

# News aRound the Hill

A Community Newsletter for Round Hill, Virginia

November 2022

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## Town, County Celebrate Substantial Completion of Franklin Park Trail, Main Street Improvement Projects

After two decades of planning and two years of actual construction work, representatives from Loudoun County and the Town of Round Hill gathered in the Round Hill Town Park on Sept. 27 to celebrate the substantial completion of the Franklin Park Trail and Main Street Improvement Projects.

"It took us 20 years to make it happen and it was a long road, but it all started with a belief that this town could be better," Mayor Scott Ramsey said at the ribbon cutting ceremony.

The current project grew out of two town initiatives—the Streetscape Master Plan and the Stormwater Management Plan—that were spearheaded by former Mayor Frank Etro. Ramsey credited Etro as "the pioneer for this project."

Ramsey acknowledged that the project turned out to be "a lot more difficult and a lot more complicated than we had any idea," with multiple rounds of redesign necessary as construction standards were updated and funding sources changed.

The Mayor recognized county and Town employees and officials who have been involved over the years to make this project a reality, and he thanked the residents



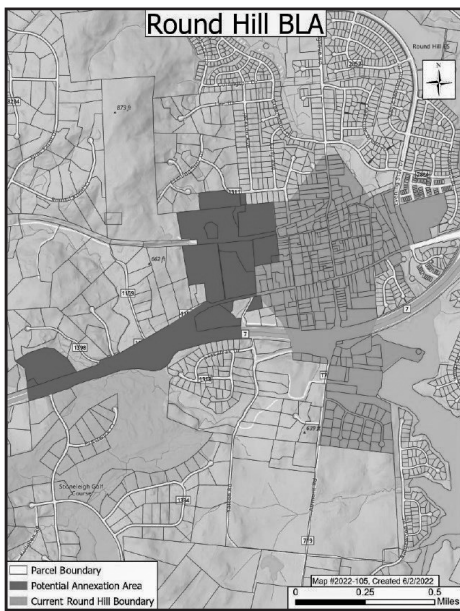
PHOTO FOR NEWS AROUND THE HILL

**Key participants on the trail and street projects prepare to cut the ribbon celebrating the projects' completion.**

for their patience throughout the construction process.

Special credit was given to Town Administrator Melissa Hynes, who Ramsey said was charged with the implementation of the projects and handled the job with "patience, grace and a willingness to take everything in stride," and Director of Utilities Marty Feltner, for the tremendous amount of work the Utility Department did to support the project.

See **RIBBON CUTTING** next page



**The parcels shown in dark gray will be brought into the Town limits (medium gray) under the new Boundary Line Adjustment.**

## Round Hill Expands to the West

The Town of Round Hill is set to grow by 125 acres and 15 residents after the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors approved a Town-initiated Boundary Line Adjustment in September.

The BLA adds 18 properties located on the west side of Town, all of which requested to be brought into Town limits. The properties include seven residential parcels, two commercial parcels (Hill High), the Western Loudoun Sheriff Station, the future site of the Round Hill Fire and Rescue Station, four Loudoun County School Board parcels, and the Virginia Department of Transportation Maintenance Facility.

All but 20 acres of the annexed properties are already fully devel-

oped. According to Town Administrator Melissa Hynes, there are no current plans to build out those areas, most of which are behind the Sheriff's Substation. Approximately 40 homes would be allowed there under current zoning.

The Round Hill Town Council unanimously approved the BLA following a public hearing held on July 20. After receiving no comments at its public hearing on July 13, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors approved the BLA at its meeting on Sept. 6.

The BLA must be approved by the Circuit Court before it becomes final. All of the affected property owners will be notified once the change is official.

# RIBBON CUTTING

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"Marty's team was always willing to step up and do whatever needed to be done," Ramsey said.

