

DOWN IN THE VALLEY

Dear Hope Valley Neighbors,

March is finally here and that brings many things. Spring is around the corner. College basketball fans are anticipating the greatest few weeks of the sport and your HVNA has held its annual meeting. I am happy to report that all current Board members are remaining in their positions and looking forward to a successful year. I want to thank both the Board and those who were able to attend the rescheduled meeting. There were some great ideas discussed by those in attendance and we laid out goals for 2020. One of our main focuses this year is to increase our membership, as of this writing we are just north of 50%, a number we believe to be way too low.

The Board represents and works for all of Hope Valley, from Campaign to Cambridge, Devon to Darby, Regent to Rugby and so on; not just one half of the area. We don't randomly pick 50% of the Historic street signs to decorate or choose half of the households to invite to the Halloween Parade. All signs are decorated and all are welcome at our Events. This is made possible with the voluntary and extremely low \$30.00 annual dues, payable both on our website and also by mail to our P.O. Box (see form on Page 8).

Thirty dollars is less than half a tank of gasoline in most trucks and SUVs and also vehicles requiring premium fuel. Just think about that for one second.... a whole year covered by 1/2 of a tank of gasoline! Dues also pay for our website, ListServ, Bulletin Board and lawn maintenance projects. Have you ever found a lost pet, a set of keys or even a cell phone after a neighborhood-wide email went out? Your dues helped make that happen, so please continue to help us operate at the highest level possible.

Lastly, I want to announce the return of the Address Markers. They have been fabricated and are at the sign shop waiting for our order. It is easier to have at least ten at a time to make things easier to paint, pick up and deliver to your home. At this time we DO NOT have the accompanying cedar posts to which many neighbors attached the Address Markers. However, appearance chair, Katie Kalb may have solved this problem and an announcement will be made as soon as we know for sure. In the meantime, there are several other ways to display them; the most popular being on the mailbox post in front of your home. Orders may be placed on our website and the cost of the Marker, bracket, hardware and mounting instructions is \$200.00.

Happy Spring!

Tommy Kinney

HOPE VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD BULLETIN BOARD

An "Angie's List" Service for Hope Valley Residents

This unmonitored email list service (supported by your HVNA Annual Dues) 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 available to Hope Valley residents & HVNA members only.
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@hvna.org

NOTE: This does not replace the current monitored HVNA listserv for crime, emergency, lost pets, and other HVNA official business.

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THE 2020 HVNA ANNUAL MEETING!



From left: Durham County Sheriff Clarence Birkhead, HVNA President Tommy Kinney, and HVNA Board Member Don Stanger.

After the typical concern generated by a snow forecast for the evening of Thursday, February 20 and demonstrating an over abundance of cautions, the 2020 HVNA meeting was postpone for one week to Thursday, February 27. As in past years, the meeting was held at Hope Valley Country Club.

The meeting began with HVNA President Tommy Kinney welcoming a nice crowd of neighbors and a review of the agenda. Following an introduction by HVNA Vice President Elisabeth Wiener, Durham County Sheriff Clarence Birkhead reviewed the substantial progress his office has achieved in the areas of law enforcement, support of the courts, and management of the City Jail.

The HVNA President then reviewed several of the HVNA accomplishments during 2019 (see below). He then introduced Board Member Don Stanger who presented the results of eleven years of tracking property crimes in Hope Valley (see Page3), including the fact that most burglaries occur during the work week, between the hours of 9 AM and 7 PM. Mr. Kinney then presented the HVNA Board's 2020 Initiatives (see below).

