

News aRound the Hill

A Community Newsletter for Round Hill, Virginia

May 2023

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19th Annual Hometown Festival Mixes Old and New

The 19th Annual Round Hill Hometown Festival on Saturday, May 27, will bring back community-favorite events while adding several exciting new features.

Traditional events returning to the day-long schedule of family-friendly fun include the 5k, parade and Memorial Ceremony in the morning, the afternoon's pie-eating contest and downhill derby, and all-day stage entertainment culminating in a free evening concert in the Town Park.

New activities added this year include the dedication of memorial pavers in the Town Park, a Round Hill history display, a cornhole tournament and a silent auction for four sets of cornhole boards painted by local artists.

The memorial pavers honor individuals from the Round Hill community who have served or are currently serving in one of the six branches of the United States Armed Services and are being installed around the Town Park flagpole. **Dedication of these pavers** will occur during the morning Memorial Ceremony.

"I am glad we were able to find such a prominent location for our Memorial Paver program," said Mayor Scott Ramsey. "This project will help everyone in Town remember those who sacrificed their lives for our country."

"We will be dedicating new pavers every year during our Memorial ceremony," Ramsey added.

The **Round Hill history display** features photographs and memorabilia donated to the Town by longtime resident Pete Gray. Town staff members are also preparing an oral history video to accompany the display (see article below). The exhibit will be available for viewing at the Town Office throughout the day. The Town Office will be open for parking and rest rooms, and light refreshments will be served.



PHOTO FOR NEWS AROUND THE HILL

Pavers will be dedicated during this year's Memorial Ceremony in the Town Park.

Sponsored by the Purcellville Cannons baseball team, the double-elimination **cornhole tournament** will run from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Town Park. Prizes include season passes and Cannons gear. This casual tournament is free to enter; pre-registration through www.hometown-festival.org is strongly encouraged.

The **silent auction** of *Continued on next page*



PHOTO FOR NEWS AROUND THE HILL

FESTIVAL EVENT SCHEDULE

- 8:00 a.m. 5k
- 9:30 a.m. Parade
- 10:00 a.m. Open House and Pig Roast at the Round Hill Volunteer Fire Department (until 2 p.m.)
- 10:45 a.m. Memorial Ceremony and Paver Dedication
- 11:00 a.m. Stage Entertainment on the Town Park and Youth Stage and Amusements (Begin at the conclusion of the Memorial Ceremony)
- 2:00 p.m. Pie-Eating Contest
- 3:00 p.m. Cornhole Tournament and Silent Auction
- 3:30 p.m. Downhill Derby
- 5:00 p.m. Dinner in the Park
- 7:00 p.m. Free Evening Concert in the Park

ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

Main Stage in the Town Park:

- 10:15 a.m. Franklin Park Big Band - Jazz (through Memorial Ceremony)
- 11:30 a.m. Last Ham Standing - Improv comedy
- 12:30 p.m. SOBs - Classic rock
- 3:00 p.m. Late Model - Rock/blues/country
- 5:00 p.m. Wicked Olde - Americana
- 7:00 p.m. Dixie Power Trio - New Orleans Jazz

Youth Stage at Round Hill Baptist Church:

- 11:00 a.m. Woodgrove High School Ensembles
- 1:00 p.m. Solo and Duet Performances (until 3:00 p.m.)

Other Performances:

- 11:30 a.m. On Easy Street - Jazz and Blues Standards, at C'est Bon
- 11:30 a.m. Eliza Prymak - Best Soloist in Loudoun's Battle of the Bands 2023, at Tammy's Diner



PHOTO FOR NEWS AROUND THE HILL

The Hometown Festival Parade will return to its traditional route this year, starting in Mountain Valley and proceeding through Hillwood Estates before reaching Main Street and ending at the Town Park.

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 painted cornhole boards will also take place in the Town Park, with the winners announced during the evening concert by the New Orleans-style jazz group The Dixie Power Trio. Auction proceeds will benefit the Round Hill Arts Center's Summer Art Scholarship Fund.

Also of note, the **parade** will return to its traditional route, starting at 9:30 a.m. along the west side of Evening Star Drive and proceeding through Mountain Valley and Hillwood Estates before reaching Main Street and ending at the Town Park.

And, in response to community feedback, the Festival Committee is excited to report that Bilstad's Beignets will be on hand serving **beignets and coffee** near the Town Park before and during the parade, and **beer and wine** will be available earlier in the afternoon, with Williams Gap Vineyard and Dirt Farm Brewing opening their sales in the Town Park at 3 p.m. to coincide with the start of the cornhole tournament.

