

# DOWN IN THE VALLEY

Dear Hope Valley Neighbors,

I write to you on a beautiful mid-June morning, Hope Valley is buzzing with all types of activity and the official start to Summer is within sight. With kids out of school, vacations planned and much to do outside, please keep in mind easy ways to stay safe and be smart. Always lock vehicles, whether at the pool, a friends' house or just in the driveway for a few minutes. Hide valuables in the trunk, rear area or under the seat and do not leave keys inside a vehicle! While we may be on vacations, the bad guys are not, so make their jobs harder and protect yourself and your families. Lock homes, close garage doors and set your alarm, where applicable; these are easy and quick things and can make all the difference.

As its great to be outside, make sure you walk or bike on the correct side of the street as our unique landscape does have blind curves, hills and narrow streets. Please make sure you pay more attention to the traffic, dogs, strollers etc. than your phone. Technology is great but consider returning a call or text message until after you and Fido are home safe, drivers need to be extra cautious and so do pedestrians.

The activities of your Board are not stopping even with the wonderful weather, many great things have been happening and will continue to happen. After a bit of confusion, common area mowing issues with the City have been resolved and are back to normal. The Board has added new plants and shrubs which are looking great! Also, with the recent sell out of our last remaining historic style address markers, I am pleased to announce that a second order from the manufacturer is in the works. Demand for them was far greater than we anticipated (a great problem to have), and many Board members were asked about the possibility of more and a waiting list. We decided to place another large order with our local fabricator here in Durham and when ready, there will be an announcement. I am so pleased and excited to see the new ones outside of homes in all sections of Hope Valley! They look great day and night and make it much easier to locate exactly where we live.

Lastly, I want to encourage everyone to come out to this year's summer event, HVNA Night at Hi Wire Brewery, June 23<sup>rd</sup> from 5 to 7 PM. This is an event for all ages with activities for adults and children, we have a few tables reserved just for us with no registration required. There will be a food truck on sight and I look forward to a wonderful evening with our neighbors and friends.

On behalf of the HVNA, thank you for your continued support!

*Tommy Kinney*

## HOPE VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD BULLETIN BOARD

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

**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 available to Hope Valley residents 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](mailto:donstanger@hvna.org)***

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

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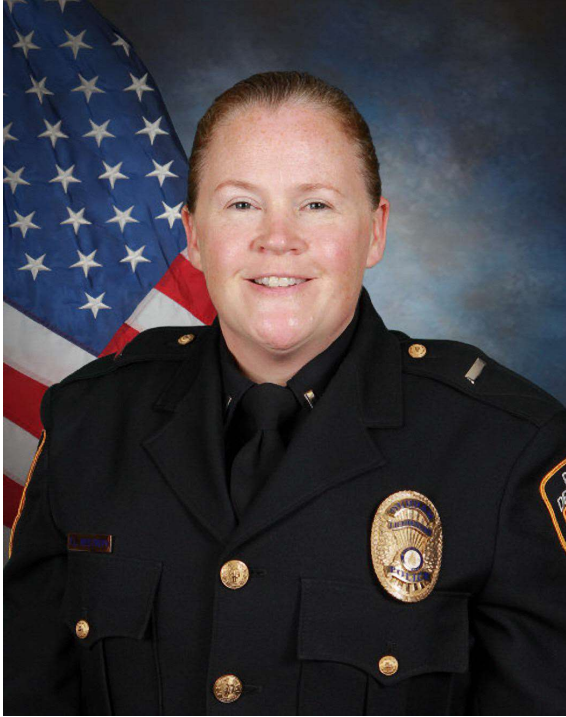
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# Welcome to Our New District Commander!



It seems like our Durham Police Department District Commander, Captain Marianne Bond, had just been introduced when she announced that she is moving on to a new position in the Professional Standards Division in DPD Headquarters. However, in the time that Captain Bond served our neighborhood, she set a new standard for communications, regularly updating us on crimes in the area and suggesting measures residents could take to reduce crime.

Captain Bond's replacement is Captain Tammy Restrepo. To quote Captain Bond:

*"She has been with the police department for over 18 years and is an excellent leader. Captain Restrepo is very personable and has a vast array of experience to include; investigations, special services and uniform patrol."*

We are looking forward to working with Captain Restrepo. And we thank Captain Bond for her service to our neighborhood and wish her every success in her new position!

