

News aRound the Hill

A Community Newsletter for Round Hill, Virginia

May 2019

Circulation 1,350

Round Hill Hires New Town Planner Interim Town Administrator Appointed

The Town of Round Hill welcomes Lauren Runyan as its new Town Planner. According to Town Administrator Melissa Hynes, the position allows for promotion to Zoning Administrator within two years or less, pending sufficient training and other recommended experiences.

Hynes cited a number of reasons for choosing Runyan, who has a master's degree in urban and regional planning from Virginia Tech, over more than 100 other applicants.

Former employers "sang her praises," Hynes said. Runyan was described by her references as being "skilled at wearing many hats, amazing with research/GIS and has created new systems to make their departments more efficient."

Runyan comes to Round Hill after spending a little over four years in the private sector working for Bohler Engineering, conducting research on zoning and development processes,

shepherding clients thru the development process from idea to special exception to construction.

Of her new job, Runyan said, "I am surprised at how this job is something new every day. For the first time in a long time I am excited to get up and come into work because I never know what I am going to encounter."

"In the private sector my job was fairly routine," she continued. "I was involved in a lot of projects at any given time but it was always the same tasks. Here, I meet new people and get involved in something different every day."

She adds that she hopes to "use my skills and knowledge to guide the Town's processes and plans to help it realize its long-term goals in a way that respects its heritage."

"I grew up in a rural area where the collective goal was for it to maintain its rural integrity, and I hope to help



PHOTO COURTESY LAUREN RUNYAN

Lauren Runyan has been hired as Round Hill's new Town Planner.

accomplish that here."

Runyan currently lives in Calvert County, Md., but is planning on moving to Virginia in the coming months.

There will soon be another new face in the Town Office as Town Administrator Melissa Hynes takes a leave of absence to welcome her third child. Martha Mason Semmes, former town administrator for Middleburg, has been appointed interim Town Administrator and Zoning Administrator during Hynes' absence.

Town Opens Niels Poulsen Park, Celebrates Arbor Day

On April 28, the Town officially opened Niels Poulsen Park, on Greenwood Drive, and planted a tree near the new playground in the park in honor of Arbor Day. Members of the Poulsen family attended the ceremony; Poulsen's 94-year-old granddaughter, Mary Elizabeth Quispe, cut the ribbon.



PHOTOS BY NEWS AROUND THE HILL

Towns Oppose County Comp Plan Draft

The Coalition of Loudoun Towns (COLT), including Round Hill, is speaking out against the current drafted revisions to the Loudoun County Comprehensive Plan. The draft, prepared by the Loudoun County Planning Commission and now under debate by the Board of Supervisors, would substantially increase the amount of housing that can be built in

Continued next page

GOVERNMENT

Continued from previous page

Loudoun County. Most of the additional housing would be in the Transition Policy Area (TPA), a region splitting the suburban east from the rural west and designated in the existing plan as a transitional region with low-density residential and agricultural uses.

"The TPA is the canary in the coal mine," says Round Hill Mayor Scott Ramsey. "If they change the plan to rezone much of it at suburban densities, the rural west will have no buffer left to protect it. This draft also does not reform or strengthen policies for attainable and workforce housing—developers will continue to prioritize large expensive homes."

COLT has prepared a position paper with its own vision for Loudoun's future that can be read at www.loudountowns.com. Ramsey, along with the mayors of the other six

Loudoun towns, spoke at the recent public hearing by the Board of Supervisors urging revisions to the Planning Commission's draft.

"I urge all residents concerned about protection of the TPA and the need for more attainable housing to let the Board of Supervisors know your position. Email them at bos@loudoun.gov, write them letters, or speak during public comment at one of their meetings," Ramsey added.

TOWN AND COUNTY TAXES DUE JUNE 5

Under a new centralized billing system, residents and businesses in Hillsboro, Leesburg, Lovettsville, Middleburg and Round Hill will no longer receive two separate bills with separate due dates for county and town real property taxes.

Instead, residents and businesses will receive one bill listing both

the county and town taxes. This will result in taxpayers making a single payment made payable to the County of Loudoun. Collection, billing and administering of both county and town real estate taxes will be effective with the first half real estate tax bill due June 5, 2019.

The County Treasurer's Office will process the tax payments and remit the appropriate amount to each town. The Treasurer's Office will also undertake any collection efforts for accounts that may become delinquent after the Jan. 1, 2019, effective date. The towns will continue with delinquent collection efforts for any real estate taxes due for 2018 and for years prior to 2018.

Beginning in 2020 personal property taxes and vehicle decal fees for the five participating Towns will also be included in County personal property tax bills.

COMMUNITY

HOMETOWN AND APPALACHIAN TRAIL FESTIVAL SCHEDULES ANNOUNCED

The Town of Round Hill will be hosting two Festivals in May and June: the 17th Annual Hometown Festival on May 25 and the first Appalachian Trail Festival on June 15.

The Hometown Festival begins with a 5k through the streets of town and culminates with a community dinner and free evening concert in the Town Park. It also features a parade, memorial ceremony, pie-eating contest, downhill derby, stage entertainment and amusement rides. Food will be available for purchase throughout the day; beer and wine sales begin at 5 p.m.

