

DOWN IN THE VALLEY

Dear Hope Valley Neighbors,

March is here, daffodils are sprouting, trees are beginning to bloom, and the best time of the year for college basketball fans is imminent. Along with private yards transitioning to springtime colors, you will see common areas throughout Hope Valley looking great! This includes the areas around the finally finished restored gates at Windsor Way and Dover, where they meet Old Chapel Hill Road.

This was one of the many things discussed at our Annual Meeting on February 21st, common area maintenance, also new plantings on Avon Rd and other spots in the neighborhood. I would like to thank all who were able to attend the meeting to learn about the accomplishments of 2018 and goals for 2019. Your support, input and involvement means a lot to the Board and we take your wants and suggestions seriously.

Speaking of the Gates being completed, please look for details to come regarding a re-dedication. It took quite a lot of work from many Board members, past and present and most of all, the generous financial support of so many Hope Valley residents. To all who were so instrumental in that endeavor, your Board says, Thank You!

Tommy Kinney

HOPE VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD BULLETIN BOARD

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

This 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

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

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The HVNA Annual Meeting

Thursday, February 21, 2019

Hope Valley Country Club



On Thursday, February 21st, the HVNA held its Annual Meeting at Hope Valley Country Club. HVNA President Tommy Kinney welcomed a nice crowd of neighbors who received an update on neighborhood accomplishments over the past year and a financial report, Board Member Don Stanger presented neighborhood property crime statistics (see Page 5) and a 2017 financial report. Also, the HVNA elected Officers and Directors for 2018 (see page 7). Our Durham Police Department District 3 Commander Captain Marianne Bond spoke about property crimes in Hope Valley and also fielded questions from the audience. Finally, plans for 2019 Initiatives were presented.

Here is a summary of HVNA 2018 Accomplishments and 2019 Initiatives:

2018 HVNA Accomplishments

- Membership - 55%
- Newsletter Publishing
- Web Site Management
- Listserv & Hope Valley Neighborhood Bulletin Board Maintenance
- Crime Statistics & Reporting
- Common Area Landscaping & Maintenance
- Historic Gates Restoration Project
- Neighborhood Little Libraries Design & Installation
- Spring Gathering at Durham Bulls Game
- Halloween Parade
- Holiday Historic Street Sign Decoration
- Block Party Sponsorship

2019 HVNA Initiatives

- Historic Gates Dedication
- Defense of Property Covenants
- Landscaping + Windsor Lawns Restoration + Avon Cul de Sac
- Spring Event (TBD)
- Summer Block Parties
- Little Libraries Maintenance
- Address Markers
- Halloween Parade – October 31st
- Holiday Street Sign Decorations

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Airbnb in Hope Valley - Yay or Nay?

By Courtney Alston

I don't speak Danish, but on a trip to Copenhagen last summer the flyers posted to hallway bulletin boards of the building in which we rented an Airbnb were clearly unhappy and disapproving; I knew that much. I found myself tip-toeing up the stairs to our week-long home and over-apologizing when asking a resident to explain to me, again, how to get tokens to use the washer and what to do when the dryer didn't work and my laundry was still wet (answer: hang it on the line like everyone else). I wasn't welcome but I hadn't really thought about why not until that trip. But after giving it a few minutes of thought it was sort of obvious to me – me, and my family for that matter, were interlopers in a community. We were one set of strangers among many who weren't connected to the people already making their homes in that city, in that building. We were there for the pastries nibbled on casual walks by the canals and the memories of our daughter chasing birds in Tivoli Gardens -- not for the friendships, the quiet afternoons playing with our children in the back garden on shared toys, the connections or lifetime experiences.

This kind of tension between AirBnB users and the local community in which those apartments/houses/boats/yurts/what have you exist is increasingly common and regulations, consequently, are cropping up around the country. AirBnBs are legal in the state of North Carolina and in the city of Durham and, as of right now, there are no regulations. A simple search on AirBnB will pull up a variety of rental options in Durham. What might surprise you, though, is that two of them (at the time of this writing) are in Hope Valley. While there are no regulations in Durham, some cities have decided to get involved with their usage. San Francisco, for instance, requires hosts to register for a Business Registration Certificate in addition to a Short-Term Residential Rental Certificate from the city. Apartments and home rentals are restricted to 90 days total unless you're renting a private room within a home in which case it's unlimited. The Golden City doesn't stop there, though, and AirBnB users will also pay a 14% tourist tax – equal to what you'd pay staying at a hotel. Similarly, New Orleans interested in opening their doors to guests but register for a short term rental license and have a maximum of 90 rental days permitted. Taxes are also collected. Charleston, South Carolina once had an all-out ban on AirBnBs, but as of April 2018 eased up on that a bit and now allow AirBnBs if the unit is in an Old & Historic District *and* on the National Register of Historic Places. If the unit doesn't meet those criteria then the unit must be at least 50 years old. Regardless of what category the AirBnB falls in, the owner must live on the grounds. Miami Beach has entered the fray and fines illegal rentals \$20,000 for the initial violation and up to \$100,000 for the fifth. And closer to home, Raleigh has just recently considered enacting regulations similar to those in other cities including a prohibition on renting a whole house and an owner needing to be present during the rental period. Clearly cities are worried about the impact of short-term rentals and want to balance the needs of all citizens.

