

News aRound the Hill

A Community Newsletter for Round Hill, Virginia

April 2010

Circulation 2,300



KIM RAMSEY—NEWS aROUND the HILL

The Western Flyer bus service will travel through Round Hill and stop at the Town Park on weekdays.

Western Flyer Pilot Program Brings Bus Service to Town

By KIM RAMSEY
Editor, News aRound the Hill

Imagine hopping on a bus in Round Hill and for 50 cents travelling to Purcellville, Lovettsville, Leesburg and beyond. With a newly extended route from the Western Flyer, Round Hill area residents can do just that.

In early March the year-old Western Flyer bus route between Lovettsville and Purcellville added regular service to Round Hill, stopping at the Town Park on Loudoun Street at scheduled intervals on weekdays (see chart, Page 7).

Virginia Regional Transit Regional Manager Michael Socha said that through the Western Flyer, VRT is “finally able to answer calls from the local residents about the need to connect

with employment opportunities, recreation and medical trips.”

From Round Hill, the Flyer passes through Purcellville, up Route 287 to Lovettsville and then to the MARC train station in Brunswick, Md. Riders can also transfer in Purcellville to the Purcellville Connector, which then continues to Leesburg with a stop in Hamilton. Once in Leesburg, riders may transfer to the 7 to 7 on 7 bus or one of several Leesburg routes. Western Flyer fare is 50 cents, and transfers are free.

According to Socha, the service through Round Hill is a test program that will be reviewed monthly.

“Bottom line, if we can do the loop in Round Hill and if it works within the plan and time schedule, proves See **WESTERN FLYER**, Page 7

Bluemont Community Center to Stay in Round Hill for Two More Years

By KAREN YURISH
News aRound the Hill

Round Hill citizens who used to have to drive to Bluemont to take classes at the Bluemont Community Center will continue to enjoy the shorter trip to the Round Hill Center on High Street for another two years.

According to Rick Gleason, manager of the Bluemont Community Center, the county is still working on plans for renovations to the center’s building in Bluemont. Current plans have the project put out to bid this fall, with construction starting in December 2010 or January 2011. Once started, the renovation is expected to take 14 months.

“The renovation to the original 1923 building will include a small addition, with an office, kitchen and an elevator,” Gleason said. “Some parts of the old building, such as the gym, are being reconfigured. Downstairs, where the offices used to be will be a new child care room, and a new bathroom will be put in between the classrooms.”

To ensure they would be able to use the Round Hill Center during their renovation, Bluemont Community Center moved in to the Round Hill Center as soon as Loudoun Valley Community Center returned to its Purcell-

See **BLUEMONT**, Page 6



PHOTO COURTESY BLUEMONT COMMUNITY CENTER

Children rush to pick up candy-filled eggs at the Bluemont Community Center’s annual Easter egg hunt.

Cooperative Art Gallery Opening

Western Loudoun Artists' Work Exhibited, Sold

By MARY KENESSON

Secretary and Member,
Gateway Gallery

Local artists have been working together to create a new gallery of art and fine craft in western Loudoun County.

The Gateway Gallery and Gift Shop will operate as an artists' cooperative, for members to show and sell their work and share in managing and staffing the gallery.

Participating Round Hill photographer Tim Farmer is very excited about the gallery's "enormous potential."

A photojournalist-turned-artist, Farmer says the cooperative is "the perfect outlet for people like me to release my artistic energy, display my work, get feedback, and hopefully have an impact on people."

"Our founding members are working enthusiastically to fine-tune the co-op's operations and get the gallery ready for opening this spring," said Co-op President Meredith Hilt.

Membership already includes 26 local artists representing an array of media including painting and printmaking, photography, pottery, fiber arts, wood turning, sculpture and jewelry. Artworks and fine crafts by



COURTESY WESTERN LOUDOUN ARTISTS STUDIO TOUR

Gateway Gallery and Western Loudoun Studio Tour artists Tom Boley and Katy Stidley work in their studios.



KIM RAMSEY—NEWS aROUND the HILL

members will be exhibited and sold in the gallery, and individual artists will be featured in rotating gallery shows.

Member artists will support the gallery by staffing it, serving on management committees, and helping with special exhibits and events.

