

News aRound the Hill

A Community Newsletter for Round Hill, Virginia

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PHOTO FOR NEWS AROUND THE HILL

Cub Scout Pack 961 with Mayor Scott Ramsey

Town Holds Virtual Arbor Day Event

Round Hill Cub Scout Pack 961 joined Mayor Scott Ramsey at Neils Poulsen Park in Round Hill on Oct. 17 for a virtual Arbor Day Celebration, which affirmed the Town's support of the Arbor Day Foundation and its commitment to honor trees.

During the ceremony, which was postponed from April due to COVID-19, Scouts from Pack 961 shared facts about the importance of planting native trees and the benefits they provide to both animals and humans. Mayor Ramsey read aloud the Arbor Day proclamation officially designating the last Friday in April as Arbor Day for the Town of Round Hill. The Scouts and Mayor Ramsey then planted a River Birch along the walking path near the playground.

A recording of the ceremony is available on the Town's website and Facebook page.

Residential COVID Relief Available

The Town Council of Round Hill has awarded grants to several local non-profits to assist any residents of the Round Hill zip code who are facing financial hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This assistance includes payment of rent/mortgage, medical, and utility bills, as well as assistance with childcare.

"After seeing how many area residents had fallen behind on their utility bills, the Council felt this was the best use of the second round of federal CARES Act money for Round Hill," said Mayor Scott Ramsey.

The Town has partnered with Catholic Charities Diocese of Arlington to provide utility assistance; Middleburg For Immediate and Sympathetic Help for medical, rental and utility assistance, and Tree of Life to provide tutoring assistance for elementary school students.

"All three non-profits that applied for the grants were qualified with past experience, and so all were given awards," Ramsey said. "We hope all residents financially harmed by COVID apply to take advantage of this federal money before it expires."

Residents seeking assistance from the above-mentioned organizations will need to provide a copy of their current, unexpired government-issued photo ID; a copy

of past due bill(s); and proof of income loss due to COVID-19. Applications must be processed by Nov. 30, 2020. Payment will be made directly to the service provider.

Note that utility assistance cannot be granted to anyone renting only a room/basement or renting from a family member.

Additionally, this program is designed for residential homes, not commercial businesses, which may apply for Round Hill Ready for Business program.

Loudoun County residents who have experienced economic hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic may also apply for aid through the Loudoun County Residential Utility Assistance Program. Residential customers of the seven incorporated towns and county may submit a request for utility assistance through the COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund and Helpline at 703-669-5040.

Utilities include residential electric, water and gas. This assistance can be used to pay past due utility payments and current-month utility payments. Applicants must meet the County's eligibility requirements and submit documentation. Payments will be made directly to the utility provider on behalf of the household for the purpose of bringing paying the past due portion of the bill(s), up to \$1,750.

Residential COVID Relief Contact Information

Application Deadline: Nov. 30, 2020

Catholic Charities Diocese of Arlington

- Assistance with essential utilities (electric, gas, water/sewer)
- Up to \$1,200 per household.
- Contact: roundhillcares@ccda.net

Middleburg For Immediate and Sympathetic Help (Middleburg FISH)

- Medical, rental, utility assistance.
- Contact: 540-687-8771 (Tuesday-Friday, 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.) or bigfish@middleburgfish.org

Tree of Life – Tutoring@theTree

- Tutoring program for K-5th graders for parents who have limited options for children during distance learning under COVID-19.
- Contact: slee@tolministries.org.

TOWN THANKS JANET AND BILL HESTON FOR THEIR SERVICE

The Mayor and Town Council want to thank Janet Heston and Bill Heston for their public service to the Town of Round Hill. Bill Heston served on the Board of Zoning Appeals since 2005. Janet Heston was a Town Council member from 2006 to 2018.

"Janet and Bill have both given much of their time and wisdom to Round Hill. They both represent the spirit of public service that is essential to small towns like ours, and the Town wishes them well in their future endeavors," said Mayor Scott Ramsey.

They are moving after 39 years of living in Round Hill.



Long-time Round Hill residents Bill and Janet Heston

GARDEN OVERSIGHT CHANGES HANDS

The Round Hill Outdoors Committee has assumed oversight of the Round Hill community garden, located on Falls Place near the old Pott's Barn site.

The group has been working diligently through late summer and early fall to clear out the site and prepare fresh plots for spring.

The Round Hill Community Garden was first established in 2009 as a public-private partnership between the Town of Round Hill and a volunteer group of residents within the Round Hill community.

