

# ROUND HILL QUARTERLY

July 2004

## ROUND HILL'S STREETScape MASTER PLAN

After nearly 10 months of committee meetings, public input sessions and debate, the Town of Round Hill has a plan. The Streetscape Master Plan, that is, which was approved 6-0 at the July 1 Town Council meeting. The Streetscape plan, which was crafted by a citizen steering committee that met regularly from October 2003 to January 2004, provides a blueprint for future improvements to Round Hill's primary streets, sidewalks and trails.

"The plan creates a pattern for proactive improvements throughout Town," said Vlad Gavrilovic of Paradigm Design, who facilitated the steering committee's discussions and helped draft the final plan. "Round Hill has decided as a community on a comprehensive plan for improvements rather than allowing improvements to be designed piecemeal as development occurs or problems arise."

While some of the plan's recommendations will not be implemented for years to come, work on all of the "top-five priorities" is already in progress.

A stormwater management study is currently underway, and Town gateway signs have been designed and will be erected as soon as their final locations are determined.

At the western and northern edges of Town – two of Round Hill's four gateways – the Town is working with developers to incorporate Streetscape plan elements such as sidewalks, trails and traffic calming into development plans.

Perhaps the most ambitious of the top-five priorities is the construction of a multi-purpose trail from the Round Hill Town Park to Franklin Park. The trail will utilize an existing underpass beneath Route 7 to provide access from the Town to Sleeter Lake and the new developments being built on the southeast side of Route 7 before heading farther east to Franklin Park.

"The County is working on securing easements for its portion of the trail and is proceeding with design work," said Gavrilovic. "There's no prediction yet on when construction will begin, but it should be starting soon."

In-Town elements of the trail include new sidewalks with curbs and gutters on both sides of East Loudoun Street from Main Street to Evening Star Drive, crosswalk at key intersections, and, if the budget allows, decorative new streetlights. Loudoun County is funding construction of the trail through a federal TEA-21 grant. Consequently, the town is not obligated for any portion of the associated costs.

Copies of the Streetscape Master Plan are available at the Town Office and through the Town website at [www.roundhillva.org](http://www.roundhillva.org). Information on both the Streetscape Master Plan and the Franklin Park trail can also be found in the Trails and Roads section of [www.roundhillrecord.org](http://www.roundhillrecord.org).

## FATE OF POTTS BARN

The Town of Round Hill will soon be receiving the barn, located on the south side of East Loudoun Street, from Oak Hill Properties at no cost to the Town. The barn is located at the eastern gateway to the town and is one of the first features seen when entering the town. Over the years, it has been exposed to the elements and has suffered gradual deterioration, particularly this past year. Because of public safety concerns, the Town Council must decide soon what the barn's fate will be. The Potts Farm Barn will be an agenda item at the Town Council meeting on August 5, 2004.

# ROUND HILL ON THE RECORD

The Round Hill community has a new source of information on issues facing the town and its environs: a citizen website called "Round Hill on the Record."

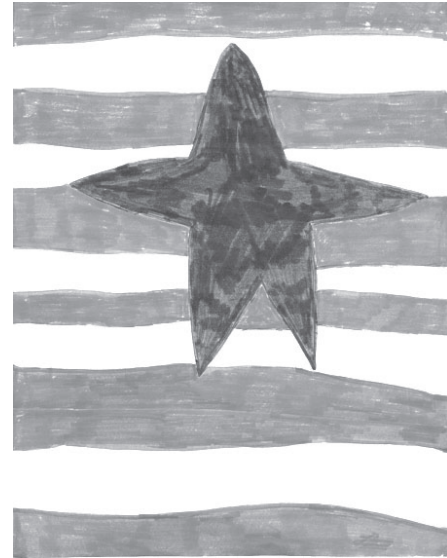
The site, [www.roundhillrecord.org](http://www.roundhillrecord.org), is issue-based and provides details on residential and commercial development, schools, parks, trails, and more. It is completely citizen funded and maintained and is not affiliated with the Town's official website, [www.roundhillva.org](http://www.roundhillva.org).

