

# PARADE

March  
2006

THE WATTS HOSPITAL-HILLANDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

*"I hate housework! You make the beds, you do the dishes- and six months later you have to start all over again." ---Joan Rivers*

## TALKS BETWEEN WHHNA AND NCSSM RESUME

BY STEVE COHN

On January 19 representatives of the neighborhood association met for the first time in eight months with representatives of the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics to discuss issues of mutual concern. The previously regular meetings had been cut off by the School, apparently out of anger with the neighborhood about a zoning issue, but now the monthly meetings will resume for the remainder of the school year.

All discussions about the School's plans to build an athletic stadium on Sprunt Avenue, which had until then been a frequent topic, were set aside last spring, when School officials declared that they were unwilling to discuss this matter any further until firm plans had already been developed. It was mutually understood that the School and the neighbors would clearly need to take opposing positions in the political arena on the question of whether a lighted stadium so close to neighborhood homes is acceptable, since nothing even close to agreement on this question had been reached. That leaves the following matters as the main current topics of discussion:

### 1. Students doing paid or volunteer work in the neighborhood.

While for liability reasons students are not allowed to do work for neighbors on an individual basis, the School has agreed that groups of three or more students representing school clubs may do yard work and other such work for pay, or may help on a volunteer basis with the efforts of local groups. Neighbors having an interest in hiring a group of students should contact Jim Lister (phone 286-7285; e-mail [jlister@duaa.duke.edu](mailto:jlister@duaa.duke.edu)), who will serve as the neighborhood liaison for discussion of work times, rates of pay, etc. with Joan Barber (the School's Senior VP for Student Life). Nonprofit groups having an interest in using student volunteers should also contact Jim, who can work through Joan to put them in touch with the School's volunteer coordinator.

**2. Noise from School events.** The neighbors' concerns have centered on sporting events and evening activities. The School has stated that the use

*(Continued on Page 8)*

## FOCUS

### Hilda Sally Coble, 1915 - 2005

BY TOM MILLER

(Editor's Note: Normally the PARADE recognizes the passing of our neighbors with a memorial in the "Comings and Goings" column. But with the passing of Hilda Coble, a loyal and long time neighbor, it is fitting and proper that we memorialize her in this space.)

Hilda Sally Coble lived in Watts-Hillandale for 60 years, first on Virginia Ave., then on Club Boulevard. She was the first lady of the neighborhood and she was my friend.

In the space available, what kind of memorial can I write for this remarkable woman that will capture who she was and convey to neighbors now and in the future what impact she had on their lives? I could make a list and say that she was adorable and spunky and feisty, that she had gray hair and that she wore her glasses on a chain around her neck. I could say that she sometimes wore a sweater around her shoulders and that in spite of hands gnarled by arthritis, she painted and made cookies and performed some of the most wonderful needlework you've ever seen. I could say that she loved her husband, that "rascal," Tom, and that she bragged on her children (with some considerable justification) as far and perhaps farther than the limits of good manners would permit. She was active in the PTA and at Duke Memorial Methodist Church. To her old friends and her family she was "Moose." In the neighborhood, she liked to be called "Old Lady Coble." She was a Duke fan and she read stories to the kids at E. K. Powe School. All of this is true and if I stopped here you would think "What a sweet old lady" and I would have failed. She was so much more.

Hilda was the archetypal Watts-Hillandaler. In

*(Continued on Page 8)*



## Comings & Goings

Have you recently moved to the neighborhood? Are you moving away? We would love to

hear from you. Contact [annefairchild@nc.rr.com](mailto:annefairchild@nc.rr.com) to be featured in the next Comings and Goings.



## Calendar of Events

**Mar. 21** Neighborhood Board Meeting  
7:30 p.m. at the home of  
Debby Kelly  
1105 Alabama Ave.

**Apr. 18** Neighborhood Board Meeting  
7:30 p.m. at the office of  
David Smith  
1218 Broad St.

**May. 16** Neighborhood Board Meeting  
7:30 p.m. at the home of  
Anne Fairchild  
1105 Oakland Ave.

**June 20** Neighborhood Board Meeting  
7:30 p.m. at the home of  
Marilyn Butler  
2110 Englewood Ave.

All meetings are held the evening of the third Tuesday of the month. If you need a ride, please call one of the board members and s/he will be glad to pick you up and take you home.



