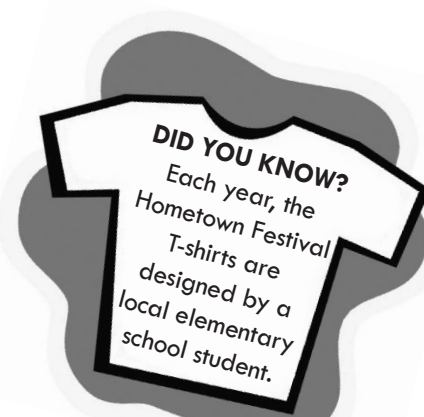




POSTAL PATRON



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

Upcoming Events

- ▶ **Mother's Day Flower Sale** **May 9-10**
Round Hill Firehouse
- ▶ **RHVFD Second Annual Photo Day** **May 17**
Anyone donating to RHVFD will get a certificate for a free 8 x 10 family photo, taken Saturday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- ▶ **United Methodist Church Open House** **May 18**
2-4 p.m. See the proposed plans for church expansion.
- ▶ **2nd Annual RHVFD Golf Tournament** **May 19**
Stoneleigh Golf & Country Club. Sponsors and players are needed. Contact Kim Walker at 703-216-8339 if interested.
- ▶ **RHVFD Open House** **May 24**
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. as part of the Hometown Festival
- ▶ **Little Lambs Preschool Art Show & Auction** **May 30**
6:30 p.m. at the Round Hill Fire Station
- ▶ **Beginnings: A Bible Study** **June 1**
Every Sunday at the Round Hill Town Park, 6:00-7:30 p.m. Child supervision is provided. Contact dbabst@babst.org
- ▶ **Round Hill Baptist Vacation Bible School** **July 7-11**
8:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., 3 years to 5th grade.
- ▶ **Drawing on Nature Camp** **July 14-17**
Offered by Round Hill Arts Center, at the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship. Rising 3rd-5th graders, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call (540)338-5050 for details.
- ▶ **"More Flower Power" Watercolor Workshop** **July 19-20**
9 a.m. to 2 p.m. With local artist Catherine Hillis. Call Round Hill Arts Center for details: (540)338-5050.

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
- Developing a drought water plan to potentially include alternative supplemental water source (*John may want to change this to inter municipal water system connection, based upon the Purcellville request*)
- Studying future Town expansion
- Preparing a Capital Improvements Program
- *Approving the 2008-2009 budget*
- *Western Loudoun Sheriff Substation*
- *Fire Station Special Exception/potential Expansion*
- *United Methodist Church expansion*
- *Eastern Commercial Center?*
- *Main Street Improvements?*

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.

News aRound the Hill

A Community Newsletter for Round Hill, Virginia

May 2008

Circulation 2,200

Round Hill Situated for Family Fun

By **TOBI MORIARTY**
News aRound the Hill

No need to go to the ocean for summer fun, as Round Hill is well-placed for great summer day trips, both near and far.

Indeed, in a recent feature on "Great Small Towns," Washingtonian magazine highlighted Round Hill's location "in the foothills of the Blue Ridge mountains," and specifically identified the Hometown Festival and the Round Hill Arts Center as things to do.

Yet between the natural setting, agricultural heritage, and both traditional and non-traditional arts cultures of the region, the

opportunities for outings for families of all ages and interests are unlimited.

Farm and nature enthusiasts can enjoy visits to the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship in Neersville, Rust Sanctuary in Leesburg or the Blandy Experimental Farm and State Arboretum in Boyce.

Music lovers have the Bluemont and Waterford Concert Series to check out, as well as periodic performances by the Loudoun Symphony Orchestra. Other arts opportunities include the Aurora Studio Theater, Inc., in Hillsboro and Franklin Park Performing and Visual Arts Center in Purcellville.

Look for contact details and more great destinations in the Round Hill Junior Women's Group guide, available for \$5 at the Town Office.

The following clean and kid-friendly destinations are some of the area's best kept secrets:

• **Swim at the Beach:**

A 40-minute drive gets
See **FAMILY FUN**, Page 3

Fun day trips: Wilson's Animal Park, Sky Meadows, Greenbrier State Park, Rust Sanctuary and Shenandoah Miniature Golf.



Artist Studio Tour Planned for June

By **KATY STIDLEY**
News aRound the Hill

The third annual Western Loudoun Artist Studio Tour is taking place the weekend of June 21 and 22, and much of it is right here in the Round Hill community.