Ramsey saved his final thank you for Town Project Manager Robert Lohr. "Rob was the backbone that was needed to get through this project," Ramsey said. He applauded the effort Lohr put into interfacing with residents whose properties were being impacted on a daily basis and working with them to develop solutions to problems that resulted from the construction in front of their homes.

"Rob really put the time in to sit down with every single neighbor," Ramsey said, praising Lohr's "com-

passion, dedication to public service and desire to have things done right."

Work on this long-awaited project began in August 2020 and includes the following:

- Design and construction of sidewalks and a shared-use path (pedestrian and bicycle) from the center of the Town of Round Hill to Franklin Park
- Construction of a concrete sidewalk along the east side of Main Street, curb on both sides of the street, curb ramps, small retaining walls, designated parking, and storm drainage improvements

Over the next several weeks, some construction activity will continue as punch list items are addressed.

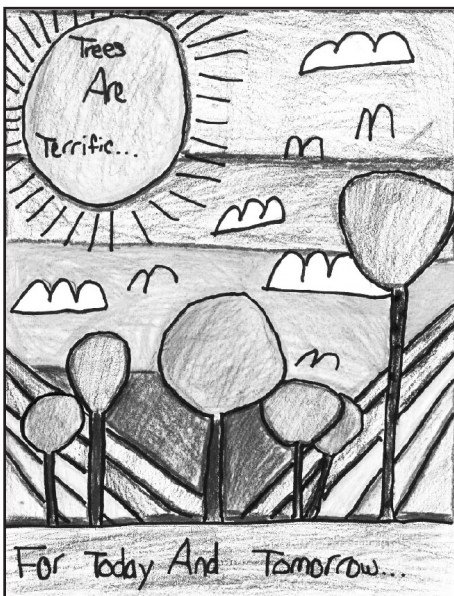


IMAGE COURTESY ROUND HILL OUTDOORS COMMITTEE

## 2022 ARBOR DAY POSTER CONTEST WINNER

Stevie Huff, a fifth-grade student at Round Hill Elementary School, is the winner of the Round Hill Outdoors Committee's annual Arbor Day Poster Contest. The theme—"Trees Are Terrific...for Today and Tomorrow!"—highlights the long-lasting impact of planting a tree and the many benefits it provides for the future.

## UPDATE ON STREET RENAMING

On Sept. 7, the Round Hill Town Council voted 3-2 not to change the name of Mosby Court, which is located entirely within the Town limits, after receiving input from many of the street's residents.

The council had previously agreed

to follow the County's process for renaming streets identified in the County's Inventory of Confederate & Segregationist Symbols; however, council members were swayed by the strong sentiment expressed by Mosby Court residents opposed to the renaming.

The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors is proceeding with renaming the remaining streets in Hillwood Estates. This includes Early Avenue, Hampton Road, Jackson Avenue, Lee Drive, Longstreet Avenue and Pickett Road. Residents have had the opportunity to suggest alternate names and then vote for their preferred new name.

For more information, please see: [www.loudoun.gov/5737/Road-Renaming-Initiative-2022-2023](http://www.loudoun.gov/5737/Road-Renaming-Initiative-2022-2023).

## VULTURE AWARENESS

Newly posted signs near the intersection of Loudoun Street and Evening Star Drive and along the walking trail just to the north call attention to the presence of the committee of black vultures that seasonally roost in the sycamore trees at the east entrance to town.

Although these federally protected birds often get a bad rap, they are a vital part of nature's clean-up crew and help clear the landscape of deteriorating wildlife carcasses. Black vultures also help to limit the spread of dangerous diseases and bacteria, as their stomachs contain strong

enzymes that kill off dangerous toxins and microorganisms.

However, what goes in must come out—which is evident in the white excrement often seen on Loudoun Street under the roosting trees. In addition to landing on the road, this waste also lands on the ground near and in the small stream that runs parallel to Evening Star and empties into Sleeter Lake. This waste can contain bacteria that can be harmful to humans and pets.

