

News aRound the Hill

A Community Newsletter for Round Hill, Virginia

March 2019

Circulation 1,350

Planning for 17th Annual Hometown Festival Underway

Planning has begun for the 17th Annual Round Hill Hometown Festival, to be held on Saturday, May 25.

The Festival is a day-long celebration that includes a 5k, parade, pie-eating contest, downhill soapbox derby-style race, and a community dinner. Stage entertainment in the Town Park begins with a Memorial Ceremony honoring local veterans, features an open mic session in the afternoon, and concludes with a concert and dancing under the stars.

The family-friendly event is free and open to the public. It is organized by a committee of volunteers and is funded through race proceeds and sponsorships from local businesses and families.

"The Festival Committee is very happy to have most of our event coordinators back for another year," said Festival Coordinator Kim Ramsey. "However, we are looking for a volunteer or two to step up and organize

this year's Downhill Derby." Anyone interested in helping out should email info@hometownfestival.org. If an organizer is not found, the race may need to be cancelled.

The committee will also be recruiting volunteers to help run events on the day of the Festival. A Sign-Up Genius page will be posted with shifts and positions available; the link to this page will be publicized on the Festival's website (www.hometownfestival.org) and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/rhhometownfestival).

Local businesses and families interested in sponsoring the Festival should contact Stacey Dillenburg at stacy97@me.com. There are sponsorship levels at varying price points; the T-shirt logo sponsors tend to be the most popular and fill quickly.

Local elementary school students are invited to participate in the T-shirt design contest. The winning design will be featured on this year's shirts



PHOTO COURTESY ROUND HILL HOMETOWN FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

Volunteers are needed to help run events like the Downhill Derby at this year's Hometown Festival.

and the winner is invited to ride on a fire truck during the Festival parade. Rules and deadlines for the contest can be found on the Festival website and Facebook page.

Council Considers Amending Comprehensive Plan To Address Properties Outside of JLMA Policy Area

At its March 7 meeting, the Town Council debated an Intent to Amend the Comprehensive Plan to update its policies for utility extension outside the existing Joint Land Management Area (JLMA).

The debate was spurred by a presentation in February by Tree of Life Ministries Executive Director Paul Smith regarding their interest in providing senior and special-needs housing at the old Weona Villa motel site on Route 7 east of town. The motel site is outside the current Town service area boundary, but the proposal likely depends on Town utility service to be viable.

In discussion directly after the Tree of Life presentation, and in subsequent discussions at later meetings, the Council decided the Tree of Life proposal had potential to fill local housing needs identified in the current Comprehensive Plan. The current Plan, however, does not envision utility service outside the existing JLMA boundary so the Plan would need to be amended to provide policies to guide such decisions.

At the March 7 meeting, the Town Council also discussed including a policy for utility extension to public facilities when they adjoin the current JLMA. In addition, a representative for an undeveloped parcel adjacent to Town but outside the JLMA on Yatton Road requested to be considered not just for utility extension, but to be brought into Town jurisdiction and zoning as well.

Council directed Town staff to update the Intent to Amend based on the debate and in particular to draft sample guidelines for the Planning Commission to consider. An updated Intent to Amend resolution will be discussed at the March 21 meeting.

If the Council approves an Intent to Amend, the next step would be for the Planning Commission to prepare updated policies for the Plan that would be presented in public hearings by both the Planning Commission and Town Council before they could be adopted.

If the Plan were thus updated after public hearings,

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GOVERNMENT

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then the Council would use the adopted policies to make extension decisions for applicants outside the existing JLMA, such as Tree of Life, on a case-by-case basis if the applications meet the objectives and guidelines in the updated Plan.

RESTAURANT ZONING AMENDMENT ADOPTED

After a joint public hearing with the Town Council on Feb. 21, the Planning Commission voted to recommend changes to the Zoning Ordinance to add breweries and distilleries as approved uses in the B-1 business district and to simplify the approval process for all restaurant uses. The Town Council voted to approve the changes on Mar. 7.

Under the previous ordinance, new applications for restaurant uses had to go through a Special Exception process that could take six months or more, and could have arbitrary conditions attached by the Town Council. This lengthy and indeterminate process created too much risk for applicants. The updated ordinance added standards for noise, outdoor storage, parking, lighting, outside service and other regulations to the ordinance that, if met, would allow a restaurant to open by-right in the B-1 district with an administrative approval process.

"After receiving inquiries in recent years from brewers and distillers, the Council requested that the Planning

Commission update our Zoning Ordinance to accommodate this new sector of the Loudoun economy," said Mayor Scott Ramsey. "I think they did an excellent job and hopefully we can attract applicants with these changes."

TOWN OFFERS NEW UTILITY PAYMENT OPTIONS

The Town of Round Hill is now offering a free online payment portal and a toll-free number to pay water/sewer bills. There is no charge to utility customers to use either of these options.

The online option is available at www.roundhillva.org; click on "Pay Bills." Customers will need their account number and the amount of payment that is being made as the secure payment system does not show this information. Residents will receive an emailed confirmation when payment has been received.

The toll-free number is 877-318-5828. This an automated system and an account number and payment amount will need to be entered to complete payment. This option is also secured and will provide an emailed confirmation to customer.

For residents who prefer to deliver a check but cannot do so during office hours, a secured after-hours payment box is located at the back of the Town Office, 23 Main Street, Round Hill.

