

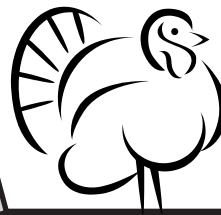
Plan on spending Saturday Dec. 6 celebrating the holidays in Round Hill! The day begins with a pancake breakfast and photos



BY BETH SHAHA—NEWS aROUND the HILL

with Santa at the Round Hill Volunteer Fire Department, followed by a Holiday Open House at the Round Hill Arts Center. Later in the afternoon, the Round Hill Junior Womens' Group hosts the annual tree lighting in the Town Park. Top the evening off with a festive spaghetti dinner organized by the Round Hill Elementary School PTA. For details, see www.NewsARoundtheHill.org.

POSTAL PATRON



Did You Know?

You can trick or treat for the troops overseas. Drop off any left-over candy at Round Hill Center, 20 High Street until Nov. 4 and it will be forwarded to troops in Afghanistan and Iraq. Non-chocolate candy is preferred due to higher temperatures and shipping conditions. Contact Susanne.Kahler@loudoun.k12.va.us with any questions.

Additional information can be found at www.NewsARoundtheHill.org.

Upcoming Events

- ▶ **Dirty Work Pottery Exhibit** through Nov. 22
Round Hill Arts Center, Wednesday-Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Contact 338-5050, or www.RoundHillArtsCenter.org.
- ▶ **CROP Walk** Oct. 25
8 a.m. Six-mile walk from Purcellville Train Station to Hamilton and back to raise money for Interfaith Relief and Church World Service. Contact Terry Nelis at 540-554-2553 or nelis@anent.com
- ▶ **Community Garden Meeting** Oct. 30
7:30 p.m. At the Town Office. See story, Page 2.
- ▶ **Halloween Bluegrass and Folk Jam** Oct. 31
Round Hill Arts Center. Starts at 6 p.m., children's costume contest at 8 p.m.
- ▶ **Historic District Public Meeting** Nov. 13
7:30 p.m., Town Office.
- ▶ **Autumn Wonders** Nov. 15 and 22
A showcase of Loudoun quilters, spinners and weavers at the Round Hill Arts Center, 11 a.m to 5 p.m. Artist's demonstrations and works for sale from local fiber artists. Refreshments available.
- ▶ **Thanksgiving Eve Celebrations** Nov. 26
Community service hosted by Round Hill United Methodist Church at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome.

ON THE AGENDA

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

- Western sheriff substation
- Public hearing on Planned Development Commercial Center (PDCC) district zoning amendment
- Review of B-1, Town Business District zoning
- Review of zoning ordinance variances provisions
- Landscaping and screening zoning ordinance amendment
- Budget analysis (examine impacts of economic downturn)
- Pennystone LLC/Holtzman (gas station) special exception
- Annexation agreement with County
- Special exception for expansion of the Round Hill United Methodist Church

The Town Council meets regularly on the third Thursday of the month starting at 7:30 p.m. Public hearings are held as needed on the first Thursday of the month.

News aRound the Hill

A Community Newsletter for Round Hill, Virginia

October 2008

Circulation 2,200

Two Local Ladies Give Back to the Community

Donna Gicker Fills Civic Duty by Working Election Polls

By **BETH SHAHA**
News aRound the Hill

If you've voted in municipal, county, state or federal elections in Round Hill, chances are, you've run into Donna Gicker at the polls.

A Round Hill resident for 23 years, Gicker has served as a precinct worker for eight years—since George Bush's first election.

Gicker used to work campaigns, but found that role too intense and emotional. She started working the polls because she felt it was her civic duty to stay involved.

"Our right to vote is fundamental to our way of life," Gicker said. "When I think of our fathers, grandfathers, and great grandfathers fighting to preserve our rights, I believe that as a country we need to take voting a lot more seriously."

This November, Gicker will serve as the assistant precinct chief. For many of the past few elections, she was the chief. The chief and assistant chief are required to attend mandatory train-



BETH SHAHA—NEWS aROUND the HILL
Donna Gicker has worked the polls since 2000.

ings before each election. There are other ongoing general trainings for election workers. Changing rules and laws make a refresher course necessary.

On the day before the elections, Gicker goes to the polling place ahead of time to set up the room. The day of elections, she arrives at 5 a.m. to do the rest of the set-up, including getting the machines up and running, posting information signs on the walls, swearing the workers in and doing paperwork. The polls open up at 6 a.m., and there is always a line. Then, all day, she performs general duties: supervising and handling special needs.

If she could change one thing about the polling process, it would be encouraging more people to vote. "Percentages are so low; we rarely get over 50 percent turnout," she said. "We have a privilege to vote, yet people don't see the importance—so they simply don't show up."

