

News aRound the Hill

A Community Newsletter for Round Hill, Virginia

March 2023

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Town Introduces Veterans Memorial Paver Program

Families and friends of individuals from the Round Hill community who have served or are currently serving in one of the six branches of the United States Armed Services are invited to participate in a newly created Veterans Memorial Paver Program.

Through this program, engraved stone pavers will be installed around the flagpole in the Town Park on Loudoun Street. New pavers will be placed prior to the wreath being laid at the Hometown Festival each year.

"The Town has always felt a special obligation to honor those who gave their lives for our nation," said Mayor Scott Ramsey. "This project will be a permanent way for our community to participate in this remembrance."

The deadline to purchase a paver for this year is Apr. 1. All pavers submitted by this date will be installed prior to this year's Memorial Ceremony at Hometown Festival on May 27. Applications are located on the Town website under Parks and Recreation> Loudoun Street Park> Veterans Memorial Pavers.

The fee to dedicate a memorial paver is \$150, which

covers the cost to purchase, engrave, and install each 6x9" paver. All payments must be made via cash or check payable to the Town of Round Hill.

Payments may be dropped off at the Round Hill Town Office at 23 Main Street during normal business hours Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.

to 4:30 p.m. The application and payment can also be mailed to the Town Office, P.O. Box 36 Round Hill, Va., 20142.

Please contact Town Planner Bobby Lohr at blohr@roundhillva.org with any questions.



Pavers will be installed around the Town Park flag pole.

Employee Spotlight:

Cathy Owens, Town Treasurer

Town Treasurer Cathy Owens' family ties to Round Hill go back decades. Her father-in-law opened Round Hill Texaco in the '80s at 4 East Loudoun Street where the Round Hill Exxon is today.

Owens began working for the Town in mid-December 2020 as finance specialist and was promoted to treasurer this past December when Sue Holland retired.

As treasurer, Owens oversees the day-to-day operations of the Town's finances.

"I am excited for this opportunity with Round Hill as I've spent a lot of time here," Owens said.



Treasurer Cathy Owens

"I am looking forward to serving the residents of the Town," she added.

Prior to working for Round Hill, Owens spent almost 30 years in the fields of human resources and finance with various employers including municipalities.

A native of Berryville, she and her husband, a native of Hamilton, will celebrate 25 years of marriage this year.

She's a mom to two and is an avid fan of the Washington and Woodgrove football teams. In her free time, she loves to bake and makes award-winning macaroni and cheese.

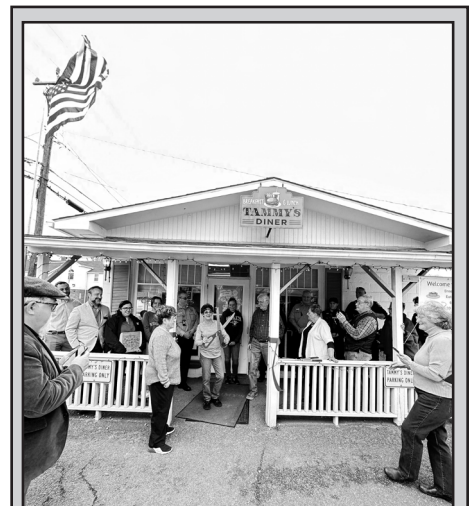


PHOTO FOR NEWS AROUND THE HILL

Proving it's never too late for a ribbon-cutting ceremony, Tammy Hines wields a pair of giant scissors at the entrance to her diner. Celebrating her 16th year in business in the heart of Round Hill, Hines was joined by Vice Mayor Mary Anne Graham and members of the Loudoun County Sheriff's and Economic Development departments.



PHOTO FOR NEWS AROUND THE HILL

Mayor Scott Ramsey with Community Garden volunteers in 2021.

COMMUNITY GARDEN READIES FOR GROWING SEASON

Applications are currently being accepted for the Round Hill Community Garden on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Round Hill Community Garden, located on Falls Place near the old Pott's Barn Site, was first established in 2009 as a public-private partnership between the Town of Round Hill and the Round Hill Community.

The fenced garden, now managed by a core group of volunteers, provides Round Hill residents with seasonal ready-to-plant garden plots to rent. Gardeners are assigned an individual plot and provided with access to water, compost and storage.

Three plot sizes are available for rent:

Small - \$75 per plot (approx. 60 sq. ft.)

Medium - \$100 per plot (approx. 100 sq. ft.)

Large - \$125 per plot (approx. 200 sq. ft.)

The application form and garden rules may be found at www.round-hillva.org/round-hill-outdoors-committee/round-hill-community-garden.

The Community Garden Team is always looking for volunteers for beautification projects and educational opportunities, for plot-gardeners as well as those who just want to give a few hours at a time without committing to the season.

For more information about the Round Hill Community Garden and how to get involved, please email Bobby Lohr at blohr@roundhillva.org.

UTILITY CUSTOMERS REMINDED TO MAINTAIN ACCESS TO WATER METERS

With spring approaching and planting season starting, the Utility Department would like to remind residents to maintain clear access to the Town's water meter located on their property.

