

News aRound the Hill

A Community Newsletter for Round Hill, Virginia

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Public Input Sessions Now Complete; Comprehensive Plan Update Process Moves to Planning Commission

Over the past several months, the Town has held multiple meetings designed to engage residents in the 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update.

The purpose of these meetings was to inform the community about the process to update the Comprehensive Plan and to gather community input on how Round Hill can be improved for the future.

Topics discussed at the three public meetings include the history and purpose of the Comprehensive Plan; pros/cons of accessory dwellings, commuter lots and boundary line adjustments; and exercises to help determine what residents want to see in Round Hill, particularly as it pertains to revitalization of the central business district along Main and Loudoun Streets and the development of the eastern commercial district on the corner of East Loudoun Street and Evening Star Drive. Residents were also given the opportunity to make public comments.

The Town appreciates those residents who were able to attend one or more of the open forums. The Town believes that a better community can be built through public participation.

Even though Round Hill is approaching build-out within the next 5 to 10 years, there will always be new opportunities for community enrichment within existing neighborhoods and commercial districts.

The next step in the Comprehensive Plan update process is to complete a Planning Commission draft that will be scheduled for a public hearing hopefully in January.

This document should be available for public review by the middle of

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PHOTO BY MELISSA HYNES

Approximately 70 Round Hill residents took part in the Comprehensive Plan input session held on Sept. 15 at Round Hill Elementary School.

Survey Results Show Support for Boundary Line Adjustment, But Not More Townhouses

In late September, the Town conducted an online survey that asked specific questions about several “hot topics” from the public input sessions, including accessory dwellings, commuter lots and boundary line adjustments.

The survey also covered questions pertaining to downtown commercial revitalization and the vision for the eastern commercial district, including the urgency to build out this area.

The Town received responses from 112 residents that showed the following results:

Boundary Line Adjustment

- 70% of participants supported a boundary line adjustment to bring some neighborhoods along the town border into Town

Downtown Revitalization

- 62% of participants were in favor of a clear permitting process to allow residential owners to create owner-occupied bed and breakfasts or “live above your work” homes
- 32% were in favor of allowing res-

idential zoned houses to be converted to a non-owner-occupied bed and breakfast or airbnb-style business

Eastern Commercial District

- Only 2% of respondents were in favor of adding townhouses to the eastern commercial district
- 26% want to see a mixed-use development similar to Loudoun and Main Street
- 49% said no residential uses should be permitted
- 55% of the respondents said that they are willing to wait 10 to 20 years until the market supports their ideal shopping center instead of settling for a different type of shopping center

Popular alternatives to a shopping center included:

- an indoor farmers market and community conference center (67%)
- a civic use such as a library or visitor center (58%)
- a recreational use such as an indoor sports complex, miniature golf or bowling (50%).

GOVERNMENT (cont.)

Continued from previous page

December. The Planning Commission will host a public hearing, followed by a formal vote on the document to decide whether or not the document is complete, and whether it should be passed on to the Town Council for final adoption.

Once the Town Council receives the plan, its members will review the document and may make changes.

If the document requires substantial changes, it might get sent back to the Planning Commission. Once the plan is in good form, the Council will hold another public hearing. After the public hearing, the Council will consider public comment and then take formal vote to adopt the document.

After it is adopted, the Town Council and Planning Commission will use the updated Comprehensive Plan to guide future public improvements and community development projects in Round Hill.

It will also serve as a road map for the next 10 years, ensuring that the Town's resources are in line with the current and future needs of its residents, as well as the changing demographics of the community.

TOWN CAN NOW EMAIL UTILITY BILLS

Beginning last billing period, the Town of Round Hill's last water/sewer bill had a new look as a result of a new billing system for utility bills. One benefit of this new software is that residents can now receive their water bills via email.

Residents who would like to take advantage of this new email billing option must contact the Town Office at 540-338-7878 x301 or email kmcgaha@roundhillva.org or dchernoff@roundhillva.org.

Any residents who opt to receive their bill via email will no longer receive a paper copy in the mail.

TAX CHANGES FOR RESIDENTS WITHIN CORPORATE LIMITS

Anyone who owns property within the Town limits must pay real estate taxes to Loudoun County and the Town of Round Hill. Residents who live within the Town and own and operate a vehicle(s) are also required to pay personal property taxes to both the County and the Town.

In-Town residents are also required to pay a town vehicle license fee for each of their registered automobiles.

The Town Council recently took action to dispense with town decals, but to continue to charge the license fee of \$25/truck or automobile or \$15 for motorcycles.

This year's license fee will be due in December—at the same time the real estate and personal property taxes are due—rather than in April. Thus, the fee for this year will be prorated for the loss of the four months on the 2014 charge.