Other **food vendors** through the day will include the Round Hill Volunteer Fire Department pig roast, grilled items at Tammy's Diner, to-go items from C'est Bon/Savoir Fare, English specialties from the Salt Pot Kitchen, and the Roaming Coyote

and Mr. Falafel food trucks.

Music from two stages—the Main Stage in the Town Park and the Youth Stage at the Round Hill Baptist Church—will fill the air through the day, and **enhanced amusements and children's activities** will be spread from the Town Park to the Round Hill Methodist Church. The **RHVFD open house** will also feature a dunk tank, so practice those pitches!

Follow the Round Hill Hometown Festival on Facebook (www.facebook.com/rhhometownfestival) and visit the Festival website at www.hometownfestival.org for **all the latest information on the day's events**, including registration forms for the 5k, parade, cornhole tournament and downhill derby, as well as the full schedule of events, activities and vendors, Festival logistics, and information on how local businesses can help make May 27 the Best Day of the Year in Round Hill.

The summer festival fun continues the following two weekends as well, as Round Hill hosts eight artists in the **Western Loudoun Art & Studio Tour** on June 4-6 and partners with the Round Hill AT and Town of Hillsboro to present the **Appalachian Trail Festival in the Gap** at the Old Stone School in Hillsboro on June 10. For more information on these events, visit wlast.org and www.roundhillat.org.

TOWN PREPARES FOR CURRENT, FUTURE WATER DEMANDS WITH WELL D

The Town is working on three water projects that will position the Town to address not only current issues but future challenges to the system such as usage demands and droughts. Construction on the first of these projects, known as Well D, should start construction in early summer and be operational by fall.

The new Evening Star Treatment Plant and the new Airmont Water Tank will follow.

Locating additional water sources to supplement and replace declining yield on some existing developer-proffered wells has been one of the Town's highest priorities over the last eight years.

The Town acquired the land needed to develop this new well from the Round Hill Owners Association this spring. Situated west of Woodgrove Road in the northwest corner of the Town, Well D will replace Well 21NB located in the same area and will be the largest well as far as daily capacity and gallons per minute.

Completion of the new Evening Star Treatment Plant will allow the system to take full advantage of Well D's additional capacity. In the meantime, Well D will be put into reserve and can operate in times of drought.

TOWN COUNCIL VACANCY

Residents of the Town of Round Hill interested in serving on the Town Council are encouraged to apply before May 12 to fill a vacant seat until a special election in November. The special election will fill the remainder of the term of office, which runs until Dec. 31, 2025.

To be eligible for consideration, applicants must have been a resident of the Commonwealth of Virginia for at least one year, lived within the Town's corporate limits for a minimum of six months and be registered to vote.

The duties of the Town Council include establishing Town government policy, acting upon local resolutions and ordinances, setting tax rates

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and utility rates, approving the annual Town budget and six-year Capital Improvement Plan, appointing members to committees, and providing policy guidance for the Town Administrator. The Council also considers land use requests such as re-zoning requests and conditional use permits.

The Town Council typically meets on the first and third Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. as well as special meetings as needed.

To apply, please fill out the Council vacancy application form, located on the Town website (www.roundhillva.org), and send it along with a letter of interest and a resume to Town Administrator Melissa Hynes (mhynes@roundhillva.org) and Mayor Scott Ramsey (sramsey@roundhillva.org) by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, May 12. Submissions may also be dropped off at the Town Office, 23 Main Street, Round Hill, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays or in the drop boxes after hours. Interviews with qualified applicants will be conducted on the evening of May 17, 2023.

The form may also be used to express interest in volunteering for other opportunities to serve the Town of Round Hill, which currently include:

- **Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA).** The BZA hears and decides on appeals of alleged errors in any final order, requirement, determination or decision made in the administration or enforcement of the Town Zoning Ordinance. The BZA meets on an as-needed basis; members are appointed by the Town Council to five-year terms and must meet Town residency requirements.

- **Round Hill Outdoors (RHO) Committee.** RHO originated as a group of residents committed to supporting Round Hill's application to become an Appalachian Trail Community, RHO continues to support the Appalachian Trail through educational outreach, environmental stewardship, and community events. Since its establishment, RHO has expanded their programs to include Tree City, USA Tree Board, Round Hill Community Parks Committee, Round Hill Community Garden Committee, the Round Hill Appalachian Trail Arts Festival and the Round Hill Appalachian Trail Art Show. Town residency is not required.