Please stay safe and if you ever need anything, don't hesitate to reach out to our friends at the Durham Police Department.

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**The Durham Police  
Department says:  
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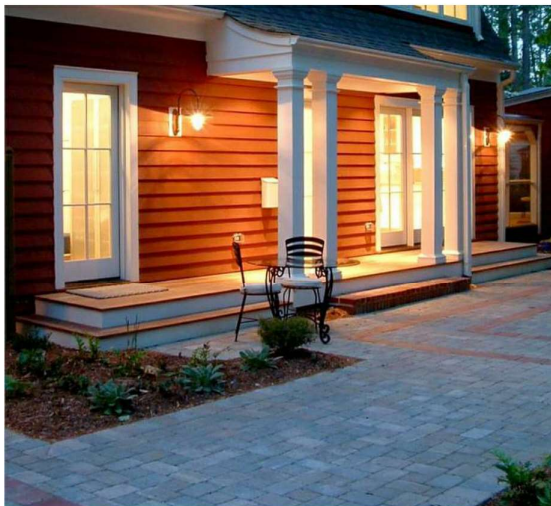


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# Farewell to Our Historic Gem - The Shepherd-Mebane House

By Bettina Best Stanger



The Shepherd-Mebane House began its life as the home of the Shepherd family who established their family farm sometime in the late 1700's. Its life was cut short on Monday, June 24 when demolition was completed by its new owners, a local builder and realtor.

The Shepherd family farmhouse was originally built on land just north of what is now the corner of Chelsea Circle and Hope Valley Road. It was a two story four-room structure that met the needs of the Shepherd family for nearly 130 years.

In 1926 the Shepherd family farm land was purchased by Hope Valley's founders, Walter Sharp and Jess Mebane, and became the development site of Hope Valley.

The second chapter of the life of the Shepherd-Mebane House began in 1927 when a team of mules rolled it straight down the hill on large logs to its new location at 2814 Chelsea Circle. It was sited in the middle of a 1.3 acre lot overlooking the new golf course. Following the addition of identical north and south wings, designed by famous local architect George Watts Carr, it became the family home of Jess and Pearl Mebane (The Shepherd-Mebane House, including the central farmhouse and two wings can be seen in the photo above.)

In 1962, a Duke physician, William P. J. Peete and his wife Mary Frances purchased the house and maintained it, including its original natural pine paneling and staircase, until it was sold on March 22. Both Dr. Peete and Mary Frances were active members of the historic preservation community in Durham.

Although declaring, 'Nobody loves bringing old Hope Valley gems back to life more than we do,' the new owners sought a demolition permit soon after the Shepherd-Mebane House was purchased. The permit was approved on April 25. Even though the new owners determined that they could not 'save' the Shepherd-Mebane House, they offered the house to anyone who would pay to move it to another location. Otherwise, the historic house would be demolished.

In spite of efforts by many in the neighborhood and the Durham preservation community to save the Shepherd-Mebane House, demolition to remove the two George Watts Carr wings was begun on May 29.