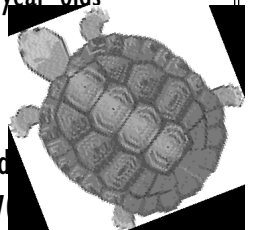
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# ECWA Hires New Executive Director

BY LARRY BROCKMAN

The Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association (ECWA) recently took a big step in bringing this local small non-profit organization to a new level by hiring Diana Tetens as ECWA's new Executive Director. The ED position had been vacant for sometime. It was previously held by Steve Hiltner, ECWA co-founder. Steve, now living in New Jersey continues to provide a great deal of support to ECWA.

ECWA has hired Diana to help the organization, among other things find the resources, through grant writing, membership expansion and fund raising, to implement our short term and long terms goals. These goals include: installing a pedestrian bridge from the W. Ellerbe Creek Trail over to the north side of the creek for easy access to the nature reserve; acquiring additional land in the watershed for preservation and recreation; raising the public's awareness, particularly through the schools about the opportunities to care for and interact with the watershed in which we live, and restoring and enhancing the native flora and fauna in the watershed.

Although the ED position is part-time, Diana will also help implement these goals, organize ECWA's Whole Foods 5% Donation Day on Tuesday May 9 (we hope to have your support) and coordinate ECWA's first fall festival. Diana is well suited for this job. She has two masters degrees, one in environmental conservation and sustainable development and the other in adult education. She has worked as a Watershed Coordinator for NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources and as an Education and Outreach Assistance for the Broad River Community Watershed Project, Athens, GA. The ECWA Board of Directors' agreed with Diana when she wrote, "I'm very excited about being offered the position (of ED). It's a great opportunity and I think I could bring a lot of enthusiasm and experience to it."

I would like to thank Mike Shiflett, one of the founding members of ECWA and long time supporter, for providing temporary office space for our new Executive Director. If you have extra office space that you would consider allowing ECWA to use at no or very little cost, please contact Larry Brockman, ECWA President at 286-3150.

If you have additional ideas about how ECWA can better serve the neighborhood, please let us know. In meantime, please consider joining ECWA as a member; if you are a past member please send in your membership dues. See [www.ellerbecreek.org](http://www.ellerbecreek.org) for more information.



## Retail Rap

There's no cozier spot in the neighborhood to sip a cappuccino than the **Broad Street Café**, just off Club on Broad St. at the old Ooh La Latte location. Owner **Matt Jacobi** has retained the big soft overstuffed chairs and sofas, and has added a few other amenities to make this place special. There's a kids corner with lots of toys, games and books, a wide screen TV with video games, a house computer for Internet browsing, lots of books and magazines, and for munchies, empanadas (both sweet and savory), quiches and hot dogs to go along with a wide variety of pastries. You can get a great selection of specialty coffees, but if you just want a morning java, Matt offers three blends, light-Columbia Excelso, medium-Kona, and dark-French-Italian roast. As if that weren't enough, Matt has worked to make the Broad Street Café a true neighborhood gathering place, there's a Knitting Circle on Tuesday nights, free movies on Wednesday nights, a Children's Story Time Reading on Sundays, and live music and/or poetry readings on weekends. Check out their web site at [broadstreetcafe.org](http://broadstreetcafe.org) for a complete schedule of events and times. The café is open every morning at 7:30, except for Saturday, 9 a.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. The Broad Street Café is also available for private party rentals.

Up on Perry Street get ready for **Za Za Zsu** a chic, hip clothing store that will make you think you've landed in Soho, fabulous upscale fashions and accessories for women, with men's cool clothes to be added by fall. Thanks to owner **Lynda Lewis**, this one of a kind modern boutique brings New York to Durham—finally! Why go to a mall when you can shop at Za Za Zsu? And when you're done shopping stay over for the after hour boutique parties and fashion previews that will soon be scheduled. Trust Lynda, she's a former buyer for Nieman-Marcus. For more exciting news about Za Za Zsu, go to [www.zazazsu.com](http://www.zazazsu.com).

