr.

Watts was the General Agent for Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company, and Anne was an active homemaker and Garden Club leader. The Norton’s raised three children in Hope Valley, Nancy, Courtney, and Charles.

An interesting sidebar: Mr. Norton began a long tradition of Northwestern Mutual administrators living in Hope Valley. The Norton’s moved from Trinity Park in 1928. Mr. Norton’s successor at Northwestern, John Darling and his wife Jane lived on Exeter Way. Upon Mr. Darling’s retirement his successor Arthur DeBerry and his family moved to Somerset Drive. It was not until 1993 that the top Northwestern Mutual administrators for North Carolina lived outside Hope Valley. Today the tradition continues with Northwestern Mutual representatives, Jimbo Huckabee, Tom Morris, Barbara DeBerry, and retired representatives Lennie Barton, Ted Griffin, Frank Lyon and others living in or near Hope Valley.



An early member of the Hope Valley Club, Mr. Norton used it extensively for Northwestern Mutual meetings and events many of which were photographed, providing an interesting history of the evolution of the Clubhouse.

Mrs. Norton was the Chairwoman of the Hope Valley Garden Club Beautification Committee in 1955 which spear headed a drive to replace or create street signs, paint the gates at Chapel Hill Road, and plant over 700 dogwoods, and 1400 spring blooming crocus bulbs.



The Class of 2016 excelled, having been awarded more than \$2.25 million in scholarship money. This year’s seniors have been accepted into more than 160 colleges and universities including UNC, Duke, Elon, Stanford, and Wheaton.

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