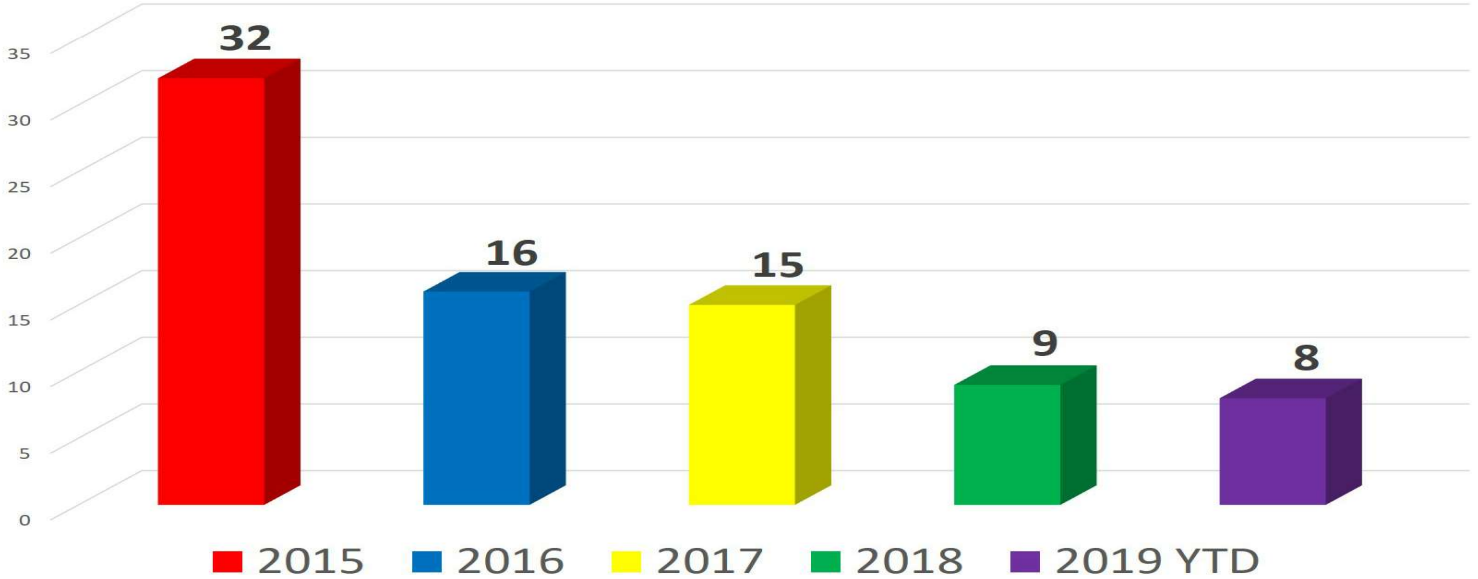
Following the destruction of both wings, a good faith offer was made to purchase part of the lot and relocate the remaining farmhouse structure. However, the new owners proceeded with their original plans, and demolished what was left of Durham's oldest historic home to make room for one or more new houses.



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# Hope Valley Burglaries 2015 - 2019 YTD



As can be seen from the chart above, there have been highs and lows in property crime rates during the past ten years. In 2016 burglaries crested at 32. Last year, we had the lowest number of burglaries at nine. 2012 marked the highest number of larcenies at 17; the lowest number of larcenies occurred in 2017 at five.

We have seen a total of five motor vehicle thefts since 2009, with a high of two vehicles being stolen in 2010.

Due to their serious impact, we focus most of our attention on burglaries. Over the ten years that we have tracked property crimes, we have averaged around 15 burglaries per year.

So even though our half-year number of eight burglaries so far in 2019 seems high when compared to only nine all last year, it appears to be just an average burglary incidence year.

## React less. Plan more.

Let your goals be your guide

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*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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# SUMMER SNAKES



Warmer weather means people are more active outdoors – and so are snakes.

When the two meet, the result is often a snake bite. In North Carolina, up to 70 percent of all snake bites come from venomous snakes.

“In our area, that’s almost 100 percent copperheads,” said Dr. Benjamin German, a WakeMed emergency physician.

German says about 33 snake-bite patients have come into WakeMed emergency department already this year.

Copperheads are known for their khaki and dark-brown coloring - with hourglass-shaped banding. (See picture, above left)

They are pit vipers related to cottonmouths and eastern diamondback rattlesnakes, which are found mostly in eastern or southeastern parts of the state.

Their bites aren’t considered life-threatening, but you may need anti-venom to save a limb.

“For very mild cases, you may not actually need the anti-venom,” German said. “But if the symptoms, such as pain and swelling, continue to progress, then typically we will offer somebody anti-venom.”

Anti-venom works for all pit vipers, but it costs \$3,000 to \$4,000 per vial. Patients often need up to six vials.

The best prevention is awareness and avoidance.

“Typically, they’re not looking to bite a person. They’re looking to get away,” German said.

They may encounter humans as they look for water and hunt for small rodents and other prey. Those are the same reasons people encounter non-venomous eastern kingsnakes. (See picture, above right)

“Very, very rarely do these ever cause any problems besides just tiny teeth punctures,” German said of eastern kingsnakes. “The farmers and the gardeners love them, because they’re as good a form of rodent control as you can get.”

Source: WRAL.com



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# Celebrating Hope Valley History!

## - Hope Valley History -

By Don Stanger



On Tuesday, April 9, Hope Valley Country Club and the Hope Valley Neighborhood Association jointly sponsored a presentation by Don Stanger entitled "Hope Valley History: Crown to Club."