EVENING STAR DRIVE CORRIDOR STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS APPROVED BY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

At its April 18 meeting, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors approved the installation of high visibility crossings at three intersections in the Round Hill area. The improvements were based on requests from residents to address bicycle and pedestrian safety concerns along Evening Star Drive, from Carriage Hill Drive to the intersection of Woodgrove Road.

The Board of Supervisors approved funding for an area study in April 2021, and the consultant began work on the project in June 2021. The recommendations include

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PHOTO FOR NEWS AROUND THE HILL

The Round Hill Town Office is undergoing renovations to replace damaged siding.

TOWN OFFICE REHABILITATION PROJECT

Over the last few years, the Town Office has been undergoing major renovations. The multi-phase project has included repairs to the basement to stop flooding and replacing the 30-year-old HVAC system. The current phase of this extensive project involves the installation of new siding, shutters and gutters.

The current siding will not be removed. Instead, the contractor will make repairs to rotting, cracking, or peeling areas and then install plywood over the siding to act as the substrate for the new siding. The building will then be wrapped in Tyvek to prevent future rot and damage and create a layer of insulation.

The new Boral Cove Dutch Lap Siding, made from a composite material with a lifespan of 50 years, will maintain the same German Lapboard style as the original siding. The Town anticipates installation of the siding to take about three weeks, followed by painting the building the same yellow color.

In addition, all the doors and windows will be properly flashed and sealed and the existing eave fascia will be wrapped in metal. New shutters and gutters will be installed to match the existing style/color of the shutters and gutters. The windows will not be replaced at this time.

The entire project is on track for completion by Hometown Festival on May 27, the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend.

The office will remain open (with some interruptions or detours at the front door) so please use caution when visiting the Town Office this month. Anyone concerned about access is encouraged to call or email the Town staff, who may be able to address issues over the phone or in writing.

For more information, please contact Melissa Hynes, Town Administrator, at 540-338-7878 or mhynes@roundhillva.org.

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the installation of three high-visibility crosswalks and a rectangular rapid flashing beacon at the following intersections:

- Evening Star Drive/Park Heights Circle (north), at the Round Hill Indoor Aquatics Center
- Evening Star Drive/Park Heights Circle (south), at the Round Hill Elementary School
- Evening Star Drive/Carriage Hill Drive/Greenwood Drive

Sign panels and structures in poor condition will also be replaced. Improvements include the installation of American Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant surfaces at existing ramps.

The County's Department of Transportation and Capital Infrastructure will soon begin the design of this project, which could take anywhere from nine months to one year to complete with VDOT approval. Construction will occur following design

approval.

The projected costs are \$448,500 and include preliminary engineering, land acquisition and construction. These crossing treatments, along with sign upgrades, will make Round Hill a safer community for pedestrians and bicyclists.

COUNCIL APPROVES BUSINESS DISTRICT EXPANSION

On May 3 after a public hearing, the Town Council voted to approve a Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPAM) that enlarged the future central commercial district to now include all properties on both sides of Main Street between Loudoun Street and High Street.

Prior to this action, only a subset of properties along Main Street were eligible for future commercial use.

This action does not change the current zoning of any parcels, but it allows property owners on affected parcels of Main Street to apply for a

rezoning if they can meet the standards of a commercial district in the Zoning Ordinance.

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

The Round Hill Town Staff is looking for volunteers—or recommendations of people to contact—to share “History of Round Hill” stories and memories for an upcoming oral history project.

Potential candidates for interviews include longtime Round Hill residents, those whose parents or grandparents grew up in the Town, older residents who are not on social media but would love to talk about life in the Town years ago, and/or history buffs who know great stories about Round Hill.

The first round of interviews are being scheduled between now and May 19.

Please email Bobby Lohr at blohr@roundhillva.org or call 540-338-7878 to set up an interview.

Donations to the Town's collection of photographs or memorabilia are also encouraged! Copies of photos are welcome.

VANDALISM IN TOWN

The Town of Round Hill has had an increased number of vandalism cases in 2023 at several Town park facilities.

Over President's Day weekend, the tops of the stone pillars in the Town Park on Loudoun Street were ripped off and scattered throughout the entranceway, resulting in more than \$1,000 in damages. There have also been three instances of graffiti in the tunnel connection of the Franklin Park Trail, with two occurring on the weekends of April 12 and 19.

Additionally, on Apr. 6, the Town was informed of damage to a fence in Niels Poulsen Park located along Greenwood Drive. Two fence boards were apparently torn off and thrown into the adjacent storm water pond. The fence post was also broken off at the ground level.

Unlawfully destroying, defacing, damaging or removing without the

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PHOTO FOR NEWS AROUND THE HILL

Volunteers planted 90 seedling trees in Niels Poulsen Park as part of the Town's annual Arbor Day Celebration in April.

ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

The Town of Round Hill and the Round Hill Outdoors Committee held the annual Arbor Day event on Saturday, Apr. 22, at Niels Poulsen Park.

This event consisted of a mix of Town Staff, Council Members, and community volunteers who gathered to plant 90 seedling trees. It is the Town's hope that the seedlings will grow to become a riparian buffer along the North Fork of the Goose Creek to protect the water leading into Sleeter Lake.

The project was a part of a grant from the Virginia Department of Forestry through the Virginia Trees for Clean Water program.

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 intent to steal any Town property, real or personal, is a Class 1 misdemeanor if the value of or damage to the property, memorial or monument is less than \$1,000 or a Class 6 felony if the value of or damage to the property, memorial or monument is \$1,000 or more.

Please report any information regarding any of these cases to the Town of Round Hill so the information can be forwarded to the Loudoun County Sheriff's Department.

The Town needs the community to quickly report any acts of vandalism or suspicious activity within the tunnel or neighborhoods to the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office's 24-hour non-emergency line at 703-777-1021. Anonymous reports can be made to the Loudoun Crime Solvers at 703-777-1919.

NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AT LOUDOUN STREET PARK

The Town of Round Hill recently upgraded the playground in the Loudoun Street Park. Its design emphasizes Round Hill's designation as an Appalachian Trail Community. There is even a kid-friendly Appalachian Trail Map on the structure.



PHOTO FOR NEWS AROUND THE HILL

New Town Park playground equipment in features an outdoor theme.

The playground upgrades were funded through the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding given to the Town during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Town hopes this will encourage children to be outdoors and discover the natural amenities the Appalachian Trail has to offer.

UTILITY BILLING REMINDERS & INVOICE CLOUD PAYMENT PLATFORM

Water bills will be mailed the week of May 1 and are due by June 5. Below are important reminders about late fees and disconnections:

- June 6 – 6% Late Fees Applied
- June 21 – Disconnections (\$125 reconnection fee for shut offs)

Don't forget to use the Town's online payment platform, Invoice Cloud, which gives utility customers enhanced, easy-to-use options to securely pay bills electronically. Payment options include Apple Pay, Google Pay, PayPal, Venmo, and Pay by Text. Customers will continue to have the option to pay bills via phone, check, or credit card on the Invoice Cloud platform. The Town absorbs all fees associated with credit card and e-check transactions, so there are no costs to customers.

For more information, go to www.roundhillva.org/water-sewer-billing/pages/bill-payment-options.

For information about financial assistance or to set up a payment plan, please call the Utility Billing Administrator at 540-338-4772 ext. 2.

2022 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

The Town of Round Hill is proud to present its annual water quality report covering all testing performed between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2022. The report is available online at www.roundhillva.org/water-sewer-department.

Town of Round Hill is dedicated to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards and is steadily upgrading facilities and treatment methods to achieve and or exceed these goals.

Please contact the Town Administrator Melissa Hynes at: 540-338-7878 or the Utility Department at 540-338-4772 with any questions or concerns that are not addressed in this report.

Sleeter Lake Park	
Gate Closing Schedule 2023	
Date	Closing Time
March 1 st	6:30 PM
March 12 th (Daylight savings)	7:30 PM
May 1 st	8:30 PM
August 28 th	7:30 PM
September 25 th	7:00 PM
October 16 th	6:30 PM
November 5 th (Daylights Savings)	5:00 PM
November 28 th	Park Closed

SAVE THE DATES!

- Round Hill Hometown Festival**
Saturday, May 27
www.hometownfestival.org
- Western Loudoun Art & Studio Tour**
June 2-4
www.wlast.org
- Round Hill/Hillsboro Appalachian Trail Festival**
Saturday, June 10
The Gap Stage and Old Stone School, 37098 Charles Town Pike, Hillsboro

ON THE AGENDA

Issues the Town Council and Planning Commission will address in the coming months:

- Fiscal Year 2024 Town Council Priorities and Budget
- Comprehensive Plan Amendment – Western Boundary Line Adjustment Small Area Plan
- Future Well Sites, Evening Star Water Treatment Plant and Airmont Tank

Upcoming Events

- **Town Council Meeting** **May 17/June 7**
7:30 p.m., Round Hill Town Office and Zoom
- **Planning Commission Meeting** **June 6**
7:00 p.m., Round Hill Town Office and Zoom

(NOTE: Information for participating remotely is provided on the agenda for each meeting, www.roundhillva.org/minutes-and-agendas.)