Round Hill resident Kim Ramsey said the idea for the web site came to her as she was trying to educate herself on the issues surrounding Richmond American Homes' rezoning application for Woodgrove Village. "So many of the documents involved in the rezoning were either not available online or were very difficult to find," said Ramsey. "Once I found them, I decided I would make them available in one place for others to be able to access easily."

The site has grown from there to include other issues the community is facing, such as the Streetscape Master Plan, the Town's boundary line adjustment, the

Stormwater Management Plan, and revisions to the Town's comprehensive plan.

"Round Hill is facing so many choices and changes right now," Ramsey said. "I'm trying to help area residents stay on top of what is happening and learn the facts surrounding the issues so that we can all make educated decisions about our town's future."



Winning Hometown Festival Design  
Seraphine Terryberry

## NEW WATER RATES

Over the past fiscal year, the Town of Round Hill hired an independent consultant to perform a detailed water rate study examining operating costs and taking into account planned capital improvement projects that the town will be facing over the next five years. As a result of this study, the Town will be raising water and sewer rates to all of its utility customers. The following water and sewer rates will be reflected in your next water bill that will be mailed in early September.

### Sewer Fees

#### In Town

Previous	\$ .007/gallon (up to 5000 gallons)
NEW Rate	\$ .00730/gallon (all usage)

#### Out of Town

Previous	\$ .0105/gallon (up to 5000 gallons)
NEW Rate	\$ .01095/gallon (all usage)

### Water Fees

#### In Town

Previous	\$ .004/gallon (up to 19,000 gallons)
NEW Rate	\$ .00582/gallon (all usage)

#### Out of Town

Previous	\$ .006/gallon (up to 19,000 gallons)
NEW Rate	\$ .00873/gallon (all usage)

Please note that the tiered billing system for both water and sewer has been eliminated. A copy of the Water Rate Study is available at the Town Office for your review if you are interested. The Town is also planning to complete a more detailed Capital Improvement Project Plan during this fiscal year. As always, the process is open to the public and your input is welcome. Please feel free to get involved!

## RECOGNITION FOR FORMER SUPERVISOR TOWE

In February, the Round Hill Town Council presented former Blue Ridge Supervisor Eleanore Towe with a framed letter signed by the mayor and members of the Town Council recognizing her continuing support for the town and its efforts during her eight-year tenure. Mrs. Towe was a true friend of the town and supported the Town's efforts in creating a trail system around the town, future expansion of the wastewater treatment plant, and responsible growth in the town's urban growth area.

## PLANNING COMMISSION IN 2004

2004 is a year in which we experience a lot of change. The reins changed hands from Steve Monaghan (2003 Chairman) to Edgar Ellis (2003 Vice Chairman). Steve decided it was time to step away for a break to spend some more time with his young children. He was with the commission 4+ years and 3 of which he was chairman. His experience will surely be missed. Edgar Ellis was elected to the Chairman's position and Scott Nash, a member since 2002, was elected Vice Chairman.

The commission started 2004 with one vacancy. This vacancy was from Jen Owesny's departure late in 2003 because of her relocation. We also knew we were going to have another vacancy as Steve indicated when stepping down as chairman he only planned on staying on until a replacement was found. Well, it took a long time for anyone to express interest but once one did the second followed closely. So, first we have Lisa Cammarota who was appointed in May. Lisa has already been very active in town related activities. In July, Carter Morrow was appointed. He brings experience in building and development. We're sure both will prove to be assets to the planning commission.

## NOW SHOWING IN THE TOWN PARK

After two years of planning and production, Round Hill's first community painted mural is now on display in the Loudoun Street Park. Thanks to the efforts of volunteers, the Town of Round Hill, the Round Hill Arts Center and the Art Department at the Round Hill Elementary School, the eighty-foot mural is nearing completion along the park's west fence.

Designs were selected from entries in from April's 2003 design contest for 3rd to 5th graders, which was organized by the Round Hill Arts Center in cooperation with the Round Hill Elementary School. Every one that attended the First Hometown Festival was invited to grab a brush and help the artist paint the mural. Since that time the Arts Center has been working with the ten winning contestants to complete the panels. So come on down and check out the new colorful addition to the Park.