See **GICKER**, Page 3

Cindy Horan Donates Kidney to Help Save Co-Worker's Life

By **MARK CARREIRO** and **ANGELA DEANE**
News aRound the Hill

In the classic movie "It's a Wonderful Life," George Bailey's guardian angel Clarence says: "Strange isn't it: How each man's life touches so many other lives. When he isn't around he leaves an awful hole, doesn't he?"

We all make a difference in the world. The way we live our lives—choosing to live selflessly or selfishly—affects the quality of life of everyone around us.

Two Round Hill residents, Cindy and Pat Horan, embody the idea of service to others.

The Horans, who moved to Round Hill about four years ago, have worked in service industries for many years; she is a flight attendant, and he is the general manager of Magnolias at The Mill in Purcellville.

Friends and neighbors know all about their generous natures. When asked for help—with a fallen tree or home-improvement job, volunteering for the board of the RHVFD, or baby-sitting in a pinch—the Horans always seem to come through.

Small opportunities to help people surround us daily, but it is choosing those rare, great, opportunities to help that really define a person's character.

Recently Cindy Horan had one of those defining moments when she learned of another flight attendant,

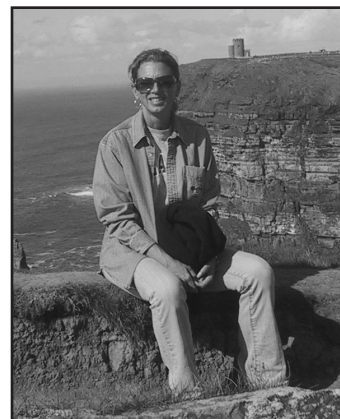


PHOTO COURTESY PAT AND CINDY HORAN

Cindy Horan donated a kidney to a co-worker.

Eric Hodgson, who needed a kidney transplant. He was in bad shape and had been on dialysis for eight years. Horan volunteered to donate one of her kidneys—despite the risk, the discomfort, the disruption of her life, and the concerns of her family and friends.

Even though she knew it wasn't going to be easy, Horan decided it was the right thing to do, and while

See **HORAN**, Page 2

Horan

Continued from Page 1

her friends were worried, they were not surprised.

"Cindy came to my aid in the most extreme selfless act I have ever witnessed," said Hodgson. "She gave me a piece of herself to keep me alive."

The process took three months. Test after test was done, most of which in New York, where the operation took place. Horan endured the poking and prodding, the traveling, and the time away from her loved ones.

Before the June operation she told friends that this was something she wanted to do in her life and that she hoped that someone would be just as good to her if she needed something.

In the end, the operation was a complete success. Hodgson is now healthy and, in September, he celebrated his 40th birthday.

For her part, Horan is back to her normal life of buying stuffed animals for her disgruntled young airline passengers, making excuses to get her hair done because her stylist is a single mom, and generally just being a good friend and neighbor.

"My mother and father used to tell me that my guardian angel was invisible," Hodgson said. "Not so. I can see her any time I want, and her name is Cindy Horan."

News aRound the Hill

A Community Newsletter for Round Hill, Virginia

News aRound the Hill is published by the Town of Round Hill.

For more information, see www.NewsARoundtheHill.org.

Editors:

Lisa Zimmer-Chu
and Kim Ramsey

Please direct comments
and story ideas to

editor@NewsARoundtheHill.org.

Volunteer Fire Department Calls 911

By **JACK FREAR and FRED MULLER**
Round Hill VFD

The Round Hill Volunteer Fire Department is dialing 911 and hopes you will answer its call.

The Round Hill VFD began providing service in 1938, 70 years ago. Traditionally career firefighters have been answering daytime calls, with volunteers handling calls at night.

Due to a decline in volunteer membership, however, the department recently was forced to

ask for temporary career staffing at night. The department needs your help to provide enough volunteers to restore nighttime service.

Staffing positions needed include drivers, EMTs and firefighters to run calls and supporting members to run the company, raise funds and recruit members.

Volunteers work with other neighbors dedicated to the community. Volunteers can give as much or as little time as their schedules and families allow.

Perhaps the biggest benefit is becoming a part of the 25 percent of Americans that perform community service to their neighbors.

Or the biggest "pay-check" may be nothing more than a simple "thank you" from someone who has been helped.

For more information, contact Erin Welch at membership@rhofd4.org or call 540-748-4740. Consider joining this important organization and giving something back to the community.

Community Garden Idea Growing

By **GINA FABER**
News aRound the Hill

Since 1991, Leesburg area residents have competed for the chance to reserve a space at the Ida Lee Community Gardens, where they can grow their choice of foods and flowers between March and October. Now, the idea of a community garden has sprouted in Round Hill.

Community organizers have presented an initial proposal to the Town Council to place 25 garden plots on a sunny, water-accessible site near Potts Barn, on the corner of East Loudoun Street and Falls Place.