To protect both the vultures and people who walk along the trail, the Town is advising people to keep their distance from the roosting area.

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PHOTO FOR NEWS AROUND THE HILL

**Vulture waste in the roosting area may contain harmful bacteria.**



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People and pets should stay out of the stream, and any fish caught near or downstream of this area should be released. If contact is unavoidable, hand washing is highly encouraged to prevent the spread of the bacteria.

## ROUND HILL COMMUNITY SURVEY

The Round Hill Town Council is seeking input from local residents about the overall quality of life in the Round Hill area through the 2022 Community Survey.

This survey looks at resources, parks, economic development, transportation and tourism.

The input received from the survey provides Town Council members insight about what they are doing well and where they need to improve by ensuring that decisions align with the needs of residents and prioritized services positively impact the community.

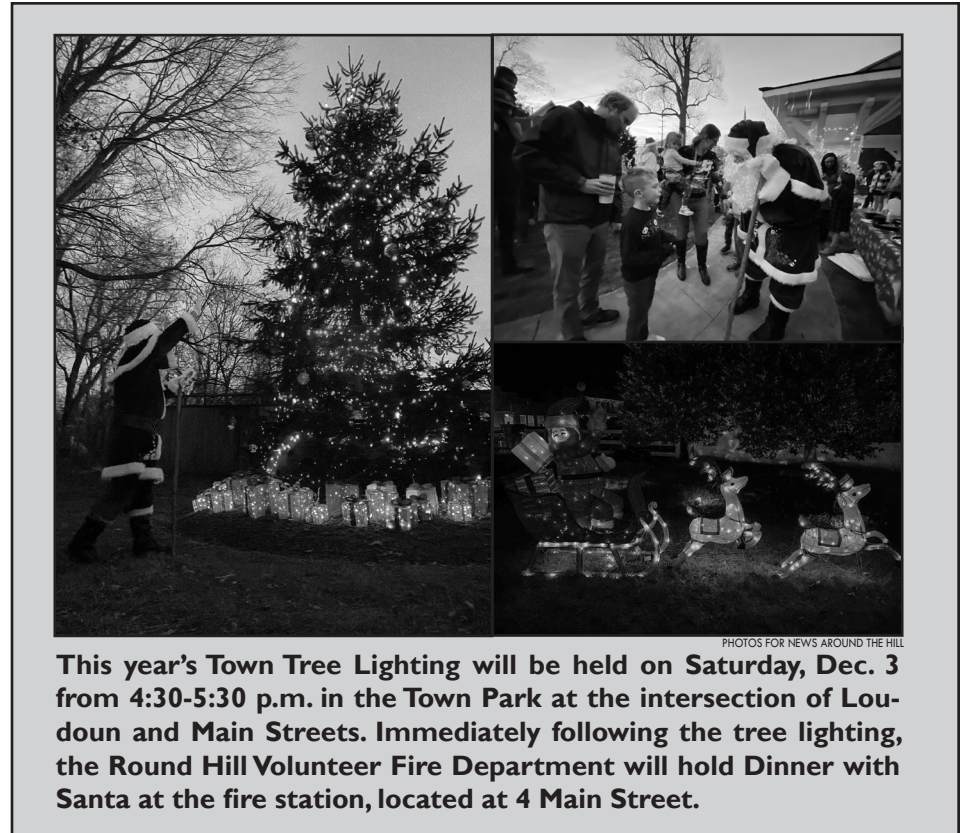
Survey results will be shared with Loudoun County Staff and the Board of Supervisors because the Town and the County work together to manage the Round Hill Joint Land Management Area (the area outside of the Town limits but within the utility service area).

The last community survey was conducted in 2014 and was used to write the 2017 Comprehensive Plan. One of the ideas that came out of that survey led to Round Hill becoming an Appalachian Trail Community in 2019.

This survey is open to any resident within the 20141 and 20142 zip codes. The link for the survey is: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/HQ292H6](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HQ292H6). For assistance, please email [blohr@roundhillva.org](mailto:blohr@roundhillva.org).