## FLOODPLAIN INSURANCE

The Town Council recently adopted a Floodplain Ordinance that meets FEMA requirements for town citizens to be able to apply for and receive floodplain insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program. The Town Council recognized that there is the possibility of flooding from the minor tributaries that flow through town into Sleeter Lake and the north fork of Goose Creek. However, citizens were unable to apply for insurance coverage for their homes and property through programs created by the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 with the lack of an in-town insurance program and accompanying legislation. By adopting a Floodplain Ordinance and subsequently passing a resolution stating that the Town Council will comply with regulations of the National Flood Insurance Program, town citizens can now apply for insurance.

## VOLUNTARY WATER CONSERVATION

The Town is asking that all water customers conserve their use of water this Summer and Fall. The Town currently has around 800 connections, with more coming on all the time (Over 350 just in the new Oak Hill developments currently under construction).

New infrastructure is expected to be built beginning this Fall to increase the water supply. Please do your part to use this limited resource responsibly.



## **PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT IN ROUND HILL AREA**

In March of this year, an opportunity was given to the general public to provide comment to the Town in regard to an active County rezoning application. Your concerns such as affordable housing, housing suitable for senior living, permanent open space easements with in the immediate Town Area, mixture of housing types and lot sizes consistent with the character and fabric of the existing Town, environmental issues, traffic calming, community facilities and structures, public utilities and the impact of the development to the increased demand on public facilities were the focus of a design workshop held by the Developer, members of County staff and Town representatives.

During this workshop creative ways were discussed and explored in an effort to find solutions to your concerns, comments and the stated goals of cooperation, marketability, design sensitivity and a sense of community.

As a result, a new plan has been submitted to the County by Richmond American Homes documenting what is perceived as a successful conclusion of that design workshop.

With a plan in hand and the beginning of proffer statements, the design workshop team is prepared to present the results and seek additional input from the general public, prior to the Town Planning Commission and Town Council final review and response back to the County.

Your attendance and participation is requested at the next "Woodgrove Development" public input session scheduled for Wednesday July 28th starting at 7:00 at the Round Hill Center (old elementary school).

### **WEDNESDAY, JULY 28th, 7:00 PM**

#### **Advertising**

If you are interested in advertising in the Round Hill Quarterly, please send an email to Meg Nash, [mnash@roundhillva.org](mailto:mnash@roundhillva.org) or leave a message at the Town Office, (540) 338-7878. As we approach the next publication, you will be contacted with details.

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**Thursday, July 22, 7:30 pm**  
Community Center and Public Pool Proffers  
Round Hill Center

**Wednesday, July 28, 7:00 pm**  
Richmond American Homes Public Information  
Round Hill Center

**Thursday, July 29, 7:00 pm**  
Stormwater Management  
Draft Plan Public Input Session  
Town Office

**Thursday, August 5, 8:00 pm**  
Potts Barn, Item on Town Council Agenda  
Town Office

#### **Newsletter Input**

If there are topics that you would like to see discussed or if you have content you wish to contribute, please contact Meg Nash, [mnash@roundhillva.org](mailto:mnash@roundhillva.org) or leave a message at the Town Office, (540) 338-7878. We appreciate any content being provided electronically.

## WHAT A RACE!

Jennifer Moore - RH Baptist Church

During the week of July 12th, over 100 children gathered together to join in a special race – the Rickshaw Rally: Racing to the Son Vacation Bible School! Each day the kids learned how special Jesus is and how important it is to have Him in their lives. They had loads of fun singing songs, playing games, making crafts, listening to Bible stories learning about missions and memorizing verses as well as discovering new facts about Japan and its culture and making new friends!

We learned about a wonderful mission in our own area, the Loudoun Chapter of Habitat for Humanity. They have several projects coming up close by and we wanted to help. This year the VBS offering went to Habitat for Humanity and we collected over \$200. We also collected two bassinets full of diapers, wipes and other baby items to be given to the Life Line Pregnancy Center in Leesburg. I'd like to thank everyone for their generous giving.

