

News aRound the Hill

A Community Newsletter for Round Hill, Virginia

February 2008

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Businesses Past, Present and Future Centered in Proposed Historic District

By KATHLEEN LUCKARD

Member, Round Hill Planning Commission

At the turn of the 20th century, Round Hill businesses provided services for the surrounding farming community and for the wealthy visitors from Washington, D.C., who, according to local historian Eugene Scheel, took the train to Round Hill "to escape the heat, humidity and threat of disease."

The summer visitors even spurred entrepreneurial activity, as Round Hill youngsters would wait at the train station on Friday nights, in hopes of earning a nickel for carrying someone's suitcase.

In her book, "A Story of Round Hill," Round Hill historian and former resident Ann Whitehead Thomas describes a wide array of early businesses catering to life's necessities and niceties, including blacksmiths, a wheelwright, bank, drug store, dentist, doctor, dressmakers, milliners, general stores and boarding houses.

Round Hill businesses even provided services for the end of life. "Flave and Walter Howell took care of all funeral processions in those days," Thomas quotes Martha Howell as saying. "Walter provided the casket; brother Flave, the flowers; and Mr. Lynch's livery stable across Main Street, the wagon, or hearse, which was



Businesses in the Central Commercial District could receive tax benefits by being part of an historic district.

used for all funerals." The marble and granite works, of course, could supply artistic tombstones.

Then the train line was extended to Bluemont, and the Blue Ridge Inn, near Bear's Den, became the area's premier summer vacation spot. The ride from Round

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Supporting Local Businesses Enhances Community

By LISA ZIMMER-CHU

Editor, News aRound the Hill

The bottom line, it's commonly agreed, is economics. For businesses, it's about profit; for customers it's about cost. But there's an emerging concept for measuring success that includes social and environmental—as well as economic—values and criteria. It provides good reason for Round Hill residents to "buy local."

"Triple Bottom Line," or "People, Planet and Profit" is a model that con-

siders the complexity of transportation costs to provide and obtain goods and services. It also acknowledges the reciprocal relationship between business and community.

"Buying local" is not a new idea, and though consumers are increasingly seeking locally produced foods, it also applies to other businesses. The number one reason to buy local, according to Loudoun County Community Economic Manager Philip Denino, is simply to "support your community." Supporting local busi-

nesses contributes to economic diversity and helps preserve a community's unique character.

Despite that storefront businesses in Round Hill are limited to a handful of landmarks, the Town has issued 60 licenses to businesses operating within Town limits, including many that are home-based. The directory on the Town website (www.roundhillva.org) lists an additional 49 businesses within the 20141/42 zip codes, and also includes

See **LOCAL BUSINESS**, Page 4

Four-Legged Heroes at Home in Round Hill

By **SUSANNE KAHLER**

News aRound the Hill

There's an academy for superheroes in Round Hill. The students don't talk or dress in the usual fashion and they kind of walk funny, on four legs instead of two. But they are superheroes just the same—of the canine kind. School-aged children attending Round Hill and Mountain View Elementary Schools know them by name and breed.

The Golden Retrievers are part of the Educational-Animal-Assisted Instruction Program of the non-profit paws4people foundation. Round Hill resident Terry Henry is Chairman and Executive Director.

The idea was Henry's then 12-year-



PHOTO COURTESY LORI CASIN

Dogs also visit nursing homes, hospitals, hospice and rehab facilities.



PHOTO COURTESY PAWS4PEOPLE

Round Hill Elementary School students interact with specially-trained Golden Retrievers as part of the Round Hill-based paws4people program.

old daughter Kyria's, to "help people who don't have a dog." The concept was refined after observing the recuperative effects of pets on family members who had suffered the loss of a spouse, compared to individuals in similar circumstances. The animals seemed to shorten the grieving process.

Founded in 1999, the organization has grown from two volunteers with three dogs to more than 100 volunteers with 70 dogs in five states. The dogs have made over 89,000 educational contacts and 24,000 therapy contacts. They have 13 private placement dogs with a combined total of almost 50 years of service.

Teachers familiar with the program tell of small miracles taking place daily.

"The program has provided a safe, non-threatening opportunity for students to practice and enhance their overall motor and communication skills," said Carol Thomson, principal of Mountain View Elementary School.