The Round Hill Art Center is "home base," hosting an all-artist exhibit and silent auction from June 6 to 22, as well as a space for visiting artists to set up for the weekend.

There are more than 30 local artists participating in the tour,
See **STUDIO TOUR**, Page 2

Hometown Festival Unites Community

By **MEG NASH**
News aRound the Hill

Originally designed to celebrate the Round Hill's "small town feel," the Round Hill Hometown Festival features events like the Downhill Derby, an old-fashioned pie-eating contest, and the ever-popular Round Hill Memories discussion about days past in Round Hill. This year's Festival, the sixth annual, is scheduled for Saturday, May 24.

The Festival has enjoyed phenomenal growth and community participation since its inaugural year in 2003.

"The Hometown Festival has become not just a Town event, but truly a Round Hill community event," said Festival Coordinator Noreen

Payne. "The elementary school, home schoolers, sports teams, Scout troops, the Fire Department, the Arts Center, local churches, Town officials, local businesses—all of Round Hill comes out to participate in the day, and it shows in all aspects of the event."

The day starts with a 5K race and a parade through town ending at the Memorial Ceremony in the Town Park and culminates in a live concert in the park. Entertainment is available throughout the day and community groups offer a variety of games and activities.

The Festival's events are organized and run by volunteers from all around Round Hill.

"The Festival would not be possible
See **FESTIVAL**, Page 3

Studio Tour

Continued from Page 1

and their work is as varied as the people who create it.

Painting, pottery, jewelry, fiber arts, and photography are some of the traditional mediums offered, in addition to glass bead making, fanciful garden sculptures, and beautiful, functional musical instruments that are in their own category.

The event is free, open to the public and designed for the whole family. Several studios will have kids' art activities set up, allowing Mom and Dad to visit with the artist.

According to Jeanne Niccolls, Round Hill resident and chair of the event, "the studio tour builds awareness of the remarkable art resources and vibrant art community that we have right in our own backyard."

Take advantage of this amazing local event and put it on your calendars today. For more information, go to the official WLAST web site at www.wlast.org.

Programs and maps will be available soon at the Round Hill Arts Center, but you can start plotting your itinerary now by logging on to the web site.

(Katy Stidley is a glass bead maker and jewelry designer. Her studio is on East Loudoun Street in Round Hill.)

Hanes to Begin Teaching; Passes Leadership of Art Center to New Executive Director

By KIM RAMSEY

Editor, News aRound the Hill

Walk into the Round Hill Arts Center and chances are you'll be greeted with a friendly "Hello" from the Center's artistic director, Hope Hanes.

Come fall, however, Hanes will be greeting a new set of faces, and the face behind the desk at the Arts Center will be new as well.

Hanes, who co-founded the Center eight years ago with her father, Wally Johnson, and his wife, Carolyn Kruger, is "going back to what it is that I do best and enjoy most—teaching, doing art, and studying languages." She is enrolled in a certification course and expects to be teaching in the fall.

A search for a new executive director for the Arts Center is underway.

During her tenure, Hanes has been instrumental in establishing events such as the monthly bluegrass jam sessions, Western Loudoun Studio Tour, and Round Hill Last Night New Year's Eve celebration.

"Hope has given a lot of her time and energy to making the Arts Center not only a place to experience, enjoy and take home the artistic talents of Western Loudoun but also a place in which the community can get together—all of which has contributed to and reinforced the uniqueness of Round Hill," said Mayor Frank Etro.

"We appreciate her many efforts and will miss her enthusiasm and desire to share the local arts with the community."

The Center has grown exponentially under Hanes' leadership. She credits



KIM RAMSEY—NEWS aROUND the HILL

Arts Center Director Hope Hanes plans to begin teaching in the fall.

the growth to having had "wonderful support from the visual artists and musicians that participate."

Managing this growth—and some of its unintended consequences—will be among the challenges facing the Center's new executive director.

Facilitating and fund raising for improvements to the historic building will be one of the most pressing orders of business, as a surprise visit from the Loudoun County Fire Marshall in March brought to light the need to update the former furniture factory to meet modern safety regulations.

While operation of the gallery and classes meet code, large gatherings like the jam sessions require additional precautions. Special care will need to be taken to honor the character of the historic structure.