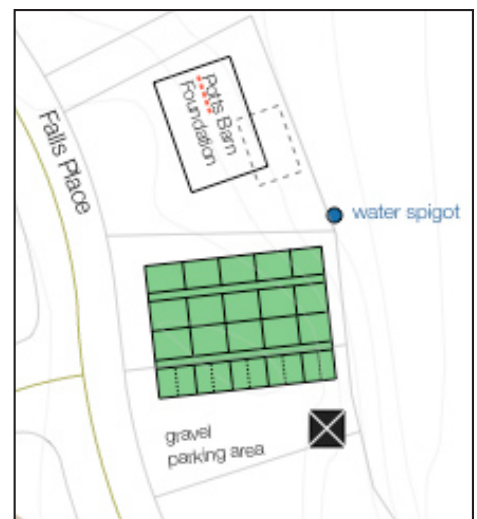
Whether your yard is too small or too shady, or your just want to share your love of gardening with others in the community, there should be something to interest everyone in this project.

Amenities and features being proposed include ornamental landscaping, a weather-sheltered bulletin board, water sources, exterior fencing, a shared garden shed, managed compost piles, a food-bank food collection program, and a wildlife

habitat surrounding the nearby wetlands.

A public interest meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 30, at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Office for area residents to ask questions and show support for the garden concept.

Volunteers are encouraged to help in the proposal process; please contact Gina Faber at RHCG@rebaf.com or 540 338-2574.



Initial community garden concept as proposed by organizers.

COUNCIL CORNER

Better Communication New Mayor's Goal

By **MARY ANNE GRAHAM**

Vice Mayor, Town of Round Hill

Improving information exchange between the Town and citizens is a top priority on John W. Heyner's list as he begins his first two-year mayoral term.

"I'd like to see better overall communication" said Heyner, "both from the Town to citizens, and from citizens to the Town."

In support of Heyner's initiative to improve communications, the Town Council has expanded the responsibilities of the administration committee to include communications.

"While we can't make the public consume information we put out there," Heyner said, "as a town we need to do a better job of making the most requested and important information readily available."

To that end, the Mayor and the Town Council are focusing on improving the Town website, www.roundhillva.org, which has not changed significantly since its inception.

Because the website is for the public benefit, the Council is seeking citizen input on how to make it more user-friendly.

"We need to get more input from the community to find out what information they want to see and what the best ways are for us to communicate with them," said Heyner.

Suggestions should be submitted to Town Administrator John Barkley at jbarkley@roundhillva.org or the Town Office.

Another initiative to improve communication is for Town Council members to regularly attend meetings of citizen groups and homeowner associations. Organizations that would like a Council member to attend their meetings should contact Barkley at 338-7878.

In addition to improving communication, Heyner's goals for the Town include: bringing planned projects to completion; better, more uniform ordinance enforcement; encouraging changes to zoning regulations that will guide responsible economic development; and continuing support for projects and events that foster community.

Heyner has lived in Round Hill with his wife, Robin, since 1998. He served on the Planning Commission from 1998-2000 and on the Town Council from 2000-2004 and 2006-2008. He was also Round Hill's representative to Main Street Loudoun.



The Town Council is seeking input on how to improve the Town's website.

Gicker

Continued from Page 1

Despite her frustration on turnout, Gicker works the polls each year because she feels "it is my civic duty, my part in the process."

She also wants to be an example to her children—to encourage them to be involved in their community. For their 18th birthday, she takes her kids down to register to vote. She feels it helps them understand the

importance of it and helps them know it is part of who they are.

And on a lighter note, Gicker also enjoys seeing all of her neighbors at the polls, meeting new people, and putting new names with faces.

Loudoun County still needs more than 1,000 workers countywide for this November's elections. Training is provided in

October, and the pay is \$100 a day with an option to work a half day. To get involved, call the Electoral Board.

This November, Gicker advises, "Get out to vote, take it seriously, respect the process and be patient with the procedures. Have your driver's license available and be sure you go the right polling location!"

Be sure to say "Hello."

Opportunities for Community Involvement

The Round Hill Arts Center: Volunteers for jam sessions, gallery sales, and refreshment tables Nov. 15, 22 and Dec. 6. Call RHAC 540-338-5050, or contact Beth Doherty at bethm-doherty@gmail.com.

Chorus of the Old Dominion: Singers at all levels for holiday concerts at various locations. Rehearsals start Oct 9; then alternate Wednesdays and Thursdays in Leesburg. Lots of instruction and encouragement. Contact info@odchorus.org or 540-338-1201.

Town Council: Citizen participants on all committees: Utility Operations and Public Facilities; Land Use; and Administration/Communications. Monthly meetings, as per the calendar on the Town website (www.roundhillva.org). Contact the Town office at 540-338-7878.

Hometown Festival Committee: Contact Noreen Payne at noreenspayne@yahoo.com.

The Round Hill Volunteer Fire Department: See related story, Page 2. Contact Erin Welch at membership@rhvfd4.org or call 540-748-4740.

The Round Hill Junior Women's Group: Volunteers needed for wide variety of local projects. Email roundhillwomen@hotmail.com for more information.