Keeping the water meter cleared provides utility staff better access to pick up radio signals for billing readings and most importantly allows

staff to shut the water meter off for emergency leaks or to replace a non-working meter.

Mulch, flowers, shrubs, trees, dirt, and objects on top the meter crock lid itself are common obstacles. Please make sure that these items are not covering the meter crock.

Per the Town of Round Hill's Water Ordinance:

There shall be no physical obstruction within two feet of any meter crock, valve or within any easement that the Town

owns. Removal of any obstruction by the Town will be at the cost to the owner-customer which shall be included in the next billing.

The Town shall not be liable for replacement or damage caused by the Town in removing the obstruction.

Please contact the Utility Department at 540-338-4772 ext. #2 with any questions.

LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLD WATER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AVAILABLE

The Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is a temporary federally funded program created to assist low-income households with water and wastewater bills. LIHWAP relief will be available to eligible Virginia residents through Sept. 2023 or until funds are exhausted.

Round Hill area residents who believe they are eligible for this program should fill out the application online on virginialihwap.com, selecting the Town of Round Hill as their water provider and entering their account number and billing zip code.

For more information, go to virginialihwap.com/faq or call PromisePay at 1-888-373-9908.

UTILITY DEPARTMENT TO CONDUCT LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY

The Town of Round Hill Utility Department staff will be working with the owners of local homes constructed prior to 1986 as part of an initiative to identify any water service lines made of lead in its service area.

The Lead Service Line Inventory will include both the portion of the service line owned by the Town of Round Hill and the customer-owned portion of the service line.

All water systems in Virginia must develop an initial inventory by Oct. 16, 2024, and submit it to the Virginia Department of Health Office of Drinking Water.

This will act as a major first step for future lead service line replacement in the Town of Round Hill.

The vast majority of homes in the

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PHOTO COURTESY RH OUTDOORS

**SAVE THE DATE!
Arbor Day Ceremony**

This annual event will be held on Friday, April 28. The time and location will be announced on the Town website, www.roundhillva.org.

Round Hill Hometown Festival
The Best Day of the Year in Round Hill happens on Saturday, May 27. For up-to-date information on the full day of free, family-friendly activities in the heart of Round Hill visit www.hometownfestival.org or the Round Hill Hometown Festival Facebook page. Planning begins this month; anyone interested in volunteering is encouraged to email info@hometownfestival.org.

Round Hill/Hillsboro Appalachian Trail Festival

This year the AT Festival will be held on Saturday, June 10, at The Gap Stage and Old Stone School in Hillsboro (37098 Charles Town Pike). For more information, go to www.roundhillat.org/

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Round Hill water service area were constructed after the Virginia 1986 ban on the use of lead piping, meaning there are only a couple hundred homes that will need to be verified.

Many of these homes built prior to the 1986 lead ban have already replaced their lead lines on the customer-owned portion.

Staff will be working with homes identified as being constructed prior to 1986 to confirm there is no lead piping on the customer-owned portion of the service lines through an interactive dashboard that will be released later this year.

UTILITY BILLING REMINDERS & INVOICE CLOUD PAYMENT PLATFORM

Water bills will be mailed the week of Mar. 6 and are due by Apr. 5. Below are important reminders about late fees and disconnections:

- April 6 - 6% Late Fees Applied
- April 19 - Disconnections (\$125 reconnection fee for shut offs)

The Town's online payment platform, Invoice Cloud, gives our 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 on the Invoice Cloud platform. The Town absorbs all fees associated with credit card and e-check transactions, so there are no costs to our customers.

For more information, go to www.roundhillva.org/water-sewer-billing/pages/bill-payment-options.

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

SLEETER LAKE PARK OPENS FOR THE 2023 SEASON

Sleeter Lake Park is now open for the 2023 season. Located at 17749 Lakefield Road, the park opens daily at 7 a.m. until Nov. 28.

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 Rd.

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

The boat launch closes 30 minutes prior to gate closing times. Please plan ahead to exit the park before the gate closes. Anyone locked in the park will need to call the Police Non-Emergency line on (703) 777-1021.

Sleeter Lake Park	
Gate Closing Schedule 2023	
Date	Closing Time
March 1 st	6:30 PM
March 12 th (Daylight savings)	7:30 PM
May 1 st	8:30 PM
August 28 th	7:30 PM
September 25 th	7:00 PM
October 16 th	6:30 PM
November 5 th (Daylights Savings)	5:00 PM
November 28 th	Park Closed

ON THE AGENDA

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

- Fiscal Year 2024 Town Council Priorities and Budget
- Water and Sewer Rate Study
- Comprehensive Plan Amendment - Expanded Central Commercial District
- Future Well Sites, Evening Star Water Treatment Plant and Airmont Tank

Upcoming Events

- ▶ **Town Council Meeting** Mar. 15/Apr. 5 & 19
7:30 p.m., Round Hill Town Office and Zoom
- ▶ **Planning Commission Meeting** Apr. 4/May 2
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.)