

# News aRound the Hill

A Community Newsletter for Round Hill, Virginia

July 2020

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## Voluntary Water Restrictions Put Into Effect

At a special meeting on June 29, 2020, the Town Council of Round Hill declared voluntary water restrictions for its water system.

As the water authority for 1,700 households in the Round Hill service area (about 4,250 residents), the Town Council is taking this step now to limit the stress on the water system during the hot, dry summer months.

Utility staff has seen an increase in demand for water during COVID-19 due to more residents staying at home, in addition to high water use typically seen in the summer.

This unprecedented combination has caused stress to wells that provide water to Round Hill residents. Town wells have been taking longer to recharge than is normal for this time of year.

During voluntary water restrictions, all customers are requested to conserve wherever and whenever possible in their normal consumption of water and try to limit watering lawns and gardens, washing vehicles, filling swimming pools, and

similar activities.

In instances where watering is necessary to maintain vegetable gardens or newly established plantings, the Town Council asks residents to be water conscious and not use irrigation systems/sprinklers.

Instead, please hand water plants as much as possible, water early in the morning or late at night to reduce loss from evaporation, and/or consider using rain barrels.

Incorporating any or all of the conservation measures listed on the right will make a huge contribution to the community's need for water conservation, save energy, and lower household bills.

The Round Hill Town Council and the Round Hill Utility Department are hopeful that more prudent use of water now will help to avoid mandatory restrictions at a later date and are appreciative of the support of the public.

Please email any questions to the town administrator at [mhynes@roundhillva.org](mailto:mhynes@roundhillva.org).

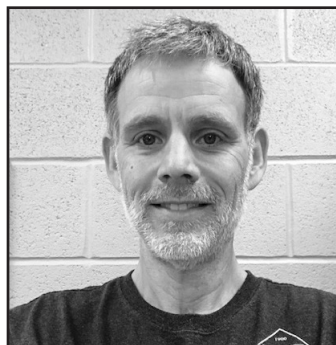
### WAYS TO REDUCE WATER CONSUMPTION:

1. Don't leave the faucet running while washing dishes.
2. Newer dishwasher models are more efficient than older ones and require less pre-rinsing.
3. Wash produce in a pan of water instead of running water from the tap.
4. Spread mulch around plants to retain moisture.
5. Replace the shower head if it fills a one-gallon bucket in under 20 seconds.
6. Shorten showers by a minute and save up to 150 gallons per month.
7. Turn off the water while brushing teeth and save 25 gallons a month.
8. Repair any leaks inside or outside of the home.
9. Refrain from washing driveways and sidewalks.
10. Check for and repair leaks in swimming pool systems.

## Harbin's Service Recognized

The Town of Round Hill would like to recognize the service of Utility Department employee Nathan Harbin, who has worked for the Town for 13 years as a licensed wastewater and waterworks operator.

His duties include working with a team of other operators to ensure the Town maintains safe drinking water supplies. In addition, Harbin assists customers with issues per-



**Nathan Harbin**

taining to their water and sewer service, locates and marks the Town's water and sewer lines as required by Miss Utility, maintains

See **HARBIN** next page

## Town Switches Trash Provider; Curbside Recycling Resumed

Effective July 1, American Disposal Services began providing trash and recycling collection for residents living within town limits of the Town of Round Hill. The collection day will remain on Wednesdays.

Patriot Disposal collected their trash and recycling containers on June 24 and American Disposal delivered trash and recycling containers to Town resi-

dents on June 27. Any residents who did not return their cans and/or did not receive new receptacles should contact the town clerk at [hwest@roundhillva.org](mailto:hwest@roundhillva.org).

Below are some important service reminders:

1. **Schedule:** Please make sure to put your trash and recycling out Tuesday evening or no later than 7:00 a.m. on Wednesday.

See **TRASH** next page

# TRASH

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**2. Bulk Pickup:** Please contact the Town Office at 540-338-7878 or email [townclerk@roundhillva.org](mailto:townclerk@roundhillva.org) to request a bulk pickup for large items such as furniture and appliances. All bulk items must be scheduled in advance for collection. Items not scheduled will not be collected.

**3. Household Waste:** Bag all household trash and place in the trash container. Place containers 3 feet apart and at least 10 feet from obstacles such as mailboxes, cars, and lamp posts.

**4. Recycling:** Please drain all liquids and rinse

containers. All cardboard boxes **MUST** be broken down before being placed into or beside the recycling containers.

**5. Yard Waste:** Limited to 10 bags and 10 bundles per collection. Bundled yard debris should not exceed 4 feet in length and 3 feet in diameter, and both combined should not exceed 50 pounds. Dirt, sod, concrete, rocks and mulch are not acceptable items and should not be placed out for removal.

If you have any service issues, please contact the town office at 540-338-7878 or email [townclerk@roundhillva.org](mailto:townclerk@roundhillva.org).