"Seeing the smiles on the children's faces during each visit is confirmation that the program works."

The therapy dogs help with large motor skills and balance as the children brush, walk and play with them. They help autistic and non-verbal

children find words they didn't know they had. Children with emotional and behavioral problems learn the importance of tolerance, taking turns, and treating others with patience, kindness and respect.

"This program brings my daughter such joy, and is a very special part of her life. I was truly overwhelmed at how the dogs touched not only my daughter, but all the other children as well," said Jeanine Perkins, the mother of an elementary school student.

The dogs also visit nursing homes, hospitals, hospice and rehabilitative facilities.

Paws4people places certified assistance dogs as companions in private homes of mentally or physically disabled or terminally ill adolescents and seniors. They open refrigerators, retrieve medicine, act as balance stabilizers, and "read" written commands. Their potential is just beginning to be recognized as voice synthesized technology is improved. One day, laser-targeted commands may allow the severely handicapped to better utilize the dogs' skills.

The organization has begun paws4prisons, a collaborative effort in which service dogs (affectionately

See **DOGS**, Page 5

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and story ideas to

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COUNCIL CORNER



KIM RAMSEY—NEWS aROUND the HILL

The Eastern Commercial District includes the Pott's farm house and the foundation of the barn, as well as a 12-acre parcel on Evening Star Drive.

Vision for Commercial Area at Town's Eastern Gateway Outlined in Comprehensive Plan Amendment

By **JOHN HEYNER**
and **SCOTT RAMSEY**

Members, Round Hill Town Council

One day, a commercial area providing goods and services that are "essential to the convenience of the local area" may grace the northeast corner of Evening Star Drive and East Loudoun Street.

Such is the vision outlined in the Eastern Commercial District Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPAM) that the Town Council approved earlier this month.

The CPAM, which was recommended by the Planning Commission, provides guidance when reviewing applications for development of the properties in this district—including types of uses, traffic design, and design guidelines—and will add recommendations for these parcels to the Town's Comprehensive Plan.

The CPAM covers a 12-acre undeveloped site at the northeast corner of Evening Star Drive and East Loudoun Street, as well as several properties near the corner of Falls Place and East Loudoun Street, including lots containing the stone house and

former barn, referred to locally as the Pott's house and barn.

These parcels on the Town's eastern gateway were added to the Town in a 2005 Boundary Line Adjustment (BLA).

The CPAM recommends continuing commercial uses for the 12-acre site and the stone house parcel. Although there are no active development plans for either of these sites, the Town has recently entered into discussions with a party interested in the 12-acre site. The Round Hill Streetscape Plan promotes a shopping center with a single anchor tenant for that site.

Yet-to-be-determined civic uses are envisioned for the former Pott's barn site and three adjoining parcels. The Planning Commission is currently involved in a Capital Improvement Plan process for all Town properties, including the barn site.

The barn was deeded to the Town last August. At that time, it was determined to be beyond repair, so the Town arranged for the barn to be taken down in exchange for any salvageable wood. The company that removed the barn has stated that the wood will be used in a residential project in Hillsboro.

Town Welcomes Barkley as New Administrator

By **KIM RAMSEY**

Editor, News aRound the Hill

The business of running the Town of Round Hill is in new hands, as John Barkley took over as Town Administrator in late November. He fills the post vacated by Bradley Polk, who left Round Hill last summer to work in Winchester.

The decision to come to Round Hill "was an easy one," Barkley said. "Round Hill is a great place for me to develop my skills and knowledge base in the field of public administration, while having the privilege to serve the citizens of Round Hill in the process."

Barkley already has strong experience in municipal government, having served in the past as town manager of Colonial Beach and Dumfries, Va., and as town administrator of Perryville, Md. He also holds a master's degree in public administration from the University of Maryland.

"Living and working in Loudoun County was a major attraction for me," Barkley said, "sort of where professional aspirations meet up with a great quality of life for my family."

Barkley lives in Cascades with his wife, Susan, and their six children, who range in age from teenager to toddler. He said he and his family are "enjoying our new life here" and "intend to grow some roots in Loudoun."