You may have noticed a lot of recent changes on Ninth Street. We bid a sad farewell to Kerr Drugs, which had declining sales ever since the pharmacy was removed, and Bakus tapas restaurant, the Peek-A-Boo Grill and Torero's Mexican restaurant have closed. The corner of Ninth and Markham is empty since the silk screen business left, McDonald's Drug store has closed, Alpha Graphics next to the Duck Shop, has been empty for months, and Ninth Street Active Feet will soon move into their new location on Iradell Street. Fortunately, two of these spots will have new tenants. Torero's will soon be replaced by **Xi**, a café that specializes in Central American fare, and a reliable source tells us that **George Bakatias** will probably expand into the Kerr Drug location. **CCI Photography** will be moving around the corner to Perry Street (where they will have fabulous new digital equipment and a gallery space) so that will leave several empty storefronts available.

On Hillsborough Rd. the long time China Inn has closed and been replaced by **Pancho Lopez Mexican Buffet** where you can eat forever. They offer over 30 yummy authentic buffet selections.

We welcome the new neighborhood businesses, but with all those Ninth Street empty storefronts, will somebody please go up there and open a chocolate shop?!

# The Heart of the

Visit Watts Hospital-Hillandale on the Web at <http://www.whhna.org/>

## Update on Club Blvd. Traffic Calming

BY JOSHUA ALLEN

The WHHNA Traffic Committee and board members successfully negotiated with city officials to preserve all of the trees at Oval Park for the upcoming Traffic Calming project. The new design provides all of the benefits of the original design and added benefits of saving the trees and maintaining good site triangles for drivers turning onto Club. The new design allows for a pedestrian refuge in the traffic island on each side of Oval Park so that pedestrians need cross but a single lane of traffic at a time.

The project will be constructed this summer using state and city funds.

## Neighbors Make Night Of Lights A Success

On December 18 our neighborhood glowed beautifully with luminaries on Night of Lights. Heartfelt thanks to our many volunteers who braved the cold to sell the luminaries and make this Night of Lights a success. As usual, we opened our pocketbooks and cupboards. We donated a truckload of canned goods to the Community Kitchen, almost 2200 pounds worth, and contributed almost \$1500 to their coffers. Three hundred dollars was also raised for Katrina victims.

Thanks again to all of you who participated in lighting our neighborhood, and helping those who need a hand!

## Former WHH Resident Donates Trees

Alice Walker, a former WHH resident, recently donated trees to the neighborhood through the city of Durham. The trees will be planted in Oval Park and at the city reservoir. Alice Walker previously lived at 2223 W. Club and 2114 W. Club with her husband Tom Walker and their children, Susan, Margaret, Stuart, Nina, and Ann.

In the northern part of Oval Park, the city will plant a Serviceberry Tree. This is

Alice's favorite tree because it attracts birds. The tree produces wonderfully smelling blossoms each autumn. At the reservoir, the city will plant a small grove of trees consisting of three Sycamores, five Sugar Maples, and a Tupelo Gum. A million thanks Alice!

## More on Trees: A Tree "Inventory" Underway

BY JOSHUA ALLEN

You may have noticed Duke Graduate student, Sharon Yeh, yielding her GPS unit along Club Boulevard lately. (GPS stands for Global Positioning System, a device that tells you where you are --x, y coordinates-- on this earth.)

Sharon is conducting a tree inventory for several streets in the neighborhood. Sharon is working with the neighborhood through the Duke-Durham Neighborhood Partnership. The neighborhood is contributing a small stipend, which Duke is matching for Sharon to complete the work.

As Sharon inventories the trees, the GPS unit sends the location of the tree (or lack thereof) back to a computer at Duke, where she can produce maps. The maps show where trees are lacking and the condition of existing trees. Sharon plans to complete her inventory this month.

Sharon will produce a report for the neighborhood that includes the maps, and recommendations to the neighborhood for tree replacement. The Tree Committee and WHHNA board will use the information to contact residents about tree replacement. The city of Durham has a tree planting program where the city covers half of the cost

for street trees and will plant them for free. If you would like more information or would like to join the Tree Committee, please contact Joshua Allen (286-0190 or [allen.joshua@gmail.com](mailto:allen.joshua@gmail.com)).