The 800-square foot gallery is located with other new ventures in the Hill High Orchard building, a landmark destination considered by many as the gateway to rural western Loudoun.

The Round Hill Arts Center (RHAC), which offers art and music classes and events, has already reopened at the site and is helping the group of artists establish the cooperative gallery.

Over one-third of the co-op's members had shown in the RHAC's gallery space in its previous location.

"We are all really excited about the location and the gallery space, and looking forward to being part of an arts destination in western Loudoun," Hilt said.

Area artists and craftpersons interested in joining the cooperative can find information and the application form on the gallery's web site (www.thegatewaygallery.com), or call Hilt at (540) 554-4884. Applicants' work will be juried by current members; upon acceptance, all members sign a one-year commitment agreement. Expectations of the success of this

See **GALLERY**, Page 7

Association of Local Business Owners Formed

By JENNY GRAFTON-THEODORE

Officer-at-Large,
Round Hill Business Association

Round Hill business owners now have the opportunity to network, promote and nurture their businesses with others working in and around town.

The Round Hill Business Association (RHBA) was conceived last fall by local business owners Mark Albright and Bobby Dennis.

The impetus for the group was the fact that some Round Hill business owners do not live within town limits and therefore are not represented in town government. The goal of the group is to have a voice in town decisions.

The structure of RHBA meetings is simple and standard for a networking group. The first half hour is dedicated to networking, followed by orders of business, upcoming events, and things going on in town. Members and visitors then have an opportunity to introduce themselves and their businesses to the group.

The final item on the agenda is an invited guest who presents on a topic of special interest for the group. In March, a representative from the Loudoun County zoning board spoke about ordinances affecting businesses.

The group is currently discussing plans for a wine-tasting event to help showcase local businesses to be held at the Old Furniture Factory during the Hometown Festival on May 29. More information will be posted on the festival website, www.hometownfestival.org, as plans solidify.

As a new group, organization
See **RHBA**, Page 7

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.



PHOTOS COURTESY ROUND HILL UTILITY STAFF
Utility staff worked overtime clearing snow in February's storms.

Utility Staff's Efforts in Snowstorms Praised

By **JOHN BARKLEY**
Town Administrator

Members of the Town of Round Hill's utility staff worked diligently during February's snow storms to assist residents in town limits with clearing roads as best they could with the town's equipment.

The Town Office received many comments and thanks from citizens about the responsiveness of the town staff during the storms.

Several staff members stayed overnight and began their days at

4 a.m., pushing snow and assisting residents with emergency calls. Staff responded to calls regarding loss of electric and utility services, citizens low on food, and elderly assistance.

The Utility Department will purchase chains for the snow plow vehicles and backhoe for future snow events to help improve the town's response to the deep snow and icy conditions.

We are very proud of the staff members that stayed and handled the calls for assistance.

Town Joins Alert Loudoun Notification System

By **LISA ZIMMER-CHU**
Editor, News aRound the Hill

The Town of Round Hill is now a part of the Alert Loudoun System.

Round Hill and Loudoun County use the Roam Secure Alert Network to immediately notify citizens during a crisis or emergency such as a water main break, outage of service and other important or emergency situations.

According to Town Administrator John Barkley, the free Alert Loudoun System is "another welcome sign of progress to Round Hill."

Alert Loudoun can deliver important emergency alerts, notifications and updates via email (work, home, other), cell phone (via SMS), pager, or Smart-phone/PDA (BlackBerry, Treo and other handhelds). Residents are encouraged to sign their devices and email up to this system.

"Citizens can be notified in real time about a wide variety of circumstances involving public safety, fire, school closings and cancellations, weather, traffic, accidents involving utilities or roadways, or disaster notifications such as a terrorist attack, 24 hours a day, seven days a week," Barkley said.

Sign up for this free service at <https://alert.loudoun.gov>. For further information contact Earl Suitor with the Town of Round Hill at (540) 338-4772.

Vice Mayor Mary Anne Graham has been chosen by the Virginia Rural Water Association as the 2010 Woman of the Year, and Richard Wolverton of the Utilities Department has been given the 2010 Maintenance Technician of the Year Award. Congratulations on the good work!