The Center is exploring funding options for this work. In the Center's early days, Hanes recalled, the Town helped secure grant money to ensure the Center's survival. Today, once again, local support may prove crucial to the Center continuing to be a place "where the arts and the community converge."

Tax deductible donations may be sent to the Round Hill Arts Center, PO Box 3, Round Hill, Va. 20142.

News aRound the Hill

A Community Newsletter for Round Hill, Virginia

News aRound the Hill is published by the Town of Round Hill.

For more information, see www.NewsaRoundtheHill.org.

Editors:

Lisa Zimmer-Chu
and Kim Ramsey

Please direct comments
and story ideas to

editor@NewsaRoundtheHill.org.

COUNCIL CORNER

Etro Ends Term as Architect of Community

By JOHN HEYNER

Member, Town Council

A "real" architect by profession, over the last 18 years Round Hill Mayor Frank Etro has focused his public service efforts on building community.

As a member of the Planning Commission and Town Council, and ultimately as mayor, Etro took the lead on projects, initiatives and events intended to unite the Town with its surrounding neighborhoods to form the "community of Round Hill."

A strong believer that citizen participation is critical to community building, Etro consistently encouraged the formation of committees to seek creative solutions to specific challenges.

The resulting accomplishments include the build-out of the Town Park and the creation and organization of the annual Hometown Festival, both of which continue to be instrumental in fostering a family-friendly community.

Mayor Etro also united citizen groups with a common purpose in the battle to keep schools within the community and an effort to get the best possible results for the planned Aquatic Center at Woodgrove Park.

Convinced that pedestrian networks are circulatory

systems that bring life to communities, Etro worked diligently for a well-connected Round Hill.

He organized and led a series of charrette processes that established community-centric design guidelines for commercial areas and new neighborhoods, and developed the pedestrian-focused Round Hill Streetscape Master Plan. Two current projects, the Franklin Park Trail and the Main Street Enhancement, rely on this plan.

Mayor Etro has decided not to seek another term, bringing to an end (for now at least) his service as an elected official.

No matter where one looks around the Round Hill area, however, the positive influences of Etro's community vision are unmistakable. So, when you see soon-to-be "Citizen Frank" out and about in the community that he was instrumental in architecting, please be sure to say "thank you."

(John Heyner has served on the Planning Commission and Town Council for eight of the last 10 years.)



PHOTO COURTESY SARAH ETRO

As mayor, Etro focused on building the community.

Festival

Continued from Page 1

ble without the help of the many citizens who dedicate their time to making it happen," Payne said. "They all work together to put on this special community-bonding event."

The Festival is self-funded through sponsorships by local businesses, 5K and derby registration fees, ticket sales, and T-shirt sales. T-shirts can be pre-ordered or purchased at Town office or during the event.

The Hometown Festival is an affordable day of family entertainment and activities that brings neighbors together, regardless of their neighborhood. For more information, see the Event Schedule inserted in this newsletter, or visit www.hometownfestival.org.

(Meg Nash was the coordinator for the first two Hometown Festivals.)

Family Fun

Continued from Page 1

you to a beautiful sandy beach at Maryland's Greenbrier State Park, with lifeguards, a snack shop and full bathroom facilities.

- **Go to the Zoo:** Visit Wilson's Wild Animal Park, just 35 minutes away at 881 W. Parkins Mill Road, Winchester, Va. 22602. Home to more than 200 mammals, birds, and reptiles representing more than 50 species of wild animals from all over the world! Animals include lemur, kangaroo, African lions, monkeys and Burmese pythons. Call 1-540-662-5715 for hours of operation.

- **Family Drive-in Movie:** Located in Stephen's City (30 minutes); see a double-feature in a clean, kid-friendly drive-in. A playground keeps kids busy until the feature starts.

- **Miniature Golf:** Shenandoah Miniature Golf, just seven miles north of Winchester. 18 holes, ice cream for sale, and a lovely fish pond in the

center. They host birthday parties and offer nighttime golfing with lighted balls. Bring hats on a sunny day!

- **Hiking:** Skyline Meadows State Park (30-minute drive) has gorgeous scenery from its many hiking trails. The Strawberry Festival, held every Memorial Day weekend, offers great music, scenery and strawberry shortcakes.

- **History:** Millwood Mill is a beautifully restored mill that was once responsible for processing 60,000 bushels of wheat a year. Saturdays are grinding days.