Barkley can be reached at the Town Office at 540-338-7878 or jbarkley@roundhillva.org. Please stop by the office and wish him welcome to Round Hill.

Town Business License, Decal Deadlines Approaching

By **BETTY WOLFORD**

Treasurer, Town of Round Hill

The 2008 Town of Round Hill Business License applications were mailed to current town business owners in early January. Anyone operating a business within the Town limits must purchase a Town Business License on or before Mar. 31, 2008.

Blank application forms may be obtained from the Treasurer at the Town Office at 23 Main Street. Applications may also be submitted online at www.roundhillva.org by going to the Business page and clicking "on-line form."

Residents within the Town of Round Hill who own or operate an automobile, truck or motorcycle "regularly housed or stored in the municipality and used or intended to be regularly operated upon the highways in the municipality" must obtain a Round Hill 2008 vehicle decal on or before Apr. 15, 2008.

Decals may be purchased at the Town office. Town Personal Property taxes must be current before purchase of the 2008 vehicle decal. If a metal license plate is not needed, residents may mail payments to the Town Office or put them in the night drop box; decals will be mailed the next business day. New residents or those in need of a new metal Town plate, must come to the office.

Law enforcement issues citations for expired decals.

Please call Betty Wolford, Town Treasurer, at 540-338-7878 with any questions.

Local Business

Continued from Page 1

non-profits.

Although the list of local businesses includes rental properties and contractors working in town, categories also include business services (i.e. communications and management), personal services (i.e. hair, lawn, cleaning,) professional services (i.e. medical, real estate, surveying), retailers (food, antiques, automobile parts, home accessories, personal items), eateries, various repair services, and builders/contractors.

If you still want to know the "bottom" line, in 2007 Round Hill collected \$15,600 in Business License fees alone, which are based on gross receipts, constituting just over 3% of the town's annual budget.

Additional revenue is paid to the town for personal property for commercial use (i.e. computers, vehicles, etc.), and is based on assessments made by the County Commissioner of Revenue.

Aside from the aforementioned 109 businesses, more than 160 employees spend their workdays in Round Hill, just between the public schools, Post Office, Town Office, PRCS, fire department, and the Sheriffs substation. Although Round Hill Elementary School has the most, with 85-90 employees, the largest independent employer has nine.

Town Treasurer Betty Wolford, one of the rare but not wholly unique people in the situation of both living and working in Round Hill, says the "benefit is the short commute, and getting to know your neighbors—not just those who live right here, but everyone who comes in to the Town Office." And that's the triple bottom line.

(To add your business information to the online business directory, contact the Town Office.)

Historic District

Continued from Page 1

Hill took 1½ hours over soggy, flooded Route 7, but the wagon ride from Bluemont was only half-hour. Round Hill's heyday as a tourist destination waned, and over the following decades, so did many of its businesses.

In the coming weeks, the story of Round Hill's historic businesses and residences will be documented by architectural historian and consultant Maral Kalbian. She has been hired to perform fieldwork as part of the nomination process to place the Town's proposed historic district on the Virginia Landmarks Registry and the National Register of Historic Places.

In addition to her own photographs

and research, Kalbian is also seeking historic postcards, photographs and any other information that can be used in the nomination. Please contact the Town Office at 338-7878 if you have any materials to contribute.

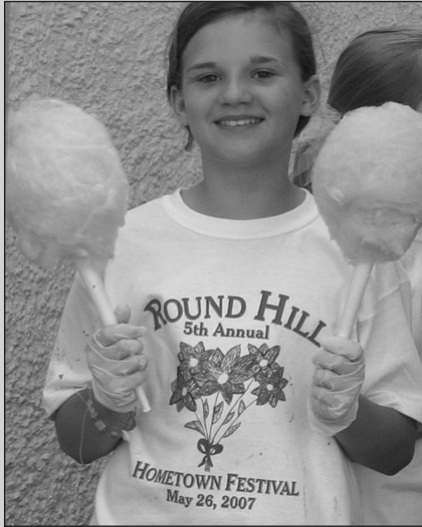
Register designation is strictly honorary and places absolutely no limitations on what owners may do with their property or their buildings. However, property owners who renovate structures in the historic district will have a chance to take advantage of very generous federal and state preservation tax breaks for commercial enterprises. Details about the tax credits can be found at www.dhr.virginia.gov/tax_credits/

[tax_credit.htm](#).