## Kudos to "Kate"

BY SALLY AUSTIN

On January 1 "Kate" from Alabama Ave. rescued my daughter Sarah when her porch swing chain broke, while she was on it! Sarah was dumped 5 feet down onto the ground beside our house. She cried, was scared, and was a little banged up but not seriously injured. According to my neighbor, Elaine Scagnelli, Kate was walking by, rushed over, and helped Sarah brush off. They then went over to Elaine's house and Elaine brought Sarah down the street where we were at a New Year's day brunch. Thank you, Kate! Now we just need to know your last name!

## WHH Reaches Out to Katrina Victims

In our little corner of Durham, our neighbors rose to the occasion to help in relieving the pain from Hurricane Katrina. There were numerous yard sales planned for balmy weekends in September, where a portion—or, in some cases all, of the proceeds were donated to the Red Cross. We know of a multi-family sale at 1302 Oakland which was held by the Hamiltons, Lilleys, Huetters, Magee/ Gavins, and Brooks/Fitzgerald families, and they made over \$500 for the Red Cross. Lots of impromptu lemonade stands popped up around the 'hood, staffed by unselfish kids who flagged down every possible motorist and pedestrian in search of that last donation. There were a lot of neighbors who gladly paid \$5.00 for a glass! Many folks donated through church and civic organizations. Some, like Cindy Green, found creative ways to re-channel some available cash, by "eating in for hurricane relief" and donating the money they would have spent at a restaurant. Marian Abernathy, with the help of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, has also worked tirelessly to help a displaced Katrina funnily here in Durham.

One resident got up close and personal by going to the affected area. Ellen Ciompi, RN, spent 8 days in devastated Waveland, Mississippi with the NC State Medical

*(Continued on next page)*

# Neighborhood

NOTABLE HAPPENINGS  
IN OUR NECK OF  
THE WOODS

(Continued from Page 4)

Assistance Team (NC-SMAT). In a tent city set up in a K-Mart parking lot, Ellen was part of a huge statewide effort to provide basic medical care to that community. She reported that the destruction, even a month after the hurricane, was "beyond belief" and says that NC did itself proud with the swiftness and professionalism of the SMAT team response.

Thanks to everyone in the 'hood who responded in ways both great and small to this terrible disaster.

## Neighbors Make Good in Government

By now it's no secret that our neighbor Mike Woodard has been elected to the Ward Three seat on city council, but not everyone is aware that neighbor Don Moffitt has become the chairman of the Durham Planning Commission.

Mike Woodard has called Watts-Hillandale home since the 1980s. Mike works in the administration at Duke and has leadership positions in numerous public and private agencies. These include the vestry of his church, the Jaycees, and our neighborhood association. In fact, Mike was vice president of the association last year and served as our representative at the Inter-Neighborhood Council. This year, Mike will be president of the INC in addition to serving on the city council.

Don Moffitt has also lived in the neighborhood for many years. In addition to serving on the neighborhood association board and chairing the FestOval committee, Don has served on the Eno River Association board and has served as its president. As the new chair of the Planning Commission, Don presides over public hearings for rezonings, changes to major land use plans, and amendments to the zoning ordinances. It is the Planning Commission that gives neighborhoods and concerned citizens their first chance to air their concerns about new development. The Commission's recommendations frequently help the developers and their neighbors find compromise solutions to their disputes.

Durham is fortunate to have the committed service of these two Watts-Hillandale neighbors.

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There are great things happening right in your own backyard. We welcome you to visit!

## Recycling Refresher

BY ROB NICHOLS

There are 3 categories to remember:

1. CONTAINERS: glass bottles/jars, plastic bottles, aluminum & metal cans
2. MIXED PAPER: clean newsprint, magazines, office paper, paperboard
3. CORRUGATED CARDBOARD: folded or flattened into 3' x 3' or smaller

We're not going to save the world by recycling, but the benefits are real—including forcing us to become more thoughtful about our "waste". Every Thursday, Demetrius, our hardworking recycling driver, single-handedly empties our curbside containers into his truck. And not just empties them, but also separates the contents into three compartments. It's hard work,

and he does a great job. I've asked what we could do to help him out, and he said, "If people would separate the paper from the containers, that would be great." Simple enough: paper, and everything else. I've started using a paper grocery bag or a larger paper tote, to collect all the miscellaneous paper we generate aside from newsprint and magazines/catalogs. It's amazing what you can collect: cereal and other food or packaging materials, paper towel rolls, office paper, junk mail, flyers, homework, old files and folders, cards, the list is endless. And once the bag is full, it's easy to put it out with the curbside container.

