The Town Council will be working on several land use and planning initiatives over the winter, including the following:

- Utility and general fund Capital Improvement Plans (CIP) being considered by the PC. The Town is creating short- and long-range plans for maintaining and improving municipal water and sewer facilities, as well as considering storm water, trail and sidewalk projects.
- Proposed rezoning for a 30-acre property in the eastern business district, as well as considering storm water, trail and sidewalk projects.
- The Creation of Round Hill's citizen-developed Streetscape Plan is also anticipated to be completed by winter 2007.

The planning process is underway. Installation of sidewalks to connect the Round Hill Center as a community center and development of an indoor pool facility at Woodgrove Park are ongoing. The design committee hopes a new park on the east side of Sleeter Lake will open for passive use next summer.

The Town Council recently established dawn to dusk operating hours for the Town Park on Loudoun Street. The committee consists of citizens that reside in and outside of town limits and is facilitated by the Villages HOA manager and the Town Council. Meetings are held sporadically on Friday evenings in the Town Office. If you would like to participate, refer to the Town web site (www.RoundHillVA.org) for announcements.

Committee Plans Sleeter Lake Park

The Town of Round Hill, Oak Hill Properties and the Villages at Round Hill Homeowners Association (HOA) have teamed up to open the Round Hill Area Park at Sleeter Lake for limited use during the summer of 2007.

The seeds were sown for this project during the recon- ciliation of what is now “The Villages.” Round Hill was proffered approximately 11 undeveloped acres on the east side of Sleeter Lake for public use. In an effort to strengthen the community, it was determined that this property would be open to the public within the Round Hill postal area for passive use.

Because funding is limited, development of the park will evolve gradually with a great deal of community involve- ment. A joint committee drafted plans for the proposed project and has begun to develop the details for management and regulations as well as siting criteria, picnic areas, a fishing pier and a launching area for canoes, kayaks and non-gasoline powered boats. An amphitheater is also envisioned at the park in the future.

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Round Hill Baptist Church Celebrates Centennial, Prepares to Open Preschool

By IVAN CLARK and TODD SHAW
Members, Round Hill Baptist Church

On Sunday October 7, 1906, Rev. F. H. James preached the first worship service held in the then-new Round Hill Baptist Church. The church operated as a branch of Ketoco Church until 1911, when 41 persons presented letters of dismissal to the office and united together to form the organi- zation of the Round Hill Baptist Church. By 1974, it was known as one of the fastest growing churches in the state.

On Oct. 7-8, 2006, the congrega- tion celebrated the past 100 years. Four of 20 former pastors came and shared history and partici- pated in a round table discus- sion. The events concluded in the fire hall, with a catered luncheon serving some 180 members and guests. The stage is set for begin- ning the next 25 years, and on to the bicentennial!

To kick-off the new century, Jan. 3, 2007, will mark the opening of the church’s community outreach preschool for children aged 3 to 5. Morning and after- noon sessions will be held each day, with a class size of 20 students. Registration was held in October, but space is still available. Contact the church at 540-338-6306 for more information.

Planning Commission Volunteers Define and Maintain “Vision” of Round Hill

By CRAIG FREDERICKS
Chairman, Round Hill Planning Commission

Over the years our community has ben- efited from the efforts of dedicated citi- zens serving in both official and unofficial capacities. These volunteers’ countless hours and efforts have produced a vision for the town that is defined in documents such as the Town’s Comprehensive Plan, the Streetscape Master Plan and the Storm- water Master Plan.

The Zoning Ordinance (ZO) and related Zoning Map and the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SLDO) define how that vision is to be pursued and maintained by defining the policies and processes by which landowners request approval for improvements to their prop- erty.

If you’re a business with improvement plans, an avid do-it-yourselfer or have plans to contract out home/site improve- ment, be sure your project conforms to the town requirements by contacting the town staff at Ford’s Store before you start work. One group of volunteers tasked with maintaining and updating these docu- ments is the Planning Commission (PC).

The PC has final approval authority for subdivision/vacation preliminary and final plats as well as land development preliminary and final plans (yes, there is a difference between a plat and a plan). The PC may also grant waivers to SLDO provi- sions.

In a town as small as Round Hill, there is always a need for volunteers. While state code requires that half of all FC members own land within the corporate limits of Town and all reside within the corporate limits, the only requirement to join a Planning Commission committee is interest in the town.

We hope to see you at one of our regul- arly scheduled meetings. These are held the second Tuesday of every month, at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Office. Public com- ment is always welcome at one of the first agenda items and the last agenda item.

Council Corner

Business District Regulations Revised

By CARTER MORROW
Member, Round Hill Town Council

The Town Council recently approved new commercial district zoning ordinances to bring busi- ness into compliance, making it easier to improve buildings or expand operations.

The new rules are the result of a process ini- tiated almost two years ago to change the B-1 Business District regula- tions so they would better reflect existing commer- cial uses and the develop- ment pattern of the Central District.

Together with a Planning Commission (PC) initia- tive to revise the sign and other related ordinances, these new changes should help businesses meet the growing need for services in the greater Round Hill area.

The central commercial district begins at the Town Office and includes businesses on Main and Loudoun Streets.

Calling All Musicians: Step Right Up!

By FRANK ETRO
Mayor, Town of Round Hill

Year after year, I am reminded that the Round Hill Hometown Festi- val parade needs music in the form of a marching band. Year after year, the Town has tried to get commitments from bands, to no avail. It seems the only way to have a marching band is to form our own. I’m asking ANYONE with ANY musical ability (some have even sugg- ested kazooos) at ANY level of experience, of ANY age, to please step up and join in the fun.

 Held each Memorial Day weekend, the Hometown Festival is truly a “community event,” and the parade is a great way for you to partici- pate. This coming year’s festival will be on Saturday, May 26, 2007.

If you are interested, please e-mail me (mayor@roundhillva.org) or event coordinator Noreen Payne (info@roundhillva.org) or leave a phone message at the Town Office at 338-7878.

I know the talent is out there. Let’s get together in April and make this happen!

Round Hill Baptist Church plans to open a preschool in January,