

News aRound the Hill

A Community Newsletter for Round Hill, Virginia

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PHOTO FOR NEWS AROUND THE HILL

Volunteers help plant a tree at Niels Poulsen Park at the town's Arbor Day celebration on April 30.

Round Hill Earns a 2020 Tree City USA Designation

The Town of Round Hill was named a 2020 Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation in honor of its commitment to effective urban forest management. The mayor officially announced the designation at the Town's Arbor Day celebration on Friday, April 30.

Cub Scout Troop #961, members of the Round Hill Tree Board, and the 2021 Arbor Day Poster Contest Winner, Charlie Pouy, and his family also attended.

The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters.

Round Hill achieved Tree City USA recognition by meeting the program's four requirements: a tree board

or department, a tree-care ordinance, an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita, and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

"Everyone benefits when elected officials, volunteers and committed citizens in communities like Round Hill make smart investments in urban forests," said Matt Harris, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation.

"Trees bring shade to our homes and beauty to our neighborhoods, along with numerous economic, social and environmental benefits," he added.

More information on the program is available at arborday.org/TreeCityUSA and on the Town's website at www.roundhillva.org/round-hill-outdoors-committee/pages/tree-city-usa.

Filter Failure at Water Treatment Plant Leads to Usage Restrictions

All customers of the Round Hill utility system remain in mandatory water restrictions until further notice. The Town Council voted to implement phase 1 restrictions on April 14 after being briefed on operational pressure problems at the Goose Creek Water Treatment Plant that has resulted in several line failures within the plant.

The Council will be updated on the repair progress at its next meeting on May 19 and will decide at that time whether to lift restrictions, go to voluntary conservation or keep mandatory restrictions in place.

Under Mandatory Water Conservation Status, Phase 1, all customers of the Town's water system are requested to conserve wherever and whenever possible in their normal consumption of water.

Furthermore, using water from the Town's system to water lawns, wash cars, fill swimming pools, and like activities is prohibited. Residents may not use sprinklers or irrigation systems for gardens.

Any person or customer found conducting any of these prohibited uses shall be subject to a fine not to exceed \$500 dollars for each violation.

The problem was caused when a massive filter system used in the water treatment plant failed, which required the plant and two wells to be taken offline while emergency filter media replacement and valve repairs are completed.

These filter media products are not "off the shelf" and are typically made on-demand for each individual complex filter system. This will add to the time required to complete the intense repair and rehab process.

The 11 wells in the Round Hill water system typically run 10 hours a day when all wells are fully operational. With the Goose Creek water treatment plant and its wells offline, the remaining wells are running upward of 20 to 24 hours a day to meet current customer demand. Pushing these wells beyond their normal run times leaves the system vulnerable to additional system failures.

The water remains safe and clean to drink. However, the Town is concerned about additional wells failing to produce water to keep up with demand.

Round Hill needs the community to conserve water in order to keep the water system running until all emergency repairs are complete.



RH Appalachian Trail Festival Returns to B Chord Brewing

Though the pandemic scrapped plans for a festival last year, the Round Hill Appalachian Trail Festival will return to B Chord Brewing this September.

This year the festival expands to two days, Saturday, Sept. 11, and Sunday, Sept. 12.

The free family-friendly event celebrates the A.T. and other outdoor opportunities in the area by toasting the beauty of the trail with brews and bites, tunes and talks.

On Saturday, expect a day of live music, trail talks, kids' activities, food trucks, and vendors.

Talk with representatives from 10 environmental/hiking groups. Bid on hiking poles or restaurant gift cards in the silent auction.

Saturday bands include Justin Trawick and the Common Good, and speakers include author/hiker/photographer Cindy Ross.

On Sunday, the festival focuses on hands-on (and feet-on) activities and workshops. Join an edibles hike, practice yoga for hikers, cook over the campfire, sketch from nature, pick up first aid and photography tips.

B Chord Brewing is located at 34266 Williams Gap Rd., Round Hill, Va.

Anyone interested in helping with the festival should contact jody@roundhillat.org.

For more info: www.roundhillat.org

ASSISTANCE FOR ROUND HILL UTILITY CUSTOMERS

The Town is urging customers to keep current with their water/sewer bills to avoid the snowball effect of mounting bills that will come due when late fees and disconnections are resumed.

Customers who are behind on their utility bills due to the COVID-19 pandemic may be eligible to set up a re-payment plan or receive financial assistance.

The Town is offering re-payment plan options for customers impacted by COVID-19. For more information and to apply online go to: www.roundhillva.org/covid-19-dashboard/pages/round-hill-covid-19-utility-repayment-plan.

Customers may also contact the utility department at 540-338-4772 (ext. #2) or billing@roundhillva.org.

The Loudoun County COVID-19 Emergency Fund and Helpline is offering a Utility Assistance Program. This program makes direct payments to utility providers on behalf of Loudoun residents.

