

News aRound the Hill

A Community Newsletter for Round Hill, Virginia

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Town Installs Energy-Efficient, Dark-Sky Friendly Streetlights

By the end of this fall, the entire streetlight system in the Town of Round Hill will be comprised of LED lights with full cut-off technology.

The Town of Round Hill is one of the first governments in the state to take advantage of a switch-out program through Dominion Power, and will be the first community in Virginia to convert its streetlight system to 100% LED lighting.

The Town began the original pilot program in February with the installation of three new 100-watt LED lights. After citizen feedback, the wattage of these lights was lowered to 70, and 35 additional 70-watt lights were installed in late July.

On Sept. 5, the Town Council approved the final phase of the project, which will install 33 remain-



PHOTO BY NEWS AROUND THE HILL

LED lights, like on the pole's right, are replacing older-style lights (left).

ing fixtures on Main and Loudoun Streets as well as New Cut Road and Mosby Court and Longstreet Avenue.

The new LED lights are all fully recessed and dark-sky compliant. Operating costs for the LED lights are substantially lower compared to the Town's older streetlights and will allow the Town to see annual cost-savings.

Additionally, Dominion Power's switch-program initiative subsidized the cost of the fixtures and installation of the new streetlights, which also are more reliable and have a much longer operational life with fewer outages than the older models.

Round Hill to Franklin Park Trail Goes Out for Construction Bid

While the Franklin Park trail project has been on the books for what may seem an eternity, the trail may finally become reality as Loudoun County released the construction bid package on Sept. 5.

The release of the bid package is the culmination of more than 15 years' worth of negotiations and setbacks, planning and revisions on behalf of the Town of Round Hill, Loudoun County, the Virginia Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration.

"The Town of Round Hill is very excited to see this major step toward construction," said Mayor Scott Ramsey.

"We have worked hard for over 10 years obtaining funding, going through multiple design cycles, acquiring all the easements and right of ways, and then what seemed like an endless cycle of approvals," Ramsey added.

"This will be a transformative project for Round Hill and the Town is eager to get this underway."

The request for bid includes not only the mixed-use trail between the Round Hill Town Park and Franklin Park, but also sidewalks on Main Street and Loudoun Street, street enhancements and stormwater improvements that were previously referred to as the Main Street Improvement Project.

Specifically, five-foot wide concrete sidewalks will be added to both sides of East Loudoun Street between

Town Seeks Applicants to Fill Vacancies

The Round Hill Town Council is looking for residents interested in filling vacant seats on the Town Council and Planning Commission.

In accordance with the Code of Virginia, the Town Council may fill the Town Council vacancy on an interim basis by appointment until the regular Town elections in May 2020. At that time the appointee and/or another candidate may run and be elected for the remainder of the term of office, which runs until June 30, 2022.

Planning commissioners are appointed by the Town Council.

Only current residents who have lived within the Town's corporate limits for a minimum of six months are eligible to fill these vacancies.

Interested individuals must send a letter of interest and resume to the attention of the Town Administrator (mhynes@roundhillva.org) and Mayor Scott Ramsey (sramsey@roundhillva.org) or to the Town Office at 23 Main Street, PO Box 36, Round Hill, VA 20142-0036. Residents may contact the Town Administrator with any questions at 540-338-7878.

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GOVERNMENT

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Main Street and Evening Star Drive in Round Hill.

Also, curb and gutter, storm drain inlets and piping will be added to this section of road as well as along Main Street between Loudoun Street and the old train station.

A 10-foot wide, mixed-use asphalt trail will run from the Lake Point subdivision to Franklin Park.

Privately developed mixed-use trails through the Villages of Round Hill and the Lake Point subdivisions will link the improvements along East Loudoun Street to the trail to Franklin Park.

Joining the Main Street project with the Franklin Park trail allowed the County and Town to combine resources, capitalize on the County's construction/procurement expertise and save the taxpayers money from duplication of tasks.

Companies now have 60 days to submit their bids for the work. The County plans to open the sealed bid packages in early November and then begin a three-month review process, which will also include the Town and VDOT.

Under the current schedule, the construction contract should be awarded in February with work beginning in April 2020.

The project is estimated to take 18 months to complete.

HYNES RETURNS AS TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

The Mayor and Council of Round Hill would like to thank Martha Semmes for her service this summer as Interim Town Administrator and Zoning Administrator in the absence of Melissa Hynes, who returned from maternity leave last week.

During her tenure from May through early September, Semmes guided the Town Council through the adoption and implementation of the FY2020 Budget. She worked with staff and volunteers to host a successful Hometown Festival. Under her leadership, the Town operated the first full season of Sleeter Lake Park, which required implementing new policies/procedures, as well as addressing any park operation issues as they arose. Semmes also coordinated with the utility supervisor to hire two new utility staff members to bring the Utility Department back to full strength for the first time in two years.

Semmes also managed the numerous day-to-day operations of the Town that are typically invisible. The Town was fortunate to have someone with her wisdom, expertise and judgement to lead Round Hill over the past four months. The Mayor and Town Council look forward to working with Semmes on future special projects and endeavors.

COLT SPONSORS DEBATES AMONG LOCAL CANDIDATES

There will be debates for several Loudoun County Board of Supervisor races this election season sponsored by the Coalition of Loudoun Towns (COLT), the Loudoun-Times Mirror and Loudoun Now. The debates will be open to the public with seating on a first-come first-served basis and there are plans to livestream the debates over the internet for those at home.

The following debates are planned:

Debate 1: Catoctin District, Sept. 16 at 7 p.m., Lovettsville Firehall, 12837 Berlin Turnpike, Lovettsville, VA 20180

Candidates: James Forest Hayes (D), Caleb A. Kershner (R), Samuel Kroiz (I)

Debate 2: Blue Ridge District, Oct. 3 at 7 p.m., Purcellville Historic Bush Tabernacle, 250 South Nursery Ave. Purcellville, VA

Candidates: Tony Buffington(R), Tia Walbridge (D)

Debate 3: Chair-at-Large, Oct. 9 at 7 p.m., Ida Lee Park, 60 Ida Lee Dr., NW, Leesburg, VA 20176

Candidates: Robert J. Ohneiser (I), Phyllis Randall (D), John C. L. Whitbeck, Jr. (R)

All candidates have already agreed to participate. Area residents are encouraged to submit questions at loudounnow.com/colt_debates.

ON THE AGENDA

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

- Review construction bids for Main Street sidewalks and Franklin Park Trail
- Finish replacement of 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
- Complete downtown parking study
- Town Council Annual Strategic Planning Session

Upcoming Events

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| ► Town Council Meeting | Sept. 19/Oct. 24 |
| 7:30 p.m., Town Office | |
| ► Planning Commission | Oct. 1 |
| 7:00 p.m., Town Office | |
| ► BOS Debate: Blue Ridge District | Oct. 3 |
| 7:00 p.m., Bush Tabernacle, Purcellville | |
| ► BOS Debate: Chair-at-large | Oct. 9 |
| 7:00 p.m., Ida Lee Park, Leesburg | |
| ► Town Council Work Session/Public Hearing for Comprehensive Plan Amendment | Oct. 10 |
| 7:30 p.m., Town Office | |
| ► Council Strategic Planning Meeting | Oct. 30 |