

News aRound the Hill

A Community Newsletter for Round Hill, Virginia

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Ceremony Marks Opening of Sleeter Lake Park

After a soft opening in August and a weather-delayed ceremony scheduled for September, the Town of Round Hill officially cut the ribbon to open Sleeter Lake Park on Oct. 13.

Mayor Scott Ramsey and Town Administrator Melissa Hynes were joined by local dignitaries and members of the community who helped make the park possible, including members of the Sleeter family, for whom the lake is named.

The 11-acre park features a soft-launch for non-gasoline-powered boats, an extensive shoreline for fishing, boat storage, picnic tables and benches, and natural areas. Amenities were funded by the Town and Loudoun County, and will be maintained and operated with help from the County's Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services.

"The Town is excited to finally have opened this park, and it was only possible with the partnership of both the County and the Round Hill Owner's Association," Ramsey said. "We look forward to adding more amenities to the site soon including permanent restrooms, a pavilion and accessibility improvements."

Speakers at the ribbon-cutting cer-



Local dignitaries and contributors to the park cut the ribbon to officially open Sleeter Lake Park in a ceremony on Oct. 13.

emony included President of the Villages of Round Hill Homeowners Association Joe Luppino-Esposito; Loudoun County Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services Steve Torpy; Loudoun County Supervisor Tony Buffington; and Bo Machayo, Chief of Staff for Board of Supervisors Chairperson Phyllis Randall. All spoke of the cooperation among community members and organizations that allowed the long-envisioned and planned for park to be built.

"Sleeter Lake Park has been special for me because I have met so many passionate people who want to contribute their time, energy and creativity to make Sleeter Lake Park an incredible asset for Loudoun County," Hynes said. "It is amazing how many local community organizations have come together as partners to create a lakefront park with

an outdoor classroom for all ages."

At the ribbon-cutting ceremony, members of the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, Round Hill Outdoors Committee, Cub Scout Pack 961 and Daisy Troop 70079 were recognized for their service to the park, as well as Boy Scouts Daniel Thomas and Jeff Glackin, who built the canoe and kayak storage rack and water safety kiosk, respectively.

Local realtor John Sleeter also shared a few words about his parents, Col. and Mrs. Frank Sleeter, who created the lake decades ago to irrigate apple and peach orchards they owned on the hills around the lake. John Sleeter continued to operate the family's business, Hill High Orchards, into the 1980s.

Sleeter Lake Park was closed for the season on Nov. 1 and is scheduled to reopen on March 1, 2019.



PHOTO COURTESY MELISSA HYNES

Hynes lives in W.Va. with her husband and children.

Round Hill Names Hynes Town Administrator

The Round Hill Town Council unanimously voted on Oct. 4 to appoint Melissa Hynes as Town Administrator after Amos "Buster" Nicholson resigned the position to become Director of Public Works for the Town of Purcellville. Hynes has served as Round Hill's Town Planner and Zoning Administrator since 2014; no other candidates were interviewed for the position.

"The hiring process went quickly because we had a strong inside candidate who shared our vision for the Town," said Round Hill Mayor Scott Ramsey.

"Melissa's interview began four years ago, and she was chosen because of her passion for the community, her integrity and her hard work," Ramsey added.

Continued next page

GOVERNMENT

Continued from previous page

"Those qualities form a foundation the Town can rely on to accomplish our goals."

Hynes said she feels uniquely suited for the Town Administrator position due to her institutional knowledge of Town operations and strong working relationships with Town staff, council members, local community organizations, local residents, County staff and neighboring jurisdictions.

"I have enjoyed my past four years working for the Town of Round Hill as Town Planner," Hynes said. "During this time I worked in partnership with the Town Council and Planning Commission on several key projects that will shape the future of Round Hill: writing the Town Comprehensive Plan, designing Sleeter Lake Park, and creating the Round Hill Outdoors Committee."

"These projects are still in their infancy and I look forward to taking a leadership role in implementing the goals of each, as well as tackling new projects and programs," she added.

Some of Hynes' first priorities will be interviewing applicants for her replacement as Town Planner and Zoning Administrator and hiring a permanent Town Treasurer to fill the position vacated by Angela Fletcher, who left to become Director of Finance in Strasburg in June.

"We have a huge backlog of projects, but the focus has to be on rebuilding the staff and getting our internal house back in order after a lot of staff turnover," Ramsey said.

After graduating with a degree in social science and a concentration in urban studies from Towson University in 2006, Hynes has served for the past 12 years in local government as a planning and zoning official in Hagerstown, Md., Westminster, Md., and Lovettsville prior to joining Round Hill in 2014.

She lives in Charles Town, W.Va., with her husband Jeff and her two children, Juliette and Lincoln.

ON THE AGENDA

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

- Hire Town Treasurer and Planner/Zoning Administrator
- Update housing regulations for short term rentals and accessory dwellings
- Construction bid for Main Street sidewalks and Franklin Park Trail
- Construction of a water loop line on Yatton Road
- Future well site acquisition
- County zoning approval for southern water tank
- Town Boundary Line Adjustment



The Town of Round Hill, in conjunction with the Round Hill Volunteer Fire Department, is making plans for this

year's Town Tree Lighting event, to be held on Saturday, Dec. 1, from 4-5:30 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help organize the event. Anyone interested in helping out should email mayor@roundhillva.org. As plans are finalized, details will be shared on the Town website (www.roundhillva.org) and the News Around the Hill Facebook page (www.facebook.com/news-aroundthehill).



PHOTOS BY NEWS AROUND THE HILL

TOWN VACANCIES FOR POSITIONS ON STAFF, COUNCIL AND PLANNING COMMISSION

The Town of Round Hill is currently seeking experienced applicants to fill the position of Town Treasurer. A description of the job can be found online at roundhillva.org. Application, letter of interest and resume, at least three professional references, and salary expectations should be sent to Melissa Hynes, Town Administrator, Town of Round Hill, P.O. Box 36, Round Hill, Va., 20142, hand-delivered to 23 Main Street, Round Hill, Va., or emailed to mhynes@roundhillva.org. The application deadline for Town Treasurer is Nov. 30, 2018, at 3 p.m.

The Town will also be advertising an opening for Town Planner/Zoning Administrator later this month.

The Town Council, which meets on the first and third Thursday of each month, is seeking a qualified Town resident to be appointed as an interim Town Council member until November 2019. The interim appointee will also be eligible as a candidate during the special election to be held on Nov. 5, 2019, for the remaining portion of the term through June 30, 2020.

Other opportunities to serve the Town of Round Hill are available. The Town Planning Commission, which meets on the first Tuesday each month, also has a vacancy.

An application for both the interim Town Council appointment and Planning Commission vacancy can be found on roundhillva.org. It is strongly recommended that a letter of interest and resume also be submitted. Citizens interested in the Town Council position must submit their materials by 3:00 p.m. on Nov. 13, 2018, to Melissa Hynes at mhynes@roundhillva.org and copy the Town Council at council@roundhillva.org or in person at Town Office.