Questions about any of these options should be directed to Utility Billing Administrator Kim McGaha at 540-338-4772.

COMMUNITY

VOLUNTEERS TO PLANT TREES AT SLEETER LAKE PARK

The Friends of the Blue Ridge Mountains is sponsoring a tree planting event at Sleeter Lake Park on Saturday, March 23. The volunteer planting event will begin at 10 a.m. with a rain/inclement weather date of March 30. The park officially opens for the season on April 1.

Volunteers will plant 1½ to 2-inch caliper trees donated by Meadows Farms Nurseries into pre-dug holes. Instructions and tools for planting will be provided.

This collaborative project to enhance Sleeter Lake Park is possible through donations from Friends of the Blue Ridge Mountains members and partners including Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy (LWC), Loudoun County Master Gardeners Association (LCMGA), and the Town of Round Hill. The environmentally friendly master plan for the park is

based on a design by James Remuzzi of Sustainable Solutions.

Meadows Farms Nurseries also donated 20 trees for the project. LWC is developing a pollinator meadow with native plants and shrubs. LCMGA has identified existing mature trees along paths through the woods and assisted in the selection of indigenous trees to plant along the paths that connect existing and future park amenities.

Other improvements planned for Sleeter Lake Park include an outdoor classroom for teaching environmental stewardship, a viewing platform, pollinator gardens and meadow, picnic areas, benches, rest rooms, and fishing pads along the lake.

Contact info@friendsofblueridge.org for registration and additional information on the planting event.

RHAC HOSTS APPALACHIAN TRAIL ART SHOW

The Round Hill Outdoors and the Round Hill Arts Center received 45 works in a variety of media from artists of all ages for the 2nd Annual Appalachian Trail Art Show. These works will be on display at the Round Hill Arts Center throughout the month of March.

The purpose of the show is to broaden public awareness and appreciation of the Appalachian

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COMMUNITY



The Appalachian Trail Art Show is on display at the RHAC through March.

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Trail and the beautiful wild nature of the Blue Ridge.

A reception at the Round Hill Arts Center was held on March 10 to recognize the participating artists to celebrate Round Hill's new status as a designated "Appalachian Trail Community."

Sandi Marra, Chair of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy Board of Directors, was the guest speaker for the event.

The artwork was judged by Jill Evans-Kavaldjian and Brian Kirk. Winners will be announced online at <https://roundhill.at/>. Prizes for the two student categories (grades K-6, and grades 7-12) were generously provided by Mod Pizza, the Round Hill Arts Center and Sweet Rose Bakery. Adult winners will receive gift certificates donated by Magnolia's at the Mill, West End Wine Bar

& Pub, B Chord Brewing Company and Otium Cellars.

ROUND HILL OUTDOORS PLANS SCREEN FREE WEEK

The Round Hill Outdoors committee is partnering with the Round Hill Elementary School PTA to promote this year's Screen Free Week, April 28-May 3. Tentative plans for the week include:

- Sunday: Earth Day Festival at Niels Poulsen Park on Greenwood Drive from 1-5 p.m.

- Monday: Outdoor Family Night at B Chord Brewery with outdoor games



Round Hill Elementary School students participate in a scavenger hunt as part of Screen Free Week.

and if raining, indoor games.

- Tuesday: Family Book Fair Night with possible story time readings by teachers/volunteers

- Wednesday: Hike Night followed with spirit Night at Vocelli's and Pop Culture

- Thursday: Family/Neighbor Game Night

- Friday: A scavenger hunt for all students who took the pledge and completed their activity log and spirit night at Atomic Trampoline

Screen-Free Week is an annual event that encourages people of all ages to put down their digital technology and enjoy the outdoors and spend time with family and friends.

APPALACHIAN TRAIL FESTIVAL SCHEDULED FOR JUNE

The first Appalachian Trail Festival will be held on Saturday, June 15, at B Chord Brewing. This family-friendly festival will feature live entertainment, speakers, activities, trail-related displays, vendors, food, and more.

A celebration of Round Hill's recent designation as an Appalachian Trail Community, the event will encourage residents to responsibly enjoy the AT and other natural resources all year long.

Volunteers, musicians, vendors, sponsors, and speakers are encouraged to contact jody.bradly@gmail.com to learn more about how to participate.

ON THE AGENDA

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

- Construction bid for Main Street sidewalks and Franklin Park Trail
- Finish construction of a water loop line on Yatton Road
- FY2019-2020 budget and updated Water Rate study
- Future well site acquisition
- Town Boundary Line Adjustment
- Spring re-opening of Sleeter Lake Park
- Consider Comprehensive Plan amendment for utility extension policies

Upcoming Events

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| ► Planning Commission | Mar. 12/Apr. 2 |
| 7:00 p.m., Town Office | |
| ► Town Council Budget Session | Mar. 14, 28 |
| 7:30 p.m., Town Office | |
| ► Town Council Meeting | Mar. 21/Apr. 18 |
| 7:30 p.m., Town Office | |
| ► Planting at Sleeter Lake Park | Mar. 23 |
| 10 a.m. Materials provided; rain date Mar. 30 | |
| ► Sleeter Lake Park Opening | Apr. 1 |
| ► Town Council Work Session | Apr. 4 |
| 7:30 p.m., Town Office | |
| ► Screen Free Week | Apr. 28-May 3 |