- **Rainy Day?:** Head underground to Luray Caverns, the largest caverns in the Eastern United States.

- **Picnics:** Starting May 9, take your family and a picnic to Rose Hill Park, in downtown Berryville for a free Friday evening concert in the park.

(See www.newsaroundthehill.org for online links to information on all the locations listed above.)

Event Schedule

6th Annual Round Hill Hometown Festival
Saturday, May, 24, 2008

5K Festival Race

1/2 Mile Kid Fun Run

8:00 a.m./\$18 registration fee by May 14; \$25 thereafter

Got what it takes to get up early and race through the streets of Round Hill? All age groups welcome. Register early. Complete registration forms and more information available at the Town Office or on the web site at www.hometownfestival.org.
NO FEE FOR KIDS' FUN RUN!



Parade

10:30 a.m.

The parade will start at Main Street and Evening Star Drive, proceed south down Main Street and end at the Town Park. Participation is welcomed and encouraged for local organizations, especially any with musical talent! If you would like to participate, please email noreenspayne@yahoo.com for details.

Memorial Ceremony

11:00 a.m.
 Come to the park for the annual Memorial Day Ceremony, with musical performances by local elementary school students and a wreath-laying.



Children's Rides and Games

All Day/Free except for a minor charge for the rock wall

Sponsored by Western Loudoun Community Church and the Town of Round Hill, enjoy three-legged races, hula-hoop contests, a rock-climbing wall, tilt machine and more!



Music in the Park

All Day
 The Round Hill Arts Center will host a day of entertainment in the park, including an after-dinner concert to wrap up the day's festivities.



Volunteer Fire Department Open House and Pig Roast

10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
 Visit with Loudoun's finest service organizations at the Firehouse, donate blood at the INOVA Bloodmobile, and grab a delicious pork sandwich afterward!



Getting Hungry?

Check out one of the following options:

- RHVFD Pig Roast
- Round Hill Diner
- Round Hill Grocery
- Round Hill Mini-Mart
- Savoir Fare



Join the Chorus!
Elementary school-aged children are invited to participate in the Memorial Ceremony Chorus, performing patriotic songs. Contact Rosanna Duggan for more info: 540-338-3380.

Round Hill Memories

1:00-2:00 p.m.

Always a favorite! Come to Town Office and enjoy tales of Round Hill's yesteryear from residents with the longest memories. This ends up being a standing-room-only event; plan to arrive early!

Got an Hour?

Get a T-shirt!

Volunteers are needed for the 5K run, pie contest, derby and more! Sign-up Open House May 21, 4-6 p.m., 42 Main Street
noreenspayne@yahoo.com



Pie Eating Contest

2:30 p.m.

Sure to be a huge hit again this year, plan time to participate or just watch the festivities in the park. We will again feature rounds for local celebrities, adults, teens and children. Dare to go face-down in a chocolate creme-filled pie and take home a free T-shirt and hopefully a medal! Remember, teens and children require parental permission to participate. Permission slips for anyone under 18 will be available online and at the Town Office ahead of time for parents who will not be attending the Festival with their children. Everyone participating must still stop by the T-shirt table and sign up the day of the event.

Round Hill-Down Hill Derby/RazorScooter/Skateboard Race

4:00 p.m.

\$5 registration fee

The Round Hill-Down Hill is a contest for you to build your own "derby car" and race it down N. Locust Street! Back this year is the expanded event to allow for scooters and skateboards as well. The races are open to drivers who can safely operate their car, scooter or skateboard. Down Hill Derby cars must comply with the published rules of the derby.



PLEASE
drive slowly
and carefully during
the Festival. Also be
alert to temporary road
closures through the day
as part of the 5K run,
parade and
derby.

Picnic Dinner in the Park

5:30 p.m.

\$XXX adult/\$XXX child

Join your neighbors for a picnic dinner in the park catered by Savoir Fare. Enjoy dinner music by the Chorus of the Old Dominion. A limited number of tickets will be available the day of the event. Register early! Pre-paid reservations may check in at the picnic.



Concert in the Park After dinner

Topping off the evening, the Round Hill Arts Center will present a musical treat in the Town Park featuring the McGinley Family Singers. Bring a blanket or lawn chairs and kick back and enjoy!

Visit www.hometownfestival.org for detailed information, registration forms, and, if necessary, inclement weather plans on the day of the Festival.

Don't miss the fun!