## WHAT CAN BE RECYCLED?

- Plastic: PET #1 plastic containers and bottles, HDPE #2 natural and colored containers and bottles, and all wide mouth plastics labeled #5. Jugs, buckets and plastic toys are also accepted. Black plastic containers are NOT accepted; this item is just simply not recyclable!

- Metal: Aluminum cans, steel cans and aerosol cans.

- Cardboard: Old corrugated cardboard, flattened shipping/moving boxes, paperboard (ex. cereal boxes, frozen food boxes). Wax coated cardboard items like a oatmeal container are not recyclable.

- Carton: Any types of cartons (for food, drinks, etc.).

- Paper: Office paper, colored paper, newspaper, magazines, soft-cover books, catalogs, and mail/junk mail.

Source: [americandisposal.com/faqs/recycling-questions/](http://americandisposal.com/faqs/recycling-questions/)

# HARBIN

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water system data and compiles monthly reports.

"I enjoy working for the Town because it gives me the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of duties associated with the water industry," Harbin said. "I have enjoyed being able to meet and work with

the people of Round Hill."

Harbin lives in Winchester with his two daughters, ages 7 and 12. His hobbies include outdoor adventures, cooking, photography and bike riding. He also enjoys gardening and collecting pocketknives and Starbucks travel mugs.



PHOTO COURTESY DANNI ALBRIGHT

**Danni Albright**

## Town Welcomes New Town Planner

The Town of Round Hill welcomes Danni Albright who was hired as the town planner in November 2019.

She is currently working on streamlining the zoning application process for residents and coordinating capital projects at each of the three Town parks.

She provides staff support for the Round Hill Planning Commission and the Round Hill Outdoors Committee.

"I am so grateful to the Town Council for this opportunity," Albright said. "I am excited to be working in support of the local Round Hill community."

Albright is originally from Massachusetts and currently lives in Shepherdstown, W.Va., with her husband and three children.

When not working, Albright enjoys cooking, entertaining, reading, yoga, photography and hiking. She is also a licensed private pilot. Most of her professional background is in business administration, and she spent the last five years in nonprofit management before coming to Round Hill.

## Trail to Franklin Park Construction Contract Awarded

The Town of Round Hill and the County of Loudoun are excited to announce the award of a construction contract to begin work on Main Street sidewalks and the Franklin Park Trail.

The trail and associated pedestrian improvements will link Round Hill's Main Street to Franklin Park using a combination of new trails and existing linkages in the Lake Point neighborhood.

This contract culminates more than a decade of work by the Town of Round Hill and almost two decades of work by the County.

Loudoun County awarded the contract on June 5 to Highway and Safety Services, Inc. from Gaithersburg, Md. The County will serve as the project manager and fiscal agent for both contracts.

The Town and County are currently planning a ground-breaking ceremony at the end of July; details about the date and time will be announced soon.

Construction is expected to begin in August. The contractor is in the process of finalizing the work schedule, which the Town will publish once it is completed.

The Main Street section will likely be completed toward the end of the project as it needs to connect into the new storm water improvements on Loudoun Street.

For project updates visit [www.loudoun.gov/2996/72463/Round-Hill-to-Franklin-Park-Trail](http://www.loudoun.gov/2996/72463/Round-Hill-to-Franklin-Park-Trail).



## TOWN COUNCIL, PLANNING COMMISSION VACANCIES

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

The Town Council appointment will fill a vacant seat until a special election in November 2020 that will fill the remainder of the term of office that runs until June 30, 2022.

Council members establish Town government policy, act on local resolutions and ordinances, set tax rates, approve the Town budget, appoint members to committees, and provide policy guidance for the town administrator.

The Town Council meets regularly on the first and third Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. as well as special meetings as required.

The Planning Commission appointment runs until Dec. 31, 2022.

Planning Commissioners draft amendments to the Zoning Ordinance, review land development applications (e.g. rezonings and special exceptions) and make recommendations to the Town Council for action.

The Planning Commission typically meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.; special meetings may also be scheduled as needed.

Only residents who presently live and have lived within the Town's corporate limits for a minimum of six months are eligible to fill this vacancy.

Interested individuals must send a letter of interest, resume and qualifications to the attention of the town administrator ([mhynes@roundhillva.org](mailto:mhynes@roundhillva.org)) and Mayor Scott Ramsey ([sramsey@roundhillva.org](mailto: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.

The deadline to file for the Nov. 3 special election for the Town Council vacancy is Aug. 14. Interested candidates can find information at [www.elections.virginia.gov/media/candidate-sandpacs/revise-Local-Office-SPECIAL-Election.pdf](http://www.elections.virginia.gov/media/candidate-sandpacs/revise-Local-Office-SPECIAL-Election.pdf) or by contacting the registrar's office at 703-777-0380.