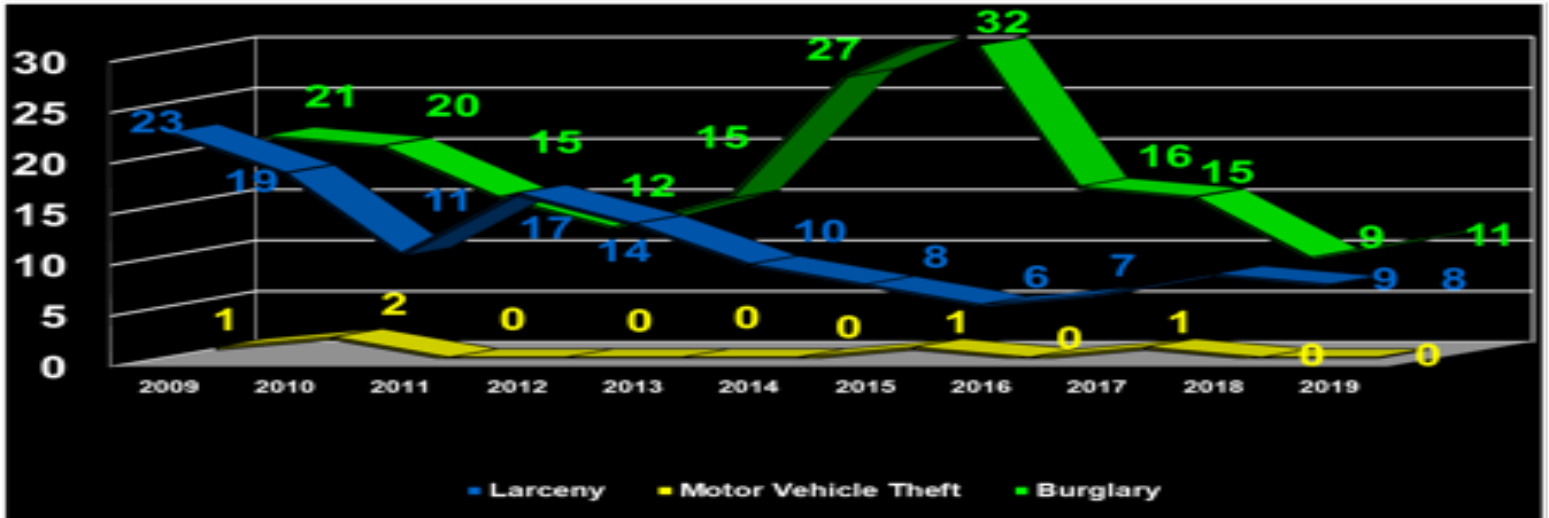
2019 HVNA ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Appearance
 - ◊ Entrances, Median & Cul-de-sac Maintenance
 - ◊ Address Marker Installations
- Little Library Design & Installation
- Halloween Parade (+400 Attendees)
- Neighborhood Block Party Grants
- Holiday Street Decorations
- \$10,000 Rainy Day Fund

2020 HVNA INITIATIVES

- 75% HVNA Membership
- Defense of Property Covenants
- Landscaping + Windsor Lawns Restoration + Avon Cul de Sac
- Summer Block Parties
- Little Libraries Maintenance
- Additional Address Markers
- Halloween Parade — October 31st
- Holiday Street Sign Decorations
- Expansion of HVNA Website Content (suggested by Annual Meeting attendees)

HOPE VALLEY CRIME STATISTICS 2009 — 2019



The end of calendar year 2019 marks the eleventh year that the HVNA has been compiling detailed statistics on property crimes in our neighborhood. There have been highs and lows in property crime rates during the past eleven years. In 2016 burglaries crested at 32. In 2019, we had the lowest number of burglaries at nine. 2012 marked the highest number of larcenies at 17; the lowest number of larcenies occurred at five. Since 2011, motor vehicle thefts have remained low.

While we have experienced eleven burglaries for all of 2019, an uptick over 2018, we only experienced three burglaries in the third quarter and none in the fourth quarter of 2019 – an historical record since we have been keeping detailed statistics.

However, we have experienced four burglaries so far this calendar year, the same number as the first two months last. Unfortunately, we have experienced 12 larcenies so far this year, another record, albeit not of the good kind.

Neighbors should follow the suggestions from our friends at the Durham Police Department: install and arm house alarms, install and utilize perimeter lighting, do not leave valuables or firearms in your cars, and CALL '911' IF YOU SEE ANYTHING OR ANYONE THAT LOOKS SUSPICIOUS.

React less. Plan more.