## IMPACT OF FATS, OIL AND GREASE ON SEWER SYSTEM

The Town of Round Hill's Utility Department is asking for residents and businesses to help by not pouring fats, oils or grease down the drain. Fats, oils and grease comes from meat fats in food scraps, cooking oil, shortening, lard, butter and



**This year's Town Tree Lighting will be held on Saturday, Dec. 3 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. in the Town Park at the intersection of Loudoun and Main Streets. Immediately following the tree lighting, the Round Hill Volunteer Fire Department will hold Dinner with Santa at the fire station, located at 4 Main Street.**

margarine, gravy, and food products such as mayonnaise, salad dressings, and sour cream.

Fatty build-up inside of pipes over time can restrict wastewater flow, causing sewer blockages that may result in backups into homes or overflowing manholes. Cleaning and removing this build-up from the sewer collection system can be expensive, time consuming and can lead to increased utility costs.

Fats, oils and grease should be collected in a can and disposing of in the trash. Be sure the can is covered so that it does not spill into the trash.

To learn more, go to [www.roundhillva.org/water-sewer-department](http://www.roundhillva.org/water-sewer-department) and review our Town of Round Hill Customer Handbook.

## UTILITY BILLING REMINDERS AND INVOICE CLOUD PAYMENT PLATFORM INFORMATION

Water bills will be mailed by Nov. 3 and are due by Dec. 5. Below are important reminders about late fees and disconnections:

- Dec. 6 - 6% Late Fees Applied
- Dec. 22 - Disconnections (\$125 reconnection fee for shut offs)

The Town's new online payment platform, Invoice Cloud, gives utility customers enhanced, easy-to-use options to securely pay bills electronically.

Payment options include Apple Pay, Google Pay, PayPal, Venmo, and Pay by Text. Customers will continue to have the option to pay bills via phone, check, or credit card—including American Express—on the Invoice Cloud platform. The Town absorbs all fees associated with credit card and e-check transactions, so there are no costs to customers.

Invoice Cloud has a number of great benefits, including:

- True auto-pay option (the system automatically deducts bill amount)
- Get up to three reminders to pay before the due date
- Pay by text with saved payment method
- Up to 24 months history
- Simple to use and secure

After creating a secure online account with Invoice Cloud, customers can store payment information and schedule payments in advance, view bills online, pay multiple bills at

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Continued from previous page once with the shopping cart feature, and enroll in AutoPay. Customers can also make a one-time payment without setting up an account.

Invoice Cloud also offers the ability to opt into email and text notifications so that customers can customize their billing communications to receive reminders of upcoming due dates and other updates.