Residential customers can request support with paying their utilities up to \$1,750. These utilities include electric, water, and gas bills, and propane, oil, or wood, if used for heating or cooking.

For more information, call the COVID-19 Emergency Fund and Helpline at 703-669-5040.

Other organizations that may be able to provide assistance include:

- Middleburg FISH - 540-687-8771
- Catholic Charities - 703-841-3830
- Tree of Life - 540-441-7920

NEXT TOWN ELECTIONS TO BE HELD IN NOVEMBER 2021

Elections for Round Hill mayor and Town Council have traditionally occurred in May of even-numbered years. However, in February, the Virginia General Assembly passed a bill requiring all municipal elections scheduled after Jan. 1, 2022, to be held in November.

Following a public hearing on April 7, the Round Hill Town Council adopted an amendment to the Town

Code that changes the mayor and council elections from May in even-numbered years to the November general election in odd-numbered years.

As a result of this change, the next Town elections will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 2, 2021. The offices of mayor and three council members will be on this ballot.

Candidates for office must be registered voters who have lived in Virginia for at least one year and within the corporate limits for the Town of Round Hill for at least six months. The filing deadline is Tuesday, June 8, at 7 p.m.

For more information, contact the Loudoun County Office of Elections & Voter Registration at: www.loudoun.gov/4117/Elections-Voter-Registration.

UPDATE ON FRANKLIN PARK TRAIL AND MAIN STREET ENHANCEMENTS PROJECT

Over the next several months, the County's contractor will continue work on E. Loudoun toward Main Street and will concurrently begin working on Main Street.

There will be a limited number of planned service interruptions to customers in the work area and advance notice will be provided to residents and businesses at least 48 hours prior to the outages.

The contractor will also likely begin working on Saturdays.

Project updates will be provided on the Town's Facebook page and website: www.roundhillva.org.

FREE PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT KITS AVAILABLE TO RESIDENTS

The Town of Round Hill is providing free personal protective equipment kits to residents who live in the greater Round Hill area.

Each reusable canvas bag includes one 50-count box of disposable face masks, one 50-count package of multipurpose sanitizing wipes and two 8-ounce bottles of hand sanitizer.

PPE requests will be handled on

See **PPE** next page



PHOTO FOR NEWS AROUND THE HILL

Girl Scout Ambassador Troop 1420 and Senior Troop 6287 helped assemble several hundred PPE kits.

PPE

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a first-come, first-served basis and are available while supplies last. To request a PPE Kit, please complete the online form on the Town's website www.roundhillva.org/home/webforms/ppe-request-form or email hwest@roundhillva.org.

The PPE Kits will be available for pick up at the Town Office during business hours (Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) or can be delivered, upon request.

Please limit requests to one per household unless distributing to those in need through an organized charity.

Special thanks to Girl Scout Ambassador Troop 1420, Senior Troop 6287, and Troop leaders Jen Heffron, Karen Yurish, Deborah Hill, and Jennie Grossi for assembling several hundred PPE kits!

ON THE AGENDA

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

- Fiscal Year 2022 General Fund and Utility Fund Operating Budget, Capital Improvement Plan Budget, and Fee Schedule
- Water and Sewer Rate Study
- Future well site acquisition
- Upgrades to Sleeter Lake Park
- Town Expansion
- Parking Study
- Zoning ordinance amendments for non-conforming commercial lots
- Renovation of Utility plant offices

Employee Spotlight:

John Shry, Utility Department

Waste water operator John Shry has been working for the Town of Round Hill's utility department for just over a year, since early April 2020.

In his position, he is being trained on daily tasks and testing at the waste water treatment plant as well as the emergency on call response

rotation. Prior to coming to Round Hill, Shry was an account manager for a local landscaping company.

Shry said he enjoys getting to work in a professional work setting and being surrounded by experienced coworkers. "I am looking forward to seeing myself grow and prosper as a professional in my field," he said.

Shry is an avid outdoorsman and enjoys camping, hiking, fishing and the preservation of nature especially in his home state.

"I am a Virginia native with family roots that can be traced back to the early 1600s," he said. "In my leisure time I enjoy spending most of my time with my wonderful family and barbecuing fine cuts of meats."



PHOTO COURTESY JOHN SHRY

Sleeter Lake Park Summer Gate Closing Hours:

- Through May 21: 8:00 p.m.
- Beginning May 22: 8:30 p.m.
- Beginning August 16: 8:00 p.m.

The gate opens daily at 7:00 a.m.

Upcoming Events

- **Town Council Meeting** **May 19/June 16**
7:30 p.m., Zoom
- **Planning Commission** **June 1/July 6**
7:00 p.m., Zoom
- **Town Council Work Session** **June 2/July 7**
7:30 p.m., Zoom

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