Round Hill has recently revised its zoning ordinance for businesses in the central commercial district, part of the proposed historic district. Many of the uses allowed in this district echo those of years past, including banks, florists, general stores, or tailors, while other possibilities, such as internet or cybercafés, appeal to more modern sensibilities. The complete list is available at www.roundhillva.org/Default.asp?Page=208#7.2

While today's Round Hill may not want to offer the "complete funeral experience" of years gone by, old Round Hill may find a new niche in western Loudoun yet. All it takes is a few entrepreneurs.

FESTIVAL TIME



KIM RAMSEY—NEWS aROUND the HILL

This year's Hometown Festival is set for Saturday, May 24. Local businesses who sponsor the festival are featured on two T-shirts and the festival's web site. Submissions for the T-shirt contest will be collected at the Town Office through April 4. For more information on sponsorships, the contest and the festival in general, visit www.hometownfestival.org.

Church, community centers provide much-needed preschool services

By **KERRY PERRY**
News aRound the Hill

Many people new to the community have difficulty finding a preschool. Most schools fill up on the first night of registration and have wait lists. Just around the corner, though, is a new little preschool dedicated to providing a much needed service to the community.

Little Lambs Preschool, in the Round Hill Baptist Church, opened in January of 2007, and has room to grow by at least two more classes.

With just seven children in the 3-year-old class and 12 in the 4-year-old class, the teacher and aide are able to offer a very personalized kindergarten preparatory curriculum. The school, created as an outreach to the community, will be holding registration for the 2008-2009 year on Feb. 29 and Mar. 14 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. and

Mar. 1 and 3 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Call 540-338-4648 for more information.

Just two blocks away, the Round Hill Center in the old Round Hill Elementary School has been the temporary site for the Loudoun Valley Community Center's (LVCC) preschool. The preschool has been utilizing the Center for the past five months while LVCC undergoes renovations. As renovations are on schedule, the preschool anticipates returning to Purcellville in late summer.

At that time, Bluemont Community Center will begin year-long renovations, and, according to a letter to patrons from Manager Rick Gleason, will be moving to the Round Hill Center. The move is being planned for July or August.

Registration for the community centers' preschool programs began earlier this month.

Dogs

Continued from Page 2

called SlammerDogZ) are trained by inmates of the federal women's prison in West Virginia. The goal is to increase the number of specifically trained "service" and "educational assistance" dogs, while providing inmates the opportunity to learn from and bond with an animal and gain marketable job skills.

In the drawing plans is "Riley Meadows," a facility that will consist of kennels, a K-9 training academy, a state-of-the-art veterinary hospital, a special education academy, hospice inn, residences for paws4people special needs staff-members, and senior assisted living and rehabilitation facilities.

Paws4people hopes to not only enhance the lives of the humans they touch, but the dogs the humans love and rely on each and every day. At Riley Meadows, named for the Henrys' dog, these amazing canine superheroes will never be far away from the people who need them the most, "touching hearts, changing lives."

There are many ways you can help paws4people achieve their goals. Please visit their website at www.paws4people.org or mail inquiries to: Paws4people Foundation, P.O. Box 491, Round Hill, VA 20142-0491.