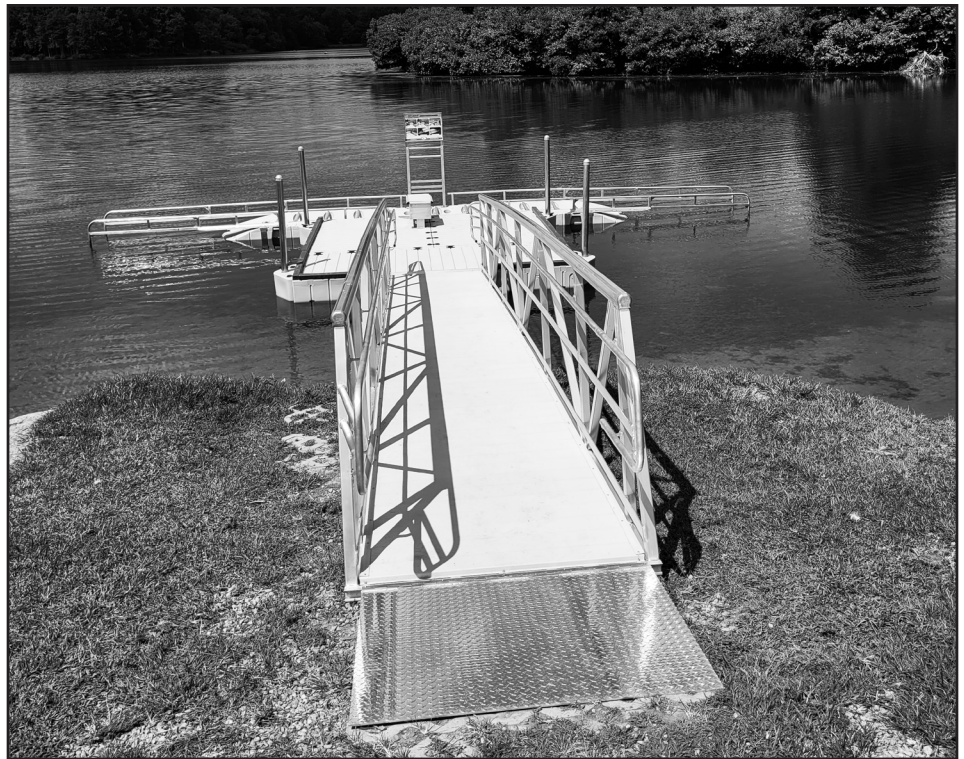
For more information about the new billing system, financial assistance or to set up a payment plan, go to [www.roundhillva.org/water-sewer-billing/pages/bill-payment-options](http://www.roundhillva.org/water-sewer-billing/pages/bill-payment-options) or call the Utility Billing Administrator at 540-338-4772 ext. 2.

## PUBLIC INPUT SOUGHT FOR FRANKLIN PARK'S FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Loudoun County is launching a master planning process for Franklin Park, which currently encompasses 200 acres between the towns of Purcellville and Round Hill.

With the County's recent acquisition of 103 acres adjacent to the current park, planners have identified potential amenities that may be added to the newly enlarged park, including equestrian facilities, additional hiking trails, and improved parking and restroom facilities.

Through collaborative efforts between Loudoun County and the Town of Round Hill, this master planning process will also evaluate potential connections between the existing



**The Town of Round Hill has installed a new floating boat launch at Sleeter Lake Park; future park improvements will be planned in conjunction with Loudoun County as part of the Franklin Park master plan.**

park, the new area of the park, and the Town's Sleeter Lake Park.

Loudoun County and the Town of Round Hill held a public information meeting regarding future improvements to Franklin Park on the evening of Oct. 25 at the Franklin Park Performing and Visual Arts Center. Additional comments will be accepted through Nov. 22.

For more information about the Franklin Park master planning project and to submit comments, visit

[loudoun.gov/franklinparkplan](http://loudoun.gov/franklinparkplan).

## NEW BOAT LAUNCH INSTALLED AT SLEETER LAKE PARK

The Town has installed a new floating boat launch at Sleeter Lake Park to provide handicapped access to the lake and to help prevent further erosion of the shore line.

As a reminder, the park will be closing for the 2022 season on Saturday, Nov. 26 and will reopen again on March 1, 2023.

## ON THE AGENDA

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

- Fiscal Year 2024 Town Council priorities and budget
- Comprehensive Plan Amendment – expanded Central Commercial District
- Future well sites and Evening Star water treatment plant
- Water rate study
- Southern gateway pedestrian access improvements
- Southern water tank

## Upcoming Events

- ▶ **Town Council Meeting** **Nov. 16, Dec. 7 & 21**  
7:30 p.m., Round Hill Town Office and Zoom
- ▶ **Town Tree Lighting** **Dec. 3**  
4:30 p.m. Town Park on Loudoun Street
- ▶ **RHVFD Santa Dinner** **Dec. 3**  
5:30 p.m. Fire House, 4 Main Street
- ▶ **Planning Commission Meeting** **Dec. 6**  
7:00 p.m., Round Hill Town Office and Zoom

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