Let your goals be your guide

For some of life's questions, you're not alone.
Together we can find an answer.

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To sweeten the deal, sign up for a project of \$3,000 or greater by April 30, 2020 and receive 10 exterior car washes at The Durham Ritz!

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Is Google Fiber Service Coming to Our Neighborhood?

By Don Stanger

According to the Google Fiber website*, The Triangle is one of 18 cities that have Google Fiber service available. In Durham, Google has laid miles of fiber optics cable. However, it is only available in selected neighborhoods.

In Hope Valley, as many of us are aware due to the sometime negative impacts of installation of fiber optics in our neighborhood, most of us have junction boxes on our residential properties. However, at least in my case, Google Gigabit service has not yet been made to our homes.

Google advertises its Google Fiber Internet service as 'Faster' (gigabit speeds), 'Fairer' (unlimited data with no contracts), and 'Kinder' (working with local partners to promote 'digital inclusion').

What has the experience been so far by those Durhamites who have initiated Google Gigabit service? Anecdotally, a friend whose neighborhood near Woodcroft was offered Google Fiber's Internet service, has had one month of experience with the new service. He previously used AT&T for his Internet service. Here is what he told me:

So far so good. I had AT&T fiber for about 2 years. It was pretty good. Never really experienced any problems with it but other neighbors had issues, usually with fiber cables being cut because they weren't installed deep enough

Google Fiber is certainly faster. When attached by ethernet cable my speed has been 600 to 800 bits per second (BPS). The WIFI is 280 to 380. I have had no slow down problems. So it has been very reliable.

As I monitor the Hope Valley Neighborhood Bulletin Board comments about Internet services. I notice both positive and negative comments about Spectrum and AT&T Internet services. Again, these comments are a very limited sample.

To paraphrase Charles Darwin, "The species with the most options wins." In the case of Internet service alternatives in our neighborhood, more is undoubtedly better. Especially since we have already gone through the pain and complications of laying the fiber optic cables.

We will continue to monitor Google Fiber's roll out in Durham and post on the HVNA listserv when the service goes live in Hope Valley.



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Quite Literally, the Birds and the Bees: Hope Valley and the Community We Cultivate

By Courtney Alston

I talk with my daughter a lot about our neighborhood and community. We try to meet our immediate neighbors – families with little kids strolling by, retired couples out gardening or setting up a home photo lab, families with middle schoolers zooming by on scooters or playing basketball on warm afternoons, and empty nesters whose days are as busy as ever even through their kids have flown the coop - but I always try to include our neighbors who are furry or feathered (and even scaly) in the conversation as well. I hope that this lesson will teach my daughter (and remind me) that our neighborhood and community extend beyond the *people* in it, and includes the animals, insects, birds, snakes, vegetation and waterways that make up Hope Valley. I hope to convey that community is reciprocal – we contribute and participate and receive gifts in return, though they may come in forms we may not predict or expect.

For instance, this Christmas I bundled my nearly-three-year-old daughter up to deliver freshly baked cinnamon babkas (not by me I must admit, though my aspirations to emulating Martha Stewart remain strong) to our neighbors. I wanted a concrete way to show her that Christmas isn't about stacks of presents, but rather about giving and about fostering and nurturing connection and community– which is the greatest gift of all.

Hope Valley is a neighborhood that has been home to families, architects, professors and doctors, among others. But it's also home to the aforementioned wildlife: deer, fox, rabbits the errant raccoon as well as the much smaller (but perhaps more industrious) honeybees and birds big and small. Since Hope Valley is home to more than its human residents, we can give more than cinnamon babka, and give in more creative ways. Like a hive for honeybees or a pollinator garden to welcome said honeybees as well as the birds who join in that work.