Based on this prorated rate of four months credit, the charge for this vehicle license fee will be:

Automobiles, Trucks	\$16.70
Motorcycles	\$10.00

The Town rates for 2015 taxes are:

Real Estate	\$0.18018 per \$100
Personal Property	\$1.15 per \$100

Loudoun County provides the assessed value of real estate and personal property to the Town.

Anyone who operates a business within the Town limits (including home-based businesses) must apply for a business license. The fees for the license are based on the gross receipts of the business and the type of business operated. Applications for a business license are available on the Town's website under the Business page and clicking the on-line form.

Any questions about the above taxes or rates may be directed to the Town Treasurer at (540) 338-7878, extension 302.

COMMUNITY

NEW RHAC TEEN ARTS NIGHTS

Starting Friday Nov. 6, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., teens are invited to bring their art and ideas to Round Hill Arts Center on the first Friday of each month.

Activities will be planned in consultation with local high school instructors. There is no fee to attend, though donations are appreciated. All teens are welcome.

POTTERY FOR THE KITCHEN AND COSMOS

Round Hill potter, David Norton, invites the public to attend his annual autumn show of functional pottery

and ceramic sculpture held at his Potterosa Gallery. The event will take place Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 7 and 8, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Bowls, plates, mugs, cups, pitchers, platters, casseroles, vegetable steamers and vases are among the wide variety of pottery available.

Following Norton's weekend show, Potterosa will be open on weekends until Christmas from noon to 4 p.m. and by appointment.

Potterosa is located in Stoneleigh at 18005 Kullgren Road. For more information, see www.davidnortonpottery.com, or email nortonpots@earthlink.net.

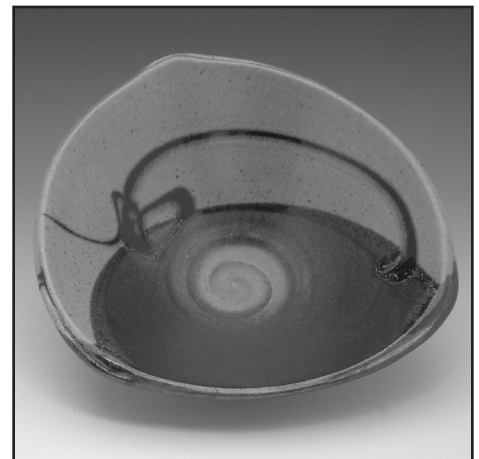


PHOTO COURTESY DAVID NORTON

Functional pottery, like this bowl, will be on display at David Norton's Potterosa Gallery Nov. 7 and 8.

COMMUNITY (cont.)

RHES WELCOMES VISITORS FOR VETERANS DAY, AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK, BOOK FAIR

Round Hill Elementary School is excited to invite the community to a Veteran's Day Program led by music teacher Carma Jones and RHES third-grade students. The performance is open to the community will be at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 11. Parents of students will also be welcomed into the school for American Education Week, Nov. 16-20. The fall book fair will be held that same week.

RHAC GREENERY SALE, ORNAMENT WORKSHOP

The Round Hill Arts Center will be selling seasonal flowers and greenery from nearby Abernethy & Spencer Greenhouse through Sunday, Nov. 29. Order online at www.roundhillartscenter.org or pick up an order form at the Arts Center; orders should be ready for pick-up at the Center from 12-4 p.m. Dec. 6 or by appointment with the manager by emailing info@roundhillartscenter.org.

The Center is holding its annual Family Ornament Workshop on Sunday, Dec. 6, from 2-4 p.m. Participants will make four different ornaments in four different media, listen to jolly holiday tunes and enjoy seasonal refreshments in this relaxing family workshop. All ages are welcome but participants under 7 should have adult assistance. The workshop costs \$35 per family (up to four participants) and includes materials and refreshments.

SAVOIR FARE'S FOOD TRUCK, C'EST BON

For years, Joan Wolford, owner and chef at the Round Hill-based Savoir Fare Catering, has quietly dreamt of adding a new twist to her catering. Her idea was to use the food truck concept but focus her efforts on delivering a new outlet to catering customers.

Wolford purchased a former Good Humor truck—lovingly referred to as “The Beast” due to its massive presence on the road—from an ice cream vendor in Fauquier County and, after retrofitting it to suit her needs, has been rolling up to her catering events in style.

“This is something that I have been dreaming about for two or three years for something fun and different to do,” Wolford said.



PHOTOS COURTESY JOAN WOLFORD

Beginning in December, Joan Wolford, right, of Savoir Fare, Ltd., will be preparing gourmet meals to go from her new “rolling bistro,” C'est Bon, also pictured below.

