

News aRound the Hill

A Community Newsletter for Round Hill, Virginia

May 2022

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Two Town Festivals Kick Off Summer in RH

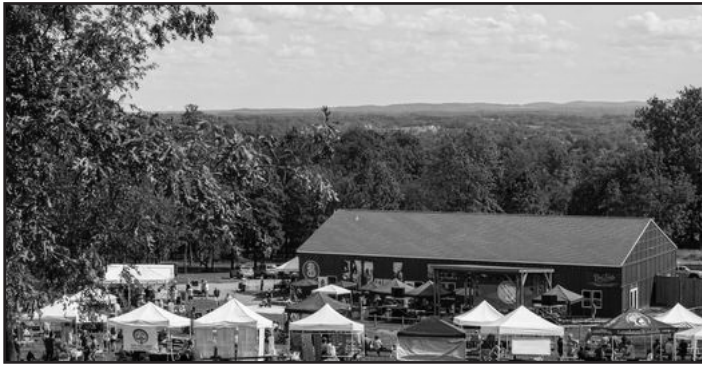


PHOTO COURTESY ROUND HILL OUTDOORS

B Chord Brewing hosts the third Round Hill Appalachian Trail Festival, a celebration of all things outdoors.

Appalachian Trail Festival at B Chord Brewing Celebrates the AT on June 11

Following 2,190 miles of mountain ridge lines, the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (A.T.) crosses 14 states, from Maine to Georgia. It's the longest and oldest marked footpath in the country – and Round Hill is lucky enough to have the A.T. right in its own backyard.

The inaugural Round Hill A.T. Festival in 2019 celebrated the Town's official designation as an A.T. Community, recognizing the Trail as a community asset and pledging to support ongoing Trail stewardship. This June 11, the third Round Hill Appalachian Trail Festival will be held at B Chord Brewing from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The festival features live old-time and bluegrass music by Fiddlin' Dave & Morgan, The Fly Birds, and Frank Solivan and Jillian Lea.

Speakers will share information on local trails, tell tales and impart wisdom gleaned from section- and through-hiking the A.T.

Expect to find kids' activities, vendors, food trucks, and beverages from B Chord Brewing and Williams Gap Vineyard as well. The festival also goes "hands on," with activities and demos like trail cooking, nature art, hammock camping, pony rides and more.

Organizations at the festival include the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, Appalachian Mountain Club, Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, American Hiking Society, A.T. Museum, Friends of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Piedmont Environmental Council, Blue Ridge Wildlife Center, VA Master Natural-

See **A.T. FEST** page 3

Hometown Festival Returns on May 28 With Revised Parade Route, Youth Stage, Children's Fair at Baptist Church

Everything residents know and love about the Round Hill Festival is back this spring after a two-year Covid induced hiatus: music in the Town Park, 5k through the streets of Town, parade down Main Street, pie-eating contest, downhill derby, amusement rides, and more. The free, full-day family-friendly Festival returns to Town on Saturday, May 28.

Based on its success at the October FestiFall, the Festival committee is excited to announce the addition of a youth stage and children's fair at the Round Hill Baptist Church on West Loudoun Street. The committee is also introducing a revised parade route based on community feedback after the fall event.

Here's what to look forward to on the Best Day of the Year in Round Hill!:

The Festival begins with a **5K RACE** at 8 a.m. that starts and finishes at Round Hill Elementary School. The race welcomes runners of all ages, and includes a free ½ mile Kids' Fun Run around the school track. There will be awards for multiple age groups and – new this year – door prizes from local businesses for registered runners. Register for the race online at hometownfestival.org/sign-me-up/race-registrations.

See **HOMETOWN FESTIVAL** next page



PHOTO COURTESY HOMETOWN FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

This year's Hometown Festival parade will begin on Greenwood Drive along Niels Poulsen Park.

HOMETOWN FESTIVAL

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This year's **PARADE** line up begins at 9 a.m. on Greenwood Drive along Niels Poulsen Park. At 9:30 the parade will cross Main Street and continue west on Greenwood to Lee Drive then south on Jackson. There it picks up the traditional parade route of Pickett to Longstreet to Hampton and then turns south on Main Street where it ends at the Town Park on East Loudoun Street.

The Town's annual **MEMORIAL CEREMONY** commences in the Town Park Pavilion at the end of the parade, at approximately 10:45 a.m. The ceremony will include a flag-raising, wreath-laying, speaker, and music by the Round Hill Elementary School chorus and Loudoun Jazz Ensemble. Veterans and active-duty military members are encouraged to attend and be recognized for their service.

ENTERTAINMENT on the Town Park stage begins with the Loudoun Jazz Ensemble and continues with children's performer Mayhem Magical Circus. Four-piece Americana band Justin Trawick and the Common Good will take the stage prior to the crowd-favorite **PIE-EATING CONTEST**, followed by old-time and bluegrass acoustic group The Fly Birds.

EVENING DINNER AND CONCERTS: As the afternoon changes to evening, Irish Celtic duo Craggy Island takes the stage during the dinner hour.