Community gardens provide space for residents to grow fresh, healthy food close to home where they might not otherwise have the space to do so. Beyond increasing the availability of nutritious foods, community gardens also provide space for people to come together to strengthen community ties, can reduce negative environ-

mental impacts by promoting sustainable agriculture and can reduce stress and improve mental health for participants.

The garden provides Round Hill residents with seasonal ready-to-plant garden plots.

Amenities include wildlife fencing, compost piles for garden refuse, trash for other waste, access to water, and a shed with additional basic gardening needs.

Several Round Hill Outdoors Committee members are certified VA Master Naturalists and are available to help answer gardening questions and assist gardeners who are eager to learn.

For more information about the Round Hill Community Garden and how to get involved, please email Danni Albright, Town Planner, at dalbright@roundhillva.org.

Employee Spotlight: Utility Billing Administrator Kim McGaha

Town Utility Billing Administrator Kim McGaha is often the first member of the Town staff that new residents meet when moving to Round Hill. She manages the billing for more than 1,600 homes.



McGaha was hired as the Utility Billing Administrator nearly nine years ago, in January 2012, and has also served as the Town Clerk. Prior to coming to Round Hill, she worked for a local phone company and a local newspaper.

Throughout her career she has always had a passion for providing excellent customer service, which she proudly carried into her role with Round Hill.

Town Administrator Melissa Hynes said that McGaha has one of the hardest jobs in the Town Office.

"The Town depends on her charm, organization, patience, and quick thinking" said Hynes.

She manages the billing process from start to finish (from setting up new accounts to tracking high usage, answering billing questions, and creating payment plans). She also assists the Utility department with scheduling utility line marking and works with the Utility Supervisor to track all utility expenses for accounts payable and the budget.

When asked why she enjoys working for the Town, McGaha said she loves the people she works with because they are a strong team that works well together to "get the job done."

She likes working for a small town because she has been able to get to know her customers over the years.

In her free time, McGaha enjoys time at the beach.

"I am a flip flop kind of girl and hate the cold," McGaha said. "My goal one day is to retire to the Outer Banks in North Carolina. I also love spending time with family and friends on weekends."





Construction on the Main Street Enhancement Project and Franklin Park trail has begun along East Loudoun Street and in Franklin Park.

PROGRESS UPDATE: FRANKLIN PARK TRAIL AND MAIN STREET ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS

Work on the County's Franklin Park Trail and the Main Street Enhancements Project is progressing according to plan.

Highway and Safety Services, Inc. (HSS) has been busy over the last several weeks securing the construction zone on E. Loudoun Street with silt fencing and safety fencing, and removing landscaping, shrubs and trees in the construction zone.

Over the next three weeks, HHS will be locating utilities and preparing to relocate some of the waterlines in order to begin the installation of storm sewer. Water services may occasionally be interrupted but residents and businesses will be notified in advance for any planned outages. During this period, there will be single lane closures with flagging operations.

In addition to the work in the Town of Round Hill, HSS has been busy installing the trail connection within Franklin Park (near the pool) to Lakefield Road.

Work on storm-water and pedestrian safety improvements on E. Loudoun and Main Street and the completion of the trail is scheduled to continue over the winter months and through the end of 2021. For more information, please visit <https://www.roundhillva.org/>

Town Tree Lighting Being Organized

The Town of Round Hill and the Round Hill Volunteer Fire Department are working in tandem to develop a socially-distanced, possibly virtual, event for this year's lighting of the Christmas tree on Dec. 5 in the Town Park on East Loudoun Street.

A letter-writing station and Toys for Tots collection box will be set up on the porch of the Town Hall in early December.

Details will be published on the Town's website (www.roundhillva.org) and Facebook page once they are determined.



The Town Christmas tree

ON THE AGENDA

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

- Construction of Main Street/Franklin Park Trail
- Future well site acquisition
- Upgrades to Sleeter Lake Park
- Town expansion
- Parking study
- Update landscape ordinance
- Zoning ordinance amendments for non-conforming commercial lots
- Distribute Round 2 of CARES Act funding to local residents in need of utility bill assistance
- Renovation of utility plant offices

Upcoming Events

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| ► Planning Commission | Nov. 10/Dec. 1 |
| 7:00 p.m., Zoom | |
| ► Town Council Meeting | Nov. 18/Dec. 16 |
| 7:30 p.m., Zoom | |
| ► Town Council Work Session | Dec. 2 |
| 7:30 p.m., Zoom | |
| ► Town Office Holiday Closures: | |
| Veterans' Day: Nov. 11; Thanksgiving: Nov. 25 (noon) to Nov. 27; Christmas: Dec. 24-25; New Year's Day: Jan. 1 | |

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