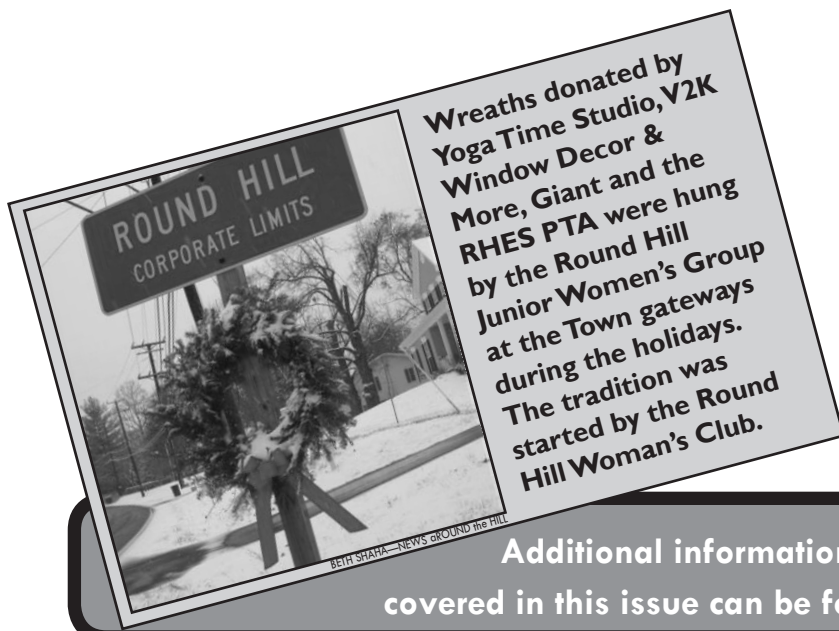
Round Hill Elections Update

By **TIMOTHY WYANT and FRANK ETRO**
News aRound the Hill

In November's county and state elections, Round Hill ranked sixth-highest among Loudoun's 62 precincts with a 41% voter turnout. Nine candidates (or their spouses) spent time at Round Hill greeting voters, and three local organizations showed up to sell cookies and other goods to support their activities. State Senator Jill Holtzman Vogel called Round Hill "one of the two rockiest precincts I've been to all day."

Round Hill Town elections will be held on Tuesday, May 6. The Town Council seats presently held by Mary Anne Graham, Scott Ramsey and Dave Ferguson will be open for election. These seats are for a four-year term. The mayor's two-year term is also up for election. Town residents interested in running for any of these elected positions must register with the Board of Elections located in Leesburg prior to March 4 in order to be placed on the ballot.

(Frank Etro is currently mayor of Round Hill.)



POSTAL PATRON

DID YOU KNOW?

Blue Ridge Factories, once located in Round Hill, manufactured, among other things, whiffletrees, the pivoted horizontal crossbar to which the harness traces of a draft animal are attached and is in turn attached to a vehicle or an implement.

—Submitted by Kathleen Luckard

Additional information on subjects covered in this issue can be found at www.NewsARoundtheHill.org.

Upcoming Events

- ▶ **Public Meeting on Western Loudoun Schools Task Force Recommendations** TBA
See www.roundhillva.org for more information.
- ▶ **Town Election Registration Deadline** Mar. 4
See page 5 for more information.
- ▶ **The Old Homeplace: A Loudoun Valley Tale** Mar. 7-9
Additional performances Mar. 14-16. Franklin Park Performing and Visual Arts Center, VSA. Friday and Saturday performances 7 p.m.; Sunday matinees at 3 p.m. Call (540) 338-7973.
- ▶ **Spring Fever Antiques Flea Market** Mar. 15
Round Hill Arts Center, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- ▶ **Treasures in Paradise Fund-raiser** Mar. 29
The Stable at Foggy Bottom Vineyards, Bluemont, 7-11 p.m. Benefits the Round Hill Elementary School. RSVP by Mar. 14 to the RHES PTA.
- ▶ **Town Cleanup** Apr. 26
Time TBA. Coordinated by the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office and Round Hill Women's Group.
- ▶ **An Artful Afternoon** May 4
Georges Mill Farm Bed and Breakfast, 3 p.m. To benefit the Round Hill Art Center. Call RHAC at 338-5050 for more information.
- ▶ **Town Elections** May 6
- ▶ **RHVFD Open House** May 24
Firehouse, 4 Main Street, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. as part of EMS Week and the Hometown Festival.

ON THE AGENDA

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

- Landscaping regulations
- Amending the Zoning Ordinance regarding non-conforming structures
- Converting all in-Town JLMA areas to R-2
- Developing a drought water plan to potentially include alternative supplemental water source
- Studying future Town expansion
- Preparing a Capital Improvements Program
- Preparing the 2008-2009 budget

The Town Council has changed its regularly scheduled meeting to be on the third Thursday of the month starting at 7:30 p.m. All public hearings will be held as needed on the first Thursday of the month.

The Round Hill Volunteer Fire Department does not have enough volunteers to meet the growing needs of our community. Adult and junior memberships are now being accepted. For more information, stop by the firehouse at 4 Main Street or call 540-338-7982 for an application. Thank you!