Bluemont

Continued from Page 1

ville location after the renovation of its building was completed in August of 2008.

Gleason says that there have been advantages to being at the Round Hill Center. "The classrooms are bigger, and it is closer to home for many of our students and parents, as many of them live in Round Hill."

Gleason misses the larger playground in Bluemont—the playground at the Round Hill Center was added when LVCC moved there—but overall, he said, "the building has worked out great!"

Kathleen Genaille, a Round Hill resident who has had two children in classes at Bluemont Community Center while it has been in Round Hill, has enjoyed having it here and appreciates the impact it has had on the community.

"To me, it just makes Round Hill so much better," she said. "I really like being able to live in a community where you can get the stroller out, get the kids, and walk to school."

Genaille has been impressed with how professional and child-centered the staff and programs are, the research-based curriculum, and how thoughtful the management has been in their decisions about the people they hire, who she feels "really have the kids in mind first."

"We feel we offer a fun, educational and affordable experience for your child's first school experience," Gleason added.

Bluemont Community Center is currently accepting registrations for six preschool classes for the 2010-11 school year. For elementary-aged children, the center operates after-kindergarten, first-graders and kids' club programs.

Bluemont also offers full- and part-time child care for ages 3-5. Child care operates from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily.

For more information, call (540) 338-4485 or stop by the center at 20 High Street.

COUNCIL CORNER

Projects Designed to Enhance Sidewalk Connectivity

By **DAN BOTSCH**

Member, Round Hill Town Council

During the next couple of years, Round Hill will be the focus of three infrastructure projects that will dramatically improve storm-water management, help facilitate the safe travel of pedestrians and vehicles through town and connect Round Hill to Franklin Park.

The Main Street Enhancement Project, projected to commence next year, will include sidewalk construction, safety improvements,

streetscape enhancements, and storm-water drainage infrastructure along Main Street from Tammy's Diner to Mill Way, just north of High Street.

The objective of this project is to add safety measures for pedestrians while maintaining the historic character of the town. The existing sidewalks on the east side of Main Street from Loudoun Street to the Town Office will be reconstructed and made handicap accessible. At the Town Office, there will be a crosswalk, and

the sidewalk will continue along the west side of Main Street to Mill Way. The project will provide designated on-street parking areas to mitigate the parking of vehicles in the street and on sidewalks. Storm-water drainage system improvements will tie into planned improvements on Loudoun Street.

Future phases of this project will improve access to downtown Round Hill from existing and planned residential developments outside the corporate limits by extending sidewalks

along Main Street north to the town limits and to the south along New Cut Road to Yatton Road.

On a smaller scale, the Town Council has budgeted \$20,000 for sidewalk improvements and repairs along the east side of North Locust Street as well as other sections in town yet to be determined. This project is expected to be completed by this summer.

The Franklin Park Trail project, which has been in the planning stages for several years, will be con-

See **SIDEWALKS**, Page 7

Town Park to Receive Face-lift

Annual Cleanup, Master Plan Revisions Scheduled

By **KIM RAMSEY**

Editor, News aRound the Hill

Plans are underway to give the Town Park on Loudoun Street a face-lift, both immediate and in the future.

The Round Hill Junior Women's Group is holding its annual Town Park cleanup on Saturday, May 1, from 9 a.m. to noon. With the help of the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, local Girl Scout troops and other volunteers, the group will be planting spring annuals, picking up trash and spreading mulch donated by Blake Landscapes. Anyone interested in helping out is encouraged to come by.

Longer-term plans for Town Park improvements are being examined as well. The Round Hill Planning Commission, at the request of the Town Council, will be working to



County Sheriff's deputies spread mulch during last year's cleanup.

adopt a formal master plan to use as a basis for the design of future park improvements and to guide special requests for future use, including events, monuments and memorials.

According to Town Planner and Zoning Administrator Rob Kinsley, "More than half of the park will stay in its natural state, with trails through it, but the Planning Commission would like to know what other amenities the public would like to be provided in the 'developed' part of the park."

Local residents who use the park and would like to help guide the development of the master plan should contact Kinsley (rkinsley@roundhillva.org) at the Town Office.