Some special "thank-yous" are in order for those in our community. To the Town of Round Hill for the use of the park for our Summer Celebration; to the Round Hill Volunteer Fire Department for the use of the Fire Hall for some extra classroom space; to Matt & Brad Bennett for the tent we used for our VBS Craft Tenji area; and to Nalls Farm Market for the bridge that was a big hit with the kids!

It took so many people to make this year's VBS successful – I wish I had room to thank them all. We're already looking forward to next year. Mark your calendars for July 11 – 15 and check our website ([www.roundhillbaptist.org](http://www.roundhillbaptist.org)) this August for the 2005 theme. Enjoy the rest of your summer!

## ROUND HILL HAS A GALLERY FOR LOCAL ARTISTS!

Hope Hanes

If you've been by the Round Hill Arts Center this summer, you know that a lot has been happening here. We held our first juried art show and sale in June, with work from twenty-eight local artists. The show generated so much interest in the art community that we are now regularly showing work in our gallery. In addition to offering work for sale, we offer interpretive gallery talks, and our studio instructors utilize the artwork to guide class discussions. Work currently on display includes watercolor paintings, photographs, and pottery, and the gallery is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10a.m.-5p.m. So stop by and take a look; whenever you see the big "Art Gallery Open" sign, we're here!

Adults and kids can also take advantage of Round Hill Arts Center's many classes. Working here at the Old Furniture Factory, students are enjoying the newly renovated upstairs classroom with its high ceilings and great light! During August, watercolorist Catherine Hillis is teaching two workshops: Flower Power on August 7th, and Watercolor Miniatures on August 14th. Children ages six and up will enjoy the Kids Print mini-camp August 2nd, 4th and 6th, where they will create monoprints and collographs using a real printing press. Finally, our popular preschooler art classes are held every Tuesday and Thursday morning through August 19th. Watch our website in early August for the fall class schedule! Registration for all programs may be done by phone by calling (540) 338-5050.

Don't miss the next Bluegrass & Folk Jam Session at Round Hill Arts Center Friday, July 30th. Doors open at 6:30pm, admission is free, donations are requested in support of the non-profit arts center. Barbecue dinner and drinks for sale. Come play or just listen to some of the best homemade music around. Musicians of all ages and skill levels welcome, so bring the whole family!

## MAIN STREET ACTIVE IN ROUND HILL

As residential development in the greater Round Hill area continues at a rapid pace it is a certainty that business interests will soon be looking to benefit from the needs of the increased population. Not much can be done about the "when", but the Round Hill community must be proactive in taking steps to influence the "what", "where", and "how" this influx of business occurs.

The Main Street Loudoun program is here to help! Round Hill is entering its 2nd full year as a member of Main Street Loudoun and the Round Hill area is seeing some of the program benefits.

- On May 20th a group of industry professionals known as the "Loudoun Design Cabinet" ([www.loudoun.gov/business/designcabinet.htm](http://www.loudoun.gov/business/designcabinet.htm)) came to Round Hill in coordination with Main Street Loudoun and engaged in a visioning exercise to help Round Hill develop a strategy and concept plan for accommodating commercial uses in and around the Town.

- Over the next month Round Hill will have the services of Arnett Muldrow & Associates ([www.arnettmuldrow.com](http://www.arnettmuldrow.com)), a consulting firm hired by Main Street Loudoun to assist all 7 incorporated towns in Western Loudoun with the completion of Community Assessments. Community Assessments are a requirement of the Main Street program and a foundation from which to implement a successful economic development and revitalization effort.

- During the upcoming year Main Street Loudoun will be leading a countywide "Wayfinding Project". Wayfinding is a professionally researched and designed network of coordinated signs that easily direct people to and from important locations within the County, particularly those that relate to business and tourism.

You can find out more about Main Street Loudoun at [www.mainstreetloudoun.org](http://www.mainstreetloudoun.org). For more information, or if you would like to be a Main Street Loudoun or local Round Hill Main Street organization volunteer, please contact John Heyner at [heyner@erols.com](mailto:heyner@erols.com) or 540-338-1371.

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