There are 4 categories to exclude:

1. PLASTIC CONTAINERS OR PACKAGING THAT DOES NOT HAVE A "NECK" SMALLER THAN THE BASE: plastic tubs (e.g., margarine or yogurt containers or salad boxes), Plastic bags, plastic bottle caps, plastic packaging material, plastic utensils, and styrofoam
2. COATED PAPER CONTAINERS: waxy gable-top milk or juice containers, plastic-coated aseptic containers such as juice boxes or soymilk containers
3. CONTAMINATED PAPER: paper contaminated with food (e.g., pizza boxes); animal waste (e.g., newspaper used for petliners), gummy adhesive or glue, plastic or metal (e.g., envelope windows, spiral binders, plastic folder covers)
4. ANY GLASS OTHER THAN BOTTLES OR JARS: mirrors, windows, drinking glasses, ceramics, candle holders, etc.

Remember, without much effort everyone can make a difference in Durham's recycling success and make a difficult and dirty job a little easier.



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**Newsletter Sponsorship**

**THE NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD** is continuing to accept sponsorships to help defray the expenses of printing this newsletter. The goal is to make the newsletter self-supporting with no more than 15% of the space going to sponsors. We continue to welcome private support for our neighborhood. Deadline for the next (June) issue is May 1 for articles and ads.

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Durham C.A.N. Update

You can take pride in our neighborhood's membership in Durham C.A.N. (Congregations, Associations, and Neighborhoods). Watts Hospital Hillandale was the first neighborhood to put the "N" into C.A.N. back in 2003.

Here is what C.A.N.'s Action Teams accomplished in the last quarter of 2005:

**Health:** Organized a forum where the Durham County Department of Vital Records agreed to increase the list of acceptable documents that immigrant parents can use to obtain a birth certificate for their children, thereby increasing health care access to children.

**Children and Youth:** Received commitments from the Mayor and County Commissioners to evaluate the existing strategies to serve Durham's youth; developed a plan to hear from 1,000 Durham youth regarding these strategies and to involve them in solution-finding.

**Jobs and Economic Development:** Having secured Living Wage Ordinances with the City, County, and School Board, this team is now ensuring compliance with these ordinances and working toward a Living Wage and positive workforce atmosphere for all Duke employees.

**Katrina Disaster Response:** Persuaded the Mayor to form a Commission to address the lingering issues affecting the quality of life of evacuees.

**Public Safety:** Secured a commitment from the Mayor to add quality staff to the downtown substation with bilingual personnel and to work on bilingual staffing for 911.

**Environmental Hazards:** Worked with local partners to identify environmental health hazards impacting our children and will begin developing joint, long-term strategies.

Joining one of these Action Teams is a powerful and tangible way to step up and make our city a better place to live. Please contact either Rae Jean Proescholdbell (286-5007, [raejean@nc.rr.com](mailto:raejean@nc.rr.com)) or Theo Luebke (824-5156, [theoluebke@gmail.com](mailto:theoluebke@gmail.com)), and we will make it easy for you to get involved.

C.A.N.'s next Assembly will be on Sunday, March 26 at Nehemiah Christian Center (near the downtown YMCA) at 4:00. Help provide a great turnout for our neighborhood and come see for yourself how this cross-racial and cross-income group gets commitments and action from local officials. Call either Rae Jean or Theo to carpool and get to know a neighbor on the short drive!

## Board Members, 2004-2005

### DIRECTORS

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#### Immediate Past President

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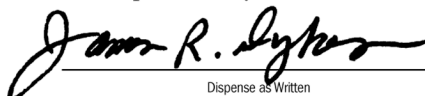
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## TALKS RESUME—continued

of airhorns and suchlike at sports events is not allowed by NCSSM students, and it has now agreed to ask athletic opponents who bring noisemaking equipment not to use it on the School's grounds, which should resolve this particular concern. On the other hand, in response to a complaint about music at a recent dance that could be heard by neighbors near the School well past midnight, the School has not been willing to consider ending the dances at 11 p.m., which the neighbors suggested in conformance with Durham's noise ordinance. In fact, it has stated that some dances will be allowed to last until 3 a.m. If neighbors are disturbed by noise from the School at any time, they are asked to call the School directly to express their complaints.

