

So Informed

from The Town of South Hill

Edition: Winter 2026

Celebrating South Hill's 125th with a Message from Mayor Moody

This year marks a truly special moment in our shared story. As our nation commemorates its 250th anniversary, the Town of South Hill proudly celebrates 125 years of community, progress, and hometown pride. These milestones invite us to pause, reflect, and give thanks for the generations who have shaped the place we are so fortunate to call home.

For 125 years, South Hill has been built not just with bricks and mortar, but with determination, faith, and neighborly spirit. From our earliest days as a small but hopeful community to the vibrant town we are today, it has always been our people who made the difference. Families who put down roots here. Business owners who invested in our local economy. Farmers, teachers, public servants, entrepreneurs, and volunteers who believed in South Hill's promise and worked tirelessly to help it grow.

Our history is rich with stories of resilience and progress. We have weathered challenges, embraced opportunity, and steadily fostered economic growth that strengthens our community and supports our local businesses. Each generation has added a new chapter—building on the foundation laid by those who came before, while preparing the way for those yet to come.

Our 125th anniversary theme, "Honoring the Past, Celebrating the Future," reflects the heart of who we are. We honor the vision and hard work of our founders and longtime residents whose commitment shaped our town's character. And we celebrate the bright future ahead—one filled with continued growth, innovation, and the same strong sense of community that has always defined South Hill.

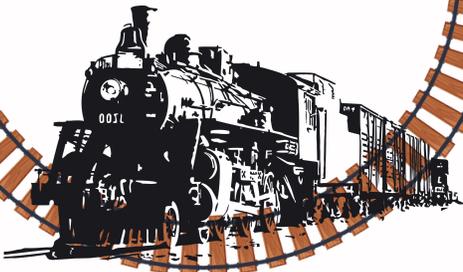
As we look forward, may we carry with us the lessons of our history: the importance of caring for one another, supporting local enterprise, preserving our heritage, and welcoming new opportunities. Together, we will continue building a South Hill that future generations will be proud to call home.

In recognition of our town's founding, I am pleased to share that at the February 9 Regular Town Council Meeting, the Town Council approved a Proclamation declaring February 16, 2026 as Founders' Day in the Town of South Hill. I encourage all residents to join us in reflecting on our history and celebrating the remarkable community we share. Thank you for being part of South Hill's story.

Mayor Moody

South Hill Fun Fact

The Town of South Hill began around the Atlantic & Danville Railroad, laid out in a 1¼-mile circle around the depot in 1889 — a unique design that helped South Hill grow as a shipping center for tobacco and lumber.



South Hill's 2nd Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt & Movie Night

March 28, 2026
Centennial Park in South Hill
5 p.m. - until
Egg Hunt begins at 6 p.m.
South Hill Revitalization Committee
presents
Wicked: For Good at dark.

Free, family-friendly event!

Interested food truck vendors must be registered to pay Meals Tax in the Town of South Hill and be in good standing with the health department.

For more information, email southhill@southhillva.org.

Upcoming South Hill Town Council Meetings

- March 9, 2026: Regular Meeting (7 p.m.)
- March 11, 2026: Budget Work Session (3 p.m.)
- March 16, 2026: Budget Work Session (3 p.m.)
- March 17, 2026: Budget Work Session (3 p.m.)
- April 13, 2026: Regular Meeting (7 p.m.)

Community Events

- March 13: Women in Business Luncheon (South Hill Chamber of Commerce)
- March 21, 22, 28 & 29: Rodger's & Hammerstein's *Cinderella* (Colonial Center for the Performing Arts)
- March 28: South Hill's 2nd Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt and Movie Night (Centennial Park)
- April 11: Harold Melvin's Blue Notes (Colonial Center for the Performing Arts)
- April 18: *Second to Last Ladies' League* (Colonial Center for the Performing Arts)
- May 1: First Friday Food Truck Rodeo (South Hill Market Square)
- June 5: First Friday Food Truck Rodeo (South Hill Market Square)
- July 2: Sparks in the Park (Parker Park)
- August 7: First Friday Food Truck Rodeo (South Hill Market Square)
- September 11: End of Summer Bash + Movie Night (Centennial Park)
- October 17: Autumn Jubilee (Centennial Park)
- December 4 & 5: Hometown Christmas (Centennial Park)



Meet Chief of Police Ryan Durham

The Town of South Hill is proud to introduce Chief of Police Ryan Durham, a dedicated public servant whose leadership reflects both professional excellence and a deep commitment to our community.

A 2004 graduate of Brunswick Academy, Chief Durham earned his Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Longwood University in 2008. He joined the South Hill Police Department in 2009, beginning a career marked by steady growth, integrity, and service. Over the years, he has remained committed not only to professional excellence, but also to the town he and his family proudly call home.



Chief Durham is married and the proud father of three children. His strong sense of family and community values guide both his personal life and his approach to leadership.

Throughout his career with SHPD, Chief Durham has demonstrated a dedication to continued learning and advancement. He was promoted to Detective in 2017 and became the first officer from SHPD to graduate from the Virginia Forensic Science Academy. In 2021, he was promoted to Lieutenant, serving in both the Investigations and Operations Divisions, and completed the Professional Executive Leadership School (PELS).

In 2025, he was promoted to Deputy Chief and further strengthened his leadership training by graduating from Liberty University's Command College and the FBI National Academy. Later that year, he was named Acting/Interim Chief, and in January 2026, he was officially appointed Chief of Police for the Town of South Hill.

Chief Durham's career reflects a steadfast commitment to service, professional development, and the safety of our residents. We are grateful for his leadership and proud to have him serving the Town of South Hill.

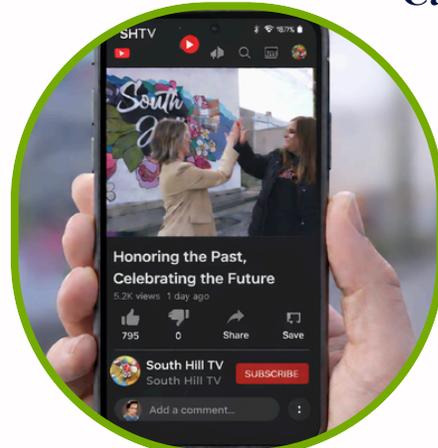
Honoring the Past, Celebrating the Future: South Hill's Video & Social Media Campaign

In 2026, the Town of South Hill proudly celebrates 125 years of community, history, and hometown spirit. To help share the excitement, we are partnering with the South Hill Revitalization Committee to launch a special yearlong video campaign.

Each month, we'll release a new video highlighting different facets of our town — from the people who make South Hill special, to our rich history, to fun and quirky facts you may not know, and so