PHOTO COURTESY ROUND HILL OUTDOORS COMMITTEE

**Native garden planting crew (left to right): Kathi Hottinger, Jody Brady, Bill Brady, Carol Dennis, B.J. Lechrone**

## NATIVE PLANT GARDEN BY ROUND HILL OUTDOORS COMMITTEE

Volunteers with Round Hill Outdoors, Virginia Master Naturalists and Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy have installed a Virginia Native Plant Garden at the Round Hill Town Office. The garden was supported by the Town.

The garden features plants that are naturally adapted to local soils and climate, need less fertilizer, water and pesticides, and as a result will be easier to maintain as they help reduce the chemicals introduced to habitats. Additionally, birds and butterflies depend on native plants for food, shelter and reproduction.

Using native plants helps preserve the balance and beauty of natural ecosystems. It's not hard to "go native." Groups like Plant NoVa Natives ([www.plantnovanatives.org](http://www.plantnovanatives.org)) and Audubon at Home ([loudounwildlife.org/habitat-restoration/audubon-at-home/](http://loudounwildlife.org/habitat-restoration/audubon-at-home/)) offer abundant advice. For more information, visit Round Hill Outdoors at [roundhill.at](http://roundhill.at).

## ROUND HILL OUTDOORS SPONSORS VIRTUAL ART SHOW



PHOTO COURTESY ROUND HILL OUTDOORS COMMITTEE

**Photo of Virginia Bluebells by Susan Stowe.**

Round Hill Outdoors and the Town of Round Hill are sponsoring a virtual art show this summer featuring new original works of art in any medium that celebrate Virginia native plants and animals.

Artists are asked to take a photo of their work and post the images in the discussion thread of the Round Hill Outdoors Facebook event. Please include the artist's name and the title of the artwork in the post. All entries will be entered into a drawing to win native plants.

Artwork is due by 5 p.m. on Aug. 13 to celebrate the birthday of the Appalachian Trail. The virtual art show showcasing all the artwork will be held on Sunday, Aug. 23, and a rotating collection of entries will be featured in the Round Hill Town Office.



PHOTO FOR NEWS AROUND THE HILL

The view of the Town Park at Sleeter Lake from the lake.

### SLEETER LAKE PARK REMINDERS

With the return of warm weather and heightened usage of Sleeter Lake Park, Round Hill Town staff would like to remind visitors of the following key rules:

- To keep dust down on the road into the park please follow the speed limit (15 mph).
- There is no swimming or wading allowed in Sleeter Lake.
- Release any fish caught in the lake to allow everyone the opportunity to enjoy fishing.
- For your safety, please avoid the dam and the wastewater treatment plant.
- No gasoline powered boats are permitted on the lake.
- When boating, wear a life jacket.
- Return to the shore at least 30 minutes before park closing so you do not get locked in!

### TOWN THANKS AMY AND STEPHAN EVERS FOR THEIR SERVICE

The Mayor and Town Council would like to thank Amy Evers for serving on the Town Council since 2018 and Stephan Evers for serving on the Planning Commission since 2014. The Town wishes the Evers the best in their new home just outside of Town limits and look forward to working with them on future Round Hill community service projects.

### COVID UPDATES

The Town Office is open on week-days from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The front door is locked and visitors are asked to ring the doorbell for assistance. Staff are working full schedules, taking turns between office hours and teleworking. All projects are moving forward as scheduled.

Additionally, Town park playgrounds are now open. The Town encourages residents to follow the CDC's recommendations for visiting playgrounds, including maintaining social distancing, washing hands and/or using hand sanitizer and wearing cloth face coverings.

### 2020 FESTIVALS CANCELLED

Due to the ongoing restrictions and health concerns surrounding COVID-19, this year's Hometown Festival and Appalachian Trail Festival have both been cancelled. Both events had previously been rescheduled from the spring to the fall. The cancellations follow similar decisions by the Bluemont Fair, Watermelon Park Festival, Lovettsville Oktoberfest and Waterford Fair.



PHOTO COURTESY ROUND HILL HOMETOWN FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

The Hometown Festival's derby.

## ON THE AGENDA

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

- Fill open seats on Town Council and Planning Commission
- Construction of Main Street/Franklin Park Trail
- Future well site acquisition
- Upgrades to Sleeter Lake Park
- Town Expansion
- Zoning ordinance amendments for non-conforming commercial lots
- Distribute CARES act funding to local businesses
- Renovation of Utility plant offices
- Refinance utility debt at lower interest rate

## Upcoming Events

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| ► <b>Planning Commission</b>                                | <b>July 14/Aug. 5</b> |
| 7:00 p.m., Town Office                                      |                       |
| ► <b>Town Council Meeting</b>                               | <b>July 15</b>        |
| 7:30 p.m., Town Office                                      |                       |
| ► <b>Town Council Work Session</b>                          | <b>Aug. 4</b>         |
| 7:30 p.m., Town Office                                      |                       |
| ► <b>Deadline to file for Town Council Special Election</b> | <b>Aug. 14</b>        |

(Note: During COVID-19 electronic meeting participation is available; the link is available on the Town website, [www.roundhillva.org](http://www.roundhillva.org).)