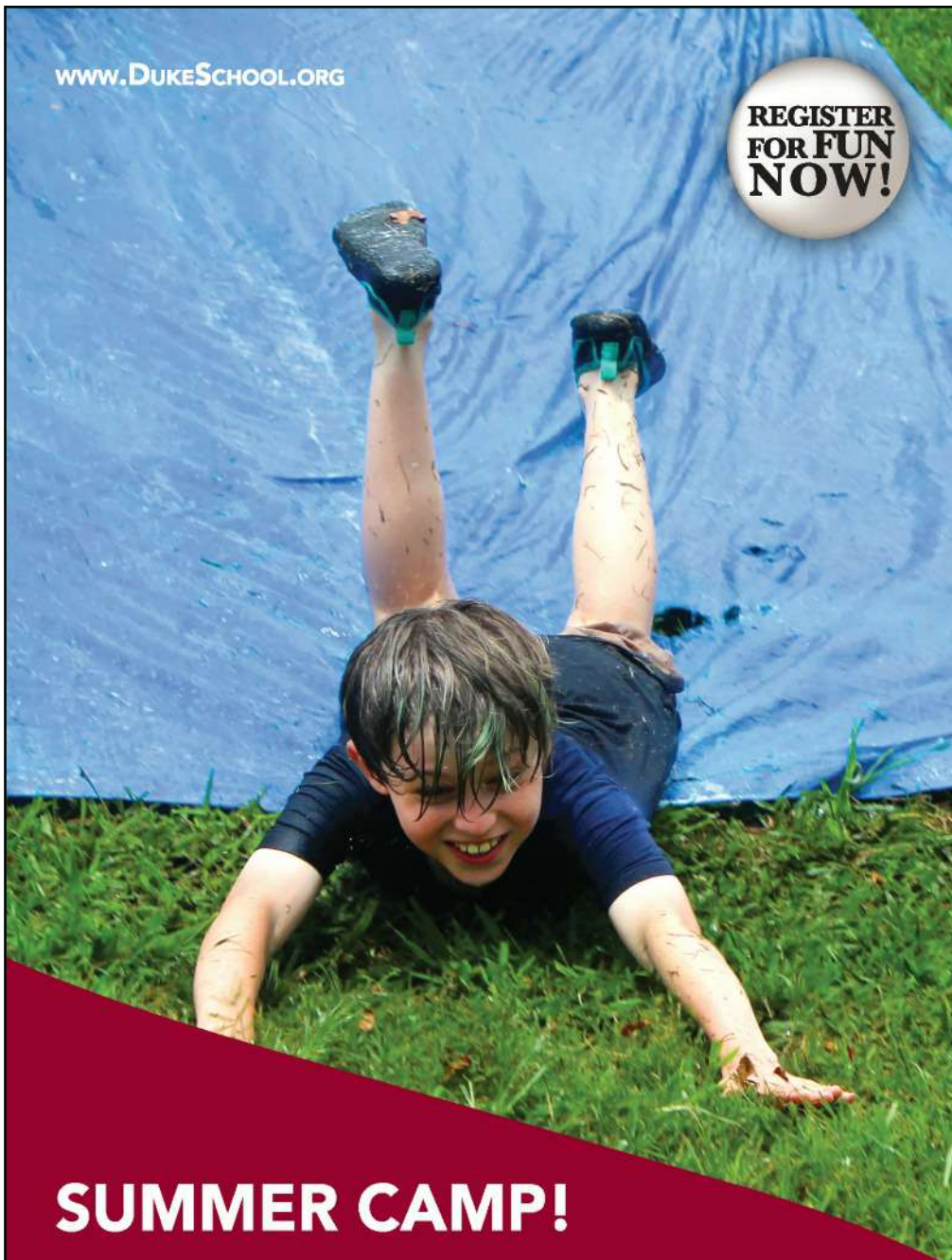
The presentation included a discussion of the original Native American inhabitants of Hope Valley, the 8th century land grants from England's King George II (our neighborhood was built on this land), an exploration of the early days of the Hope Valley Country Club development, the three renowned architects that designed Hope Valley, and concluded with stories of the families and homes that formed the early foundation of our Hope Valley community.

Hope Valley historian Tad DeBerry assembled exhibits, pictures and historic artifacts from our neighborhood's early history.

Strong interest was shown - over 100 neighbors and friends attended the presentation. Due to many regrets due to schedule conflicts, the HVCC & HVNA are planning to repeat the presentation in the future.

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## HVNA Membership Application V 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!

- New Application  New Hope Valley Resident?  
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