**3. Parking.** The School has done an excellent job of curbing staff and student parking on neighborhood streets near the school, though this problem does seem to crop up anew with each new school year. If you see it cropping up again, please call Harry Tucker (the Director of Campus Resources, which includes campus security) at 416-2890. On the other hand, visitors to the School do need to park on neighborhood streets when major school events occur. The major such spring event is, of course, graduation, which will be held on June 10. But there are other events for which substantial numbers of visitors are expected on March 11 and 18, April 29, and May 19.

**4. The new tennis courts on Maryland Avenue.** The long discussions between the School and the neighborhood about construction of the tennis courts have paid off handsomely in that the parties were able to agree on a lighting solution that was much more tolerable than the lights that had been originally proposed by the School (unlike soccer fields, tennis courts can be lit via lights that aim mostly down, rather than mostly out). Landscaping has also been performed recently between the courts and the street, at the nearby neighbors' request, but it is not yet clear whether what was planted will provide an adequate buffer.

The main topic that has still not been resolved to the neighbors' satisfaction (at least, as this is being written in early February) is the hours of play. The neighbors believed that they had received a firm commitment from the President of the School for a 9 p.m. cut-off of play, so that they would not have to face lights and noise as they and their children were winding down for the night. This seeming commitment had been confirmed in the Herald-Sun by a statement from School spokesman Craig Rowe that "no student will be playing tennis past 9 p.m." Yet when the hours were posted, they were stated as running from daybreak (which might also be a problem in late spring and summer, when the sun comes up mighty early) to 9:45 p. m, which is definitely a problem right now. The School has not been willing to make any change to these hours, in spite of fairly heated protests, and in fact there have been some nights when the lights were left on as late as 11:00.

For future meetings, anyone in the neighborhood is welcome to propose agenda items by sending them to Steve Cohn ([stevec@duke.edu](mailto:stevec@duke.edu); 286-3672). If you want to attend the monthly agenda-setting meetings on a regular basis, or just be informed about when they are to be held, let Steve know and he will gladly add you to the committee.

## FOCUS—continued

living her life in and around this neighborhood, she unconsciously became the model neighbor and set the example we consciously follow today. Her stamp is everywhere. She was born just as the first houses in the neighborhood were being built and although she spent her childhood in other Durham neighborhoods, she grew up very much aware of what was happening here. Her father, John Sally, was a prolific homebuilder in Durham during the 'teens, 'twenties, and 'thirties. He built custom bungalows all along Club Boulevard for his doctor, lawyer, and professor clients. He also built spec houses on Club and the side streets. His "Sally Six" in the 2400 block of Club are a Watts-Hillandale landmark. In 1942, he built a little brick cottage in the 1200 block of Virginia for Hilda and her husband, Tom. It was right in the middle of the neighborhood and although they would move to Club some years later, the Cobles were always right in the middle of the neighborhood.

Long before there was a neighborhood association, the Cobles were actively working to protect and improve the place they called home. They fought to get the streets in old west Durham paved so that kids walking to E.K. Powe and West Durham School would not have to wade through a sea of winter mud. They fought to get a truck route ordinance passed so that tractor-trailer rigs wouldn't lumber down neighborhood streets as they searched for a route connecting Business 70 and the then new I-85. The Coble kids marched in the first Fourth-of-July parade back in 1950 and Hilda was present at every parade since.

In 1984, when it became time to organize a neighborhood association, the steering committee met in the Cobles' living room. Tom was elected the organization's first president and led it through nearly five years of zoning battles to reverse a trend toward neighborhood decline. Hilda served on the neighborhood association board on and off for 20 years, ending her last term in office just weeks before her death in October. She was the neighborhood's memory and its pole star. She knew everyone and everyone knew her. In debate on any issue she had a tendency to hold back and then say just what needed to be said. When others might dance around a delicate subject, Hilda was not above using the privilege of her seniority to ask the hard question or cut straight to the point.

Hilda Coble was intensely loyal to her family, her friends, and to her neighbors. She had a strong sense of place and strong feeling of stewardship towards her community. She leaves us as a legacy the example of a life well-lived and we will miss her.

