

News aRound the Hill

A Community Newsletter for Round Hill, Virginia

September 2015

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SURVEY RESULTS BY THE NUMBERS:

64% of residents said the "small town feel" was one of the most important factors in deciding to move to Round Hill

93% rank Round Hill's quality of life as "good" or "excellent"

93% commute outside of Round Hill to go to work

56% want Round Hill to continue to be a bedroom community

4% said beautification projects in downtown Round Hill are NOT important

80% said they would visit downtown more but there are too few places to visit

The most popular choices for downtown businesses were:

- Coffee shop 76%
- Bakery 73%
- Neighborhood deli 70%
- Ice cream parlor 65%

The most popular choices of business possibilities for the 12-acre commercial site on the corner of East Loudoun Street and Evening Star Drive were:

- Small grocery store 58%
- Children's activity studio 49%
- Urgent care/medical 35%
- Hardware store 35%

The three most popular choices for future recreational opportunities in Round Hill were:

- Community center 52%
- Bike trails 48%
- Access to Sleeter Lake 47%

Residents were asked to help prioritize proposed community development projects. There was practically a tie between:

- Improvements to parks and recreational opportunities 62%
- Incentives to encourage the beautification of downtown Round Hill 61%

Community Survey Results to Help Guide Comprehensive Plan Update

Last fall, the Town of Round Hill conducted a Community Survey to help gather public input on the future of the Town.

The results of that survey have now been compiled into a summary document that will help guide the Town's Comprehensive Plan Update process, which will be taking place this fall. The summary document is now available online at www.roundhillva.org.

The Comprehensive Plan helps guide the Town Council and Planning Commission's decisions regarding future development. It helps establish priorities and provides a picture of how the community envisions itself. The Community Survey asked questions that helped define these priorities and vision.

Some of the main topics the survey covered, and that the Comprehensive Plan must address, are:

- the future of the vacant 12-acre commercial property on the corner of East Main Street and Evening Star Drive
- the revitalization of Round Hill's central commercial district (Main and Loudoun Streets) and
- the use of infill residential development in Round Hill's National Historic District.

The future of the 12-acre commercial property is one of most important policy decisions of this plan because the site is strategically located not only off of Route 7 but also at the Town gateway.

The Planning Commission recognizes that this shopping center will define how Round Hill is viewed to visitors and future residents.

The Town is limited in its ability to control the types of uses in the

future shopping center, but the Town can work with the developers on the behalf of the residents to try create the best shopping center for Round Hill.

The Town also has the ability to influence the layout, design and architecture of the shopping center.

A strong focus on revitalization and infill development will be a theme in the 2016 Comprehensive Plan because Round Hill is quickly approaching build out.

The Town's utility infrastructure capacity limits Round Hill's future growth to about 200 homes beyond those development projects already in the pipeline or those that have been proffered.

Consequently, the Plan will not be focusing on growth beyond the Joint Land Management Area (Round Hill's urban growth boundary) but instead on how to improve or enhance existing infrastructure, housing, businesses and community facilities.

On Sept. 15, the Planning Commission will host a second Public Vision Workshop for the Comprehensive Plan. This meeting, at 6 p.m. in the Round Hill Elementary School library, will represent the "coming together" of a year's worth of public participation.

Additional workshops and public hearings will be held throughout the fall as the Planning Commission and Town Council work with the citizens of the greater Round Hill community to help update the Comprehensive Plan.

All members of the public are invited to these meetings and are encouraged to participate in helping shape Round Hill's future.

COMMUNITY

RHES KICKS OFF SCHOOL YEAR

Round Hill Elementary School is poised and ready for yet another exciting year of learning and growth.

An information night is planned for Odyssey of the Mind on Wednesday, Sept. 9, at 7 p.m. in the school library. Join Scouting Night will be Wednesday, Sept. 16 from 6-9 p.m.

The Fall Read-a-Thon begins on Sept. 28. Please help support the school by sponsoring students in this fund-raiser for the school.

RHES would like to thank Matthew Shaffer for submitting a \$500 grant to help outfit the PE Department with equipment to teach Frisbee golf.

Thank you also to Kim Shierts for helping RHES win a grant from the Audubon Naturalist Society and the GreenKids program in the amount of \$500 to start a school garden. The school is eager to solicit community support to get this garden designed, built and planted.

The administration encourages new and engaging partnerships with local businesses. Contact Principal Andrew Davis for more information.

RHVFD CREWS TO SUPPORT BLUEMONT FAIR

The Round Hill Volunteer Fire

Department crews will be on standby for emergencies at the Bluemont Fair on Sept. 19 and 20. Stop by for a tour of the equipment—kids get free stuff—and chat with members of the department.

BANK BRANCH TO CLOSE

Bank of Clarke County will be closing the Round Hill Branch on Friday, Oct. 2nd at 12:00 noon. Customers who have a Safe Deposit Box are asked to come in and transfer the contents of the box to Bank of Clarke's Purcellville location, at 203 Hirst Road.

RHAC'S FALL EVENTS INCLUDE TINYCON

The Round Hill Arts Center has a full schedule of events planned for the fall, including TinyCon: A Teen Convention and Cosplay Event.

TinyCon is an anime/science fiction convention created by and for teen fans ages 11 and up; the event will be held Saturday, Oct. 10, from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The cost is \$10.

TinyCon will feature panels and workshops led by teens and adults that will focus on cosplay (costumed role-playing of favorite characters), writing and gaming. Costumes are optional.

For the full schedule of events and classes at the Arts Center, visit www.roundhillartscenter.org.

SCOUTS HOST GLOW RUN

Boy Scout Troop 2011 is holding a Glow Run on Saturday, Oct. 17, beginning at 8 p.m. The 5k race course will begin and end at Round Hill Elementary School. The course will be illuminated by glow sticks and each runner will be given two glow bracelets. Costumes are encouraged but not mandatory.

Registration is available through active.com. The \$35 registration fee includes a T-shirt. Proceeds from the race will help send local scouts to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico next summer.

The race will be held rain or shine. All ages welcome.

RHUMC PLANS YARD SALE

Round Hill United Methodist Church will be holding a yard sale at 11 West Loudoun Street, on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. The sale will feature furniture, clothing, household items, toys, books, linens, etc. The proceeds will go to the Church's general fund. For more information, contact the church office at 540-338-4445.

ON THE AGENDA

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

- Update of Town Comprehensive Plan
- Easement acquisition for Main Street sidewalks and Franklin Park Trail
- Repainting of Evening Star water tower
- Refinancing of existing utility debt
- Well exploration for new water sources
- County zoning approval and bonding for water tank on Yatton Road
- Determine development plans for Sleeter Lake park

Upcoming Events

- **Planning Commission Work Session** Sept. 1
5:30 p.m., Town Office
- **Planning Commission** Sept. 2/Oct. 6
7:00 p.m., Town Office
- **Utility Committee** Sept. 8/Oct. 13
8:00 a.m., Town Office
- **Land Use Committee** Sept. 9
7:00 p.m., Town Office
- **Comprehensive Plan Input Meeting** Sept. 15
6:00 p.m., Round Hill Elementary School library
- **Town Council Public Hearing** Sept. 17
7:30 p.m., Town Office; Water/Sewer Ordinances, Fee Schedule, Auto Decals
- **Town Council** Sept. 17/Oct. 15
7:30 p.m., Town Office