Increasing regulations reflect increasing concerns communities share around the country (and around the world) that this kind of short-term rental whether via AirBnB or other similar platform damages quality of life for local residents and can introduce things like noise, increased traffic and a revolving door of strangers in an otherwise well-connected community that wasn't zoned for that kind of use. But proponents have a different take, arguing that platforms like AirBnB allow a new kind of economic model – in other words, a new way for individuals and families to develop or add an income stream. Citizens in Durham alone made over \$3.1 million, with the total for the state topping out at \$97 million in 2017. Chris Lehane, head of global policy at AirBnB San Francisco headquarters calls it a "people-powered platform".

The conflicts over short-term rentals and platforms like AirBnB appear to be on the rise as neighbors and communities become more aware of the activity and disapprove and others jump on the AirBnB bandwagon. With Hope Valley involved in the short-term rental market it's something to think about as we plan and form the future of our neighborhood. I'll be headed to Southern Pines soon for a wedding and in a recent conversation with a friend we talked about finding lodging together. I did my research into hotels, Bed and Breakfasts and AirBnBs. But with the flyers in Copenhagen still vivid in my memory I wrote to our group and voiced a preference not to stay in an AirBnB. Who were the neighbors, I wondered? And what would they think of our weekend rendezvous in their neighborhood? We've opted for a hotel this time around.



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Hope Valley Property Crime Report

HV Property Crime Statistics

- 2009 thru 2018 -



The end of calendar year 2018 marks the tenth 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 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. Since 2011, motor vehicle thefts have remained low. While we are gratified at the relatively low level of burglaries last year, we should not become complacent - we have had four burglaries in the first three months of 2019!

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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OUR HISTORIC GATE RESTORATION IS COMPLETE!



Over two years ago, the HVNA recognized the poor condition of our historic gates at the Dover Road and Windsor Way intersections with Old Chapel Hill Road. Because the two gates date from the origin of our neighborhood in 1926 and are historic structures, we had to request approval from the City of Durham for our plans to restore them.

Following approval from the City of our restoration plan, we solicited bids from an approved list of contractors engaged in historic restorations and developed a budget, which totaled \$40,000.

We then launched a neighborhood fund raising effort to raise funds for the restoration. Thanks to generous contributions from hundreds of neighbors, we raised a total of \$42,331.42.

Due to unforeseen issues encountered during the gate restorations, mainly drainage problems, expenditures totaled \$45,575.92. The HVNA funded the over-budget amount from general funds.

The HVNA is planning a re-dedication celebration of our historic gates this spring. Stay tuned!



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Our Two Historic Hope Valley Cemeteries

- Hope Valley History -

By Don Stanger

Sometimes dramatic history exists right under our noses. This is true of those buried in and around our neighborhood, e.g., a Revolutionary War patriot and a fallen Confederate soldier.

There are two historic cemeteries within the boundaries of our Hope Valley neighborhood: The Shepherd Family Cemetery and the Markham Family Cemetery.



The Shepherd Family Cemetery

Much of our neighborhood was once part of the Shepherd farm. The original farm house was located at the intersection of Chelsea Circle and Hope Valley Road (near the current residence of Mary Teer and Russell Baringer). Sometime in the 1920's, it was moved to 3814 Chelsea Circle. The patriarch of the family, George M. Shepherd (1812-1883), along with his spouse, Phebe Hutchins Shepherd, and subsequent members of the Shepherd family are buried in this historic family cemetery.



The Markham Family Cemetery

The Markham Family Cemetery is located on the eighth hole fairway of HVCC. Among those buried here are Thomas Markham (1752-1838), the patriarch of the Markham family and a Revolutionary War soldier, and his wife Fanny Herndon Markham (1754-1839). Also interred here is Private John Henry Markham (1836-1863), a Confederate Army soldier killed during the 2nd Battle of Fredricksburg on May 3, 1863, which resulted in a Union Army victory.

See more information at:
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