“I don’t call it a food truck. I call it a rolling bistro.”

Beginning in early December, folks can conveniently stop by the C'est Bon food truck in the parking lot at Savoir Fare (1 West Loudoun Street in Round Hill) on Thursday and Friday nights and pick up some tantalizing cuisine to take home for dinner. Savoir Fare’s house made desserts and seasonal soups are also available at the C'est Bon truck.

Call ahead for larger orders and the fare will be ready for pickup. Menus will change weekly and be publicized via social media and Savoir Fare’s website, savoirfarelimited.com.

The food truck “adds another dimension to delivering a customized culinary experience at our events,” Wolford said. “And the sky’s the limit. We can incorporate cocktail parties and hors d’oeuvres into your next event. The most fun is brainstorming with our clients.”

During the maiden voyage of C'est Bon’s food truck, for example, Wolford served late-night cheeseburgers with the DJ’s accompaniment of “Cheeseburger in Paradise” as a surprise from the bride to her groom. She then delivered fresh coffee and beignets for out-of-town guests at the wedding party’s hotel the following morning.

HOLIDAYS IN ROUND HILL

In advance of the holidays, the Round Hill Volunteer Fire Department will be selling White House Ornaments as a fundraiser. They are \$20 each and are available at Tammy's Diner, Round Hill Grocery, Round Hill Mini Mart or by calling Betty Dodge at 338-6323.

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COMMUNITY (cont.)



PHOTO BY KIM RAMSEY

Santa visits with children in the park during the annual Tree Lighting.

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Santa will be riding around Town on a fire truck the evenings of Dec. 3 and 4 this year. He will waving at the kids who come out to see him, but will not be able to stop to visit them. Concerns have been expressed about the dangers of accidents with the kids running out to see Santa and climbing up and down off the trailer.

Santa will be available for pictures and visits the following day, though, as the Fire Department joins with the Round Hill Junior Women's Group for the annual Tree Lighting and Dinner on Saturday, Dec. 5.

The tree lighting event will begin at 4:00 in the Town Park on East Loudoun Street and will include a performance by the Woodgrove High

School chorus; refreshments will be available. About dusk, the RHVFD will escort Santa to the park, where he will help magically light the tree.

After the tree is lit, everyone is encouraged to cross the street and join the RHVFD for their annual dinner with Santa. Santa will have gifts for children at the dinner and will be available for photos. There will also be a collection box for Toys for Tots and the food pantry.

TOWN SEEKS ARTISTS' PROPOSALS FOR NEW MURALS FOR LOUDOUN STREET PARK

The Town of Round Hill and Round Hill Arts Center are organizing a public art competition for murals to be installed in the Town Park. The theme of the murals will be "Life in Western Loudoun."

Proposals will be initially evaluated by the Mural Committee of the Round Hill Arts Center before final approval by the Round Hill Town Council. The final number approved will depend upon the number and quality of artists' submissions.

The murals will be installed in time to celebrate the 14th Annual Round Hill Hometown Festival on May 28, 2016. Each winning artist will receive an honorarium of \$200 for their work.

This competition is open to any individual or group. Each artist or group may submit up to three design proposals. Each submitted design must also include a work plan and budget (under \$300) for its creation.

Works will be selected for their successful reflection of life in Western Loudoun, their aesthetic excellence, and for the feasibility and cost of their construction.

While design excellence is the first priority, there is a limited budget for this project.

Each mural will also include information about its sponsor in the bottom right corner.

The winning murals will be created on 4' x 8' plywood sheets and installed outdoors. They must be able to withstand the elements. Any construction proposal (i.e., a mosaic or other technique) must take this into account.

The finished murals will become the property of the Town of Round Hill.

Artists must register and pay an entry fee of \$15 at www.roundhillartscenter.org and submit their designs by Jan. 1, 2016. The entry fee will be waived for students.

For more information, visit www.roundhillartscenter.org.

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

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| ► Planning Commission | Nov. 3/Dec. 1 |
| 7:00 p.m., Town Office | |
| ► Administrative Committee | Nov. 9/Dec. 14 |
| 8:00 a.m., Town Office | |
| ► Utility Committee | Nov. 10/Dec. 8 |
| 8:00 a.m., Town Office | |
| ► Land Use Committee | Nov. 12 |
| 7:00 p.m., Town Office | |
| ► Town Council | Nov. 19/Dec. 17 |
| 7:30 p.m., Town Office | |

The Town office will be closed on Nov. 11 in observation of Veterans' Day; on Nov. 26-27 for Thanksgiving; and on Dec. 24-25 for Christmas. The office will close at 12:30 p.m. on Weds. Nov. 25.