Town Elections: May 4

The Town of Round Hill will hold elections for mayor and Town Council on Tuesday, May 4, at the Round Hill Center at 20 High Street. Voters may check their registration status and request absentee ballots online at www.voterinfo.sbe.virginia.gov/PublicSite/PublicMain.aspx.

The following individuals are on the ballot for election:

Mayor (Seats : 1)

Mark A. Albright

45 Main Street

Scott T. Ramsey

14 W. Loudoun Street

Town Council (Seats : 3)

Jennifer L. Grafton

19 N. Locust Street

jnnggrft@aol.com

Christopher J. Prack

PO Box 617

cprack@currysauto.com

Source: Virginia State Board of Elections

Editor's Note: Incumbent council member Janet Heston is waging a write-in campaign to retain her seat.

ROUND HILL EIGHTH ANNUAL HOMETOWN

5K FESTIVAL RACE

½ MILE KID FUN RUN

8:00 a.m./\$19 registration by May 10; \$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

10:00 a.m.

The parade will start at Woodgrove Park, 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 moriartyrh@yahoo.com for details.

MEMORIAL CEREMONY

10:45 a.m.

Come to the park for the annual Memorial Day Ceremony to take a few moments to honor our local veterans through music, a flag-raising and wreath-laying.

CHILDREN'S RIDES AND GAMES

11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Free except for several fee-based kids' rides. Sponsored by Western Loudoun Community Church and the Town of Round Hill, enjoy three-legged races, hula-hoop contests, human tumbler and more!

MUSIC IN THE PARK

All Day

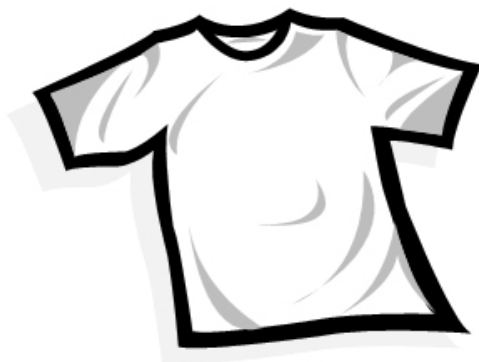
The Round Hill Arts Center will host a day of entertainment in the park, including an after-dinner concert to wrap up the day's festivities.



FESTIVAL T-SHIRTS AND VOLUNTEERS

Log on to www.hometownfestival.org to order your Festival T-shirts! Shirts ordered before May 10 are \$8.50; after May 10 the price increases to \$10 and sizes and availability may be limited!

Volunteers are needed to help make the day a success! All volunteers receive a free Festival T-shirt! Sign up at the Volunteer Open House on Monday, May 24, from 4 p.m.-7 p.m. at 15 High Street, or email moriartyrh@yahoo.com.



TOWN FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, MAY 29, 2010



FIRE DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE AND PIG ROAST

10:00 a.m.-3:00 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!

PIE-EATING CONTEST

1:00 p.m.

Dare to go face-down in a chocolate creme-filled pie and take home a free T-shirt and hopefully a medal! There will be rounds for local celebrities, adults, teens and children. Everyone participating must stop by the T-shirt table and sign up the day of the event. Permission slips for anyone under 18 will be available online and at the Town Office ahead of time.

ROUND HILL-DOWN HILL DERBY/SCOOTER RACE

3:00 p.m.

\$5 registration fee through May 29

Build your own derby car and race it down N. Locust Street!

There will be heats for scooters as well. Races are open to drivers who can safely operate their vehicles. Racers must follow the rules found at www.hometownfestival.org.

GOURMET FEAST IN THE STREET

5:30 p.m.

\$15 adult/\$5 child by May 21; \$17 and \$7 thereafter

Join your neighbors for a gourmet dinner in the street catered by Savoir Fare. The number of tickets available after May 21 will be highly limited, so reserve your seat at the table early!

CONCERT IN THE PARK

7:30 p.m.

Topping off the evening, the Round Hill Arts Center presents funk, reggae and blues band Sol & Funk Root. Bring a blanket or chairs to kick back and enjoy the sights and sounds, or bring your dancing shoes to dance the night away! Come early for lively acoustic music by the Polka Dots, beginning at 6:30 p.m. as the feast winds down.

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

Don't miss the fun!