

# News aRound the Hill

A Community Newsletter for Round Hill, Virginia

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## Town Eager to Open Sleeter Lake Park

The Town and area residents are still eagerly awaiting the opening of Sleeter Lake Park, which has been delayed due to ongoing discussions between the Town and the Round Hill Owner's Association over the terms of the proffer.

The park site, with public access to the lake, was proffered as part of the 1990 rezoning that created the Villages, Mountain Valley Estates and Lake Point neighborhoods, as well as the future Upper Lakes and West Lake neighborhoods on the west side of Sleeter Lake. The land itself was dedicated to the town in 2000, but the proffer also includes language requiring the Town and HOA to agree on the rules for lake users.

The 11-acre park is now equipped with picnic tables, grills, boat storage, a soft launch area for canoes and kayaks, an extensive shoreline fishing area, and several natural features including a butterfly garden, a meadow habitat area and views of Sleeter Lake itself. Town funding, in addition to more than \$170,000 from Loudoun County, paid for the construction of these amenities.

The Town has secured another \$250,000 in funding from Loudoun County to add an outdoor classroom, a pavilion, a permanent rest room and ADA accessibility features. It has also negotiated a draft memorandum of understanding with Loudoun County Parks and Recreation to help operate the park once it opens.

All of this remains closed to the public, however, until a set of rules of behavior for lake users can be agreed upon. Since 2006 the Town has unsuccessfully exchanged a



PHOTOS BY NEWS AROUND THE HILL

**Though the park is ready to be opened, it remains closed until the Town and HOA can agree on a set of rules.**

series of drafts and proposed agreements with the HOA, which for most of that time was controlled by the developer but now has a resident-controlled board. In the meantime, the HOA opened its own lake access park for HOA residents only, with rules of behavior that the Town reused almost verbatim in its most recent proposal.

"We agree on everything in the rules – no swimming, no motorized boats, number of boats, etc.," said Mayor Scott Ramsey. "Yet, the HOA is withholding signing off on those rules in order to ask for items not provided in the proffer, such as insurance coverage and the ability to end public access at the HOA's discretion."

The Town has offered, at no charge, to include the HOA on its insurance policy, but it has refused the request that would allow the HOA to cancel public access to the lake.

The HOA has also raised a lot of questions and concerns about future Town enforcement of the rules.

"The Town is committed to an even higher level of enforcement than the HOA currently exercises at its own park," Ramsey said. "We have added security cameras and our Town utility staff will be driving through the park regularly since their work location is right next to it and shares the same driveway. We will have patrols, and we have a locked gate. We have also offered to jointly fund a lake monitor with the HOA."

"The Town and the HOA must build a working relationship to manage lake use together," Ramsey said, "and to that end the Town has made numerous concessions not required by the proffer."

Even though they already have an HOA-only access in Lake Point, HOA residents can be counted among the biggest beneficiaries of Sleeter Lake Park's large fishing shoreline, vehicular access to the soft launch for older and disabled boaters, the future pavilions and outdoor activities being planned.



**Current park amenities include shoreline for fishing, picnic tables and grills, boat storage and a soft-launch.**

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# GOVERNMENT

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Additionally, Ramsey pointed out, "when Sleeter Lake Parks opens, it will remove the incentive for non-HOA members to use their Shrewsbury Court lake access."

The Town and the HOA last met on June 22 and the HOA held a resident-only information session on June 28. The Town has requested a follow up meeting with the HOA but a date has not yet been set.

"The Town is holding off on opening the park for now," Ramsey said. "We believe the HOA is working with us to reach an agreement and we want that process to succeed so we can open the park. The HOA is legally obligated to provide public access to the lake and the Town is committed to getting that accomplished."

## TOWN WELCOMES NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

Two new Town Council members were sworn in to four-year terms by Clerk of the Circuit Court Gary Clemens on June 19. Donald Allen and Amy Evers were elected to the Council in May to replace Janet Heston and Christopher Prack, both of whom served multiple terms on the Council. Re-elected Council member Fred Lyne and Mayor Scott Ramsey were also sworn in to new terms.

**From left to right: Allen, Lyne, Evers, Ramsey and Clemens.**



PHOTO COURTESY TOWN OF ROUND HILL

# COMMUNITY

## OUTDOORS COMMITTEE PLANS ACTIVE SUMMER

Round Hill HANDS, now called Round Hill Outdoors, has a mission: "To inspire the good people of Round Hill, VA to get outdoors together and make our community stronger, healthier and happier."

The group currently has three active initiatives to help fulfill its goals—a community hike, supporting Appalachian Trail through-hikers, and using publicity to encourage families to spend time together outdoors.

Families, friends, and kids are invited to join trail leaders for a community hike to Raven Rocks Hollow Run on July 21. Hikers will leave promptly from the lower Bear's Den parking lot on Route 7 at 10 a.m. The four-mile hike is of moderate difficulty and should take approximately two hours to complete.

The hike will take place rain or shine; hikers should wear appropriate shoes for the uneven terrain and pack snacks and plenty of water. For more information, see the Events Page at [www.roundhill.at](http://www.roundhill.at).

To support thru-hikers on the Appalachian Trail who are en route from Georgia to Maine, the RHO committee is establishing a seasonal hiker box at the Town Office to



PHOTO COURTESY PEGAH FOWLER

**On June 15, Round Hill kicked off summer with a movie night in the Town Park featuring Disney's "Moana." Town staff, Boy Scout Pack 961 and the Bluemont Community Center all contributed to the event. Between 85-100 people attended.**

collect essential materials to resupply backpacks. Items requested include toilet paper, bandages, sunscreen, dried foods, instant oatmeal, nuts, tuna in foil packets, plastic bags, and socks. Donations will be collected from July through September and will be delivered weekly to local AT hostels where they can be picked up and used by hikers as they pass through the area.

Round Hill Outdoors wants to challenge more families to participate in getting outdoors this summer. Residents who send in a photo of their family participating in a favorite outdoor activity holding up a sign that says **#RoundHillUnplugged** will have their photos posted on the RHO Facebook page and website. Photos should be sent to [mhynes@roundhillva.org](mailto:mhynes@roundhillva.org).

## TOWN CELEBRATED ON LOVESEAT

This summer, local artists are displaying their talents through painted Adirondack loveseats, located mostly in Purcellville along with some surrounding Western Loudoun towns.



PHOTO BY NEWS AROUND THE HILL

Round Hill's very own seat, sited on the corner of Main Street and West Loudoun Street, was painted by Shauna Seamans. She lives in Round Hill and was very happy to see that her loveseat was put there.

A Round Hill postal stamp with Seamans' wedding date is on the right side of the seat.

"The original plan was to have postage stamps from all of the Western Loudoun towns," Seamans said, "but unforeseen family troubles prevented me from completing my idea."

Despite these challenges, the seat was finished and will be auctioned off in the fall along with the other painted Adirondack loveseats. Until then, the seats will remain scattered across the towns throughout the summer.