PHOTO COURTESY HOMETOWN FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

The Memorial Ceremony includes a wreath-laying at the flagpole.

Adult beverages will be available in the Town Park starting at 5 p.m. to complement dinner from one of the Festival's assorted food vendors (see more info below).

The community is invited to bring chairs and picnic blankets and gather in the Town Park for a free evening concert filled with rock-and-roll and country favorites performed by Round Hill's own Merlin & Friends, starting at 7 p.m.

The new **YOUTH STAGE** at the Round Hill Baptist Church will feature some of the finest solo and ensemble artists in the DC area brought to Round Hill through Creative Stages and the Woodgrove Choir, Belletones (a cappella) and Band ensembles.

The church will also reprise its popular **CHILDREN'S FAIR** from the FestiFall, including giant bubbles, crafts, family games and more.

Gravity-powered soap box cars take over North Locust Street in the Round Hill **DOWNHILL DERBY**; official heats begin at 3 p.m.

Also in Town, **AMUSEMENT RIDES** will be open between the end of the Memorial Ceremony and late afternoon, and the Round Hill Methodist Church is holding a **CLASSIC CAR SHOW** after the parade.

The RHVFD is also hosting their annual **OPEN HOUSE AND HEALTH & SAFETY FAIR** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Organizations planning to attend include Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter, Boulder Crest Foundation, Traveling Tails Dog Rescue, Chariots of Honor and Round Hill Outdoors.

FOOD AND DRINK: The Round Hill Volunteer Fire Department is bringing back its popular pig roast at lunchtime—be sure to get there early because they often sell out—and Tammy will be grilling outside her diner until early afternoon.

Across the street at C'est Bon by Savoir Fare, Joan Wolford will be offering delectable items for lunch and dinner, and Zainy's Flying Food Truck will be serving up puffy tacos



PHOTO COURTESY HOMETOWN FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

The Baptist Church will host a Youth Stage and Children's Fair.

all day in the Baptist Church parking lot. And to round out the culinary offerings, Chef Justin Garrison will be frying fresh fish in the Town Park during the evening concerts.

Round Hill's Williams Gap Vineyards will on-hand with their finest vintages in the park starting at 5 p.m.

Festival **T-SHIRTS** will be available for sale at the Town Office the week before the Festival and at the Information Booth in the Town Park on the day of the Festival.

The Hometown Festival is organized by the Town's Festival Committee in conjunction with the Round Hill Arts Center and Round Hill Volunteer Fire Department. Volunteers are needed to help make the day run smoothly. To sign up, visit hometown-festival.org/sign-me-up.

The Festival would not be possible without the support of local sponsors, including **PREMIUM SPONSORS** Karin Mercendetti, Infinite Landscapes and Pete Durand: Music for Everyone.

For the most up-to-date information, visit the Festival's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/rhhometown-festival or visit hometownfestival.org.



PHOTO COURTESY ROUND HILL OUTDOORS

Fiddlin' Dave & Morgan, of the local band Furnace Mountain, return to play at noon at this year's A.T. Festival.

A.T. FEST

Continued from page 1

ists, Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship, Potomac Riverkeeper Network and Loudoun County Master Gardener Tree Stewards.

Round Hill A.T., a 501(c)3 nonprofit, puts on this free, family-friendly celebration of the A.T. and the great outdoors. Major sponsors include Warm Peet, REI, Friends of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Meadows Farms, H2Land Company, and the Town of Round Hill.

B Chord Brewing is located at 34266 Williams Gap Road, Round Hill, VA. For more information, please see the festival's Facebook feed @roundhillat and visit the Round Hill Appalachian Trail Festival website: www.roundhillat.org.

APPALACHIAN TRAIL FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

Musical Lineup

12 p.m. Fiddlin' Dave & Morgan

Originals and old-time fiddle tunes/world music

2 p.m. The Fly Birds

An award-winning, alternative bluegrass quartet

4 p.m. Frank Solivan and Jillian Lea

A melding of bluegrass, Celtic, classic Country, jazz and folk

Main Speakers' Lineup

11 a.m. Adventures Close to Home: A Day-Hike Panel Discussion

Learn about local trails to try out

1 p.m. Going the Distance: A Section- and Thru-Hiker Panel

"Tales from the trail" from past and present long-distance hikers

3 p.m. A Conversation with Warren Doyle: Why Hike? Where the Trail Can Lead You

Doyle believes the Trail can "show the way," as hikers learn to better navigate the "real world" from their trail days in the woods.

TOWN COUNCIL VACANCY; APPLICATIONS DUE JUNE 8

The Round Hill Town Council is looking for residents interested in being appointed by the Town Council to fill a vacant Council seat until a special election can be held for that seat in November.

The special election will fill the remainder of the term of office for the seat that runs until December 31, 2023.

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.

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.

Individuals should send a letter of interest, resume and qualifications to the attention of Town Administrator Melissa Hynes (mhynes@roundhillva.org) and Mayor Scott Ramsey (sramsey@roundhillva.org) by June 8.