The Round Hill Appalachian Trail Festival opens with the official designation of Round Hill as an Appalachian Trail Community at 11 a.m. This designation recognizes that the Round Hill community is committed to protecting and promoting this natural treasure in its backyard.

Representatives from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, Piedmont Environmental Council, Friends of the Blue Ridge, Virginia Master Naturalists and more will be on hand to talk about their stewardship projects.

The AT Festival will also feature live music entertainment, including two jam sessions, a scavenger hunt, food and drink. It will be hosted by B Chord Brewery on Williams Gap Road west of town.

Both Festivals are looking for sponsors and volunteers. For more information on the Hometown Festival, visit www.hometownfestival.org or [## HOMETOWN FESTIVAL SCHEDULE](http://www.facebook.com/rhhome-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

8:00 a.m.	5k and Fun Run
9:30 a.m.	Parade
10:15 a.m.	Woodgrove High School Jazz Band
10:45 a.m.	Memorial Ceremony
11:15 a.m.	Woodgrove High School Jazz Band
11:45 a.m.	Everything In Between
12:45 p.m.	Keel, Hill & Company Quartet
2:00 p.m.	Pie-eating Contest
3:00 p.m.	The Celtic Rhythm School of Dance
3:00 p.m.	Downhill Derby (North Locust Street)
3:45 p.m.	Round Hill's Got Talent Open Mic
5:00 p.m.	Community Dinner; music by Mateo Monk
7:15 p.m.	Free evening concert featuring Due Process

AT FESTIVAL MUSIC LINEUP

12:00 p.m.	Gina Furtado Project
1:00 p.m.	Celtic jam session
1:45 p.m.	Justin Trawick & the Common Good
2:45 p.m.	Old-Time jam session
3:30 p.m.	Short Hill Mountain Boys

townfestival. AT Festival information can be found at www.roundhillat.org.

Additionally, follow the Round Hill Outdoors website and Facebook page to receive notices of community hikes this summer.

Continued next page

COMMUNITY

Continued from previous page

FESTIVAL PLANS, ROBOTICS, NEW PLAYGROUND AT RHES

The Round Hill Elementary School Green Team (3rd-5th) and Sprouts club (K-2nd) will have a booth with fun activities for children and families to do at the Hometown Festival on May 25. They are also excited to give out free plants that they have planted and grown. There are close to 80 students in the two clubs!

Additionally, approximately 80 students will be running in the Hometown Festival 5k under the leadership of coaches Kate Doherty and Jamie Wheelbarger.

RHES is finishing up the second year as one of Virginia's first computer science immersion schools. Students learn to code and work with robotics starting in kindergarten.

Of the program, Principal Andrew Davis said, "We are incredibly proud of our students and believe that the creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, and communication skills they are gaining from this work will serve them well as they go on to change the world."

Finally, RHES has unveiled a new playground behind the school. Davis would like to thank the Round Hill PTA under the leadership of Emily Dickson (2016-2018) and Marquex Faulkner (2018-2019) for their efforts to raise the money to purchase and



A group of students from Round Hill Elementary School will be running in the Hometown Festival 5k on May 25. The race begins at 8 a.m. at the school. Individual race registration is available through the Festival website at www.hometown-festival.org.



PHOTOS COURTESY ROUND HILL HOMETOWN FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

install the playground. He would also like to thank Epling Landscape for partnering with the school on the installation of the path to the playground.

PARK MOVIE SERIES PLANNED

The Town of Round Hill has scheduled three Movie Nights in the Town Park this season. All movies begin at dusk for that time of year. The schedule is as follows:

June 7: "Mary Poppins Returns" (host Girl Scout Troop 2548)

August 23: "Lego Movie 2" (host Boy Scout Pack 961)

October 4: "Smallfoot" (host Round Hill Outdoors)

CROQUET TOURNAMENT TO BE HELD AT WOODGROVE PARK

Round Hill will host the US Croquet Association's Southeast/Mid-Atlantic Regional 9-Wicket Tournament on June 7-9 at Woodgrove Park. Players from across the country will travel to Round Hill to participate.

The USCA will also be sponsoring a free clinic on the days prior to the tournament to introduce local residents to the sport of croquet. Clinic attendees are then invited to join the tournament; the tournament is free for spectators.

To learn more about the US Croquet Association and their activities, visit www.croquetamerica.com.

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
- Replace town streetlights with night-sky LEDs
- Future well site acquisition
- Town Boundary Line Adjustment
- Additional amenities at Sleeter Lake Park
- Consider Comprehensive Plan amendment for utility extension policies

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| ► Planning Commission | May TBA/June 4 |
| 7:00 p.m., Town Office | |
| ► Town Council Meeting | May 16/June 20 |
| 7:30 p.m., Town Office | |
| ► Round Hill Hometown Festival | May 25 |
| ► Town Council Work Session | June 6 |
| 7:30 p.m., Town Office | |
| ► Movie Night in the Town Park | June 7 |
| ► USCA Croquet Tournament | June 7-9 |
| Woodgrove Park | |
| ► Appalachian Trail Festival | June 15 |
| 11 a.m., B Chord Brewery | |