As I try to convey to my daughter, when we give to our community, we receive gifts in return. Increased habitat for pollinators (honeybee and avian alike) mean our flowers are pollinated, our ecosystem survives and thrives. So many people in Hope Valley (myself and my wife included) chose this neighborhood for its natural beauty and bucolic vistas. We need our pollinating neighbors to do their job if the landscape is going to continue

looking the way it did when we moved in. Habitat pollinators means they have homes in an era when their homes are disappearing due to development and industrialized agriculture, pesticides like neonicotinoids, and climate change. The United States Department of Agriculture notes that bees pollinate about 75% of all the fruits, nuts and vegetables grown in the US. In other words: you can thank a bee for one out of every four bites of those foods. I'd write a thank you card if I could find the right address, but perhaps a hive is a better way to show my appreciation – and my commitment to reciprocal community.

- What's wonderful is there are concrete ways to give back to our feathered and buzzing neighbors, and companies out there who have already done the hard work for us. Pleasant Green Grass is a Durham-based company founded by an NC State grad specializing in organic lawn care and landscaping. They're installing wildflower gardens now to help increase habitat come Spring for those all-important pollinators. The company is also a part of the Durham Living Wage program. Learn more at www.pleasantgreengrass.com
- Buddha Bee Apiary is another Durham-based company owned by Justin Maness, another NC State grad, and will install beehives at your home– you host a hive and they reciprocate with a homemade honey. The company focuses on three main principles: 1) Supporting urban honeybees, 2) Pollinator education and 3) Environmental Awareness. They're accepting 2020 applications now. Learn more at www.buddhabeeapiary.com

There are lots of ways to enjoy Hope Valley and nurturing the environment around us to increase habitat for pollinators is one way – and everyone reaps the benefits.

Sources:

[https://www.usgs.gov/faqs/why-are-bees-important?qt-](https://www.usgs.gov/faqs/why-are-bees-important?qt-news_science_products=0#qt-news_science_products)

[news_science_products=0#qt-news_science_products](https://www.usgs.gov/faqs/why-are-bees-important?qt-news_science_products=0#qt-news_science_products)

<https://keepdurhambeautiful.org/pollinator-grow-out-program>

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WHO WAS CLAUDE CURRIE?



Claude Currie was born in Candor in Montgomery County in 1890. Following his service in the Army Air Corps in World War I, he moved to Durham, where he became a prominent member of the business community and active in state politics. He also played a pivotal role in our neighborhood's development and history.

He was president of the Security Savings and Loan Association, and a Democratic NC state senator representing the 11th District (Durham, Orange, and Person counties) at different terms over a nearly 50 year period, culminating with the chairmanship of the Committee on Public Health from 1971-1972. He died in 1978 at age 87.

Following World War II, Hope Valley, Inc. offered their remaining land for purchase. Currie, like L. Watts Norton (who built an early **Hope** Valley home at 3812 Dover Road), purchased large tract of land. Currie purchased everything from the corner of Bristol and Rugby Roads west. Properties now located on Rugby, Darwin, Kimberley, Nottaway, etc. are built on the original Currie purchased land. Legal descriptions for these properties reference Claude Currie. You can look up information about your property. Just enter your residence address on the Durham County Property web site:

<https://property.spatalest.com/nc/durham-tax/#/search/>

A large advertisement for Duke School Summer Camp. The top half shows a child lying on their back on a blue tarp on a grassy area, with their legs raised in the air. The child is wearing a dark blue t-shirt and shorts. In the top left corner of the tarp area, the website 'www.Dukeschool.org' is visible. In the top right corner, there is a circular graphic that says 'REGISTER FOR FUN NOW!'. The bottom half of the advertisement has a dark red background with white text. It says 'SUMMER CAMP!' in large letters, followed by 'SPORTS & GAMES • FINE ARTS' and 'OUTDOOR ADVENTURES • TECHNOLOGY'. Below that, it says 'PRESCHOOL THRU EIGHTH GRADE CAMPS' and '919.286.1866'. The Duke School logo is also present. The bottom section of the advertisement has a green background with yellow text that says 'YOU CAN PAY YOUR DUES ONLINE AT:' followed by 'WWW.HNVA.ORG' in large yellow letters.

www.Dukeschool.org

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or mail application and check to:

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DURHAM NC 27717

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Comments

- New Application New Hope Valley Resident?
 Renewal Additional Contribution to Beautification

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