NEW WATER & SEWER BILL PAYMENT PORTAL COMING SOON

The Town is in the process of transitioning to a new payment portal, which will be available to water and sewer customers in June/July 2022. The new portal will have more user-friendly features and payment options for customers. More information will be provided closer to the launch date.

This cycle's water bills will be mailed no later than May 6 and are due June 5. Late fees of 6 percent will be applied June 7 and disconnections for unpaid bills begin June 22. There is a \$125 re-connection fee for shut offs.

Customers who schedule payments through their bank are reminded to allow seven to 10 business days for checks to be received through the mail. Payments received after the due date incur late fees.

Payments through the Town's free pay portal are usually posted within 24 hours and confirmation is sent via email. The payment portal can be accessed through www.roundhillva.org.

For information about financial assistance or to set up a payment plan, please call the Utility Billing Administrator at 540-338-4772 ext. 2.

SHRED EVENT – JUNE 4

The Round Hill Volunteer Fire Department (RHVFD) will be hosting a shred event on June 4, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Round Hill Baptist Church's parking lot located at 7 West Loudoun Street.

Entrance to event will be off West Loudoun Street. There will be signs and RHVFD members directing traffic. Please do not enter the event from Church Street.

This event will accept paper only. Hard drives, binders, or binder clips will not be accepted. Please limit quantities to no more than two "Xerox" paper-sized boxes per car.

Direct any questions to Lorraine.Gruca@roundhillvfd.org.



PHOTO FOR NEWS AROUND THE HILL

SLEETER LAKE PARK – 2022 SEASON

Sleeter Lake Park, located at 17749 Lakefield Road, is open to the public through Nov. 26. The park opens at 7:00 a.m. daily. Closing times change throughout the season and are posted on the Town’s website (www.roundhillva.org), at the park, and on the sign at the bottom of Lakefield Road.

The 11-acre park features picnic areas with tables and grills, a soft-launch boat ramp, and an extensive shoreline for catch-and-release fishing. Swimming or wading is not permitted.

The boat ramp closes 30 minutes prior to gate closing times. Plan ahead to exit the park before the gate closes. Anyone accidentally locked in the park should call the police non-emergency line at (703) 777-1021.

FRANKLIN PARK TRAIL & MAIN STREET PROJECT UPDATE

Work on the Franklin Park Trail and East Loudoun Street is nearing completion.

Construction crews are working on Main Street improvements, including installing a new storm sewer system, curb and gutter, a new sidewalk, driveway aprons, and milling and paving operations.

Drivers should use extra caution when traveling through this area and follow all directions from the posted signs and road crews.

Businesses on Loudoun Street and Main Street remain open for business during construction. Public parking is available at the Town Office, 23 Main Street, and traffic control personnel are available to assist with

parking and pedestrian access.

This project will construct a shared-use path and sidewalks that will link the center of Round Hill to Franklin Park.

This link will include concrete sidewalks along East Loudoun Street and Main Street to the location of the former W&OD railroad station.

The estimated schedule for opening of the trail is summer 2022.

When the project is completed, pedestrian connectivity between Round Hill and Franklin Park will be established, and pedestrian access and safety along East Loudoun Street and Main Street will be improved.

More information, including a link to sign up for updates on the project, can be found on the project page at loudoun.gov/roundhilltrail.

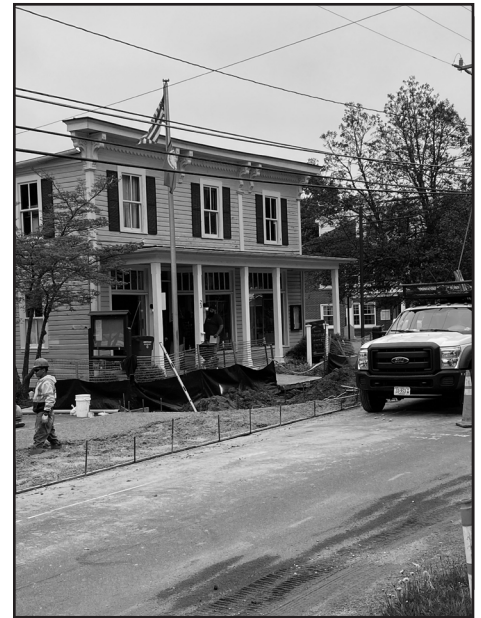


PHOTO FOR NEWS AROUND THE HILL

As work wraps up on Loudoun Street, crews focus on Main Street.

ON THE AGENDA

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

- FY2023 Budget and Capital Improvement Program
- Future Well Site and Water Treatment Plant
- Street Renaming
- Town Expansion
- Sale of Town reservoir
- Sleeter Lake Park improvements

Upcoming Events

- ▶ **Town Council Meeting** **May 18/June 1/June 15**
7:30 p.m., Round Hill Town Office and Zoom
- ▶ **Planning Commission Meetings** **June 7**
7:00 p.m., Round Hill Town Office and Zoom

(NOTE: Information for participating remotely is provided on the agenda for each meeting, <https://www.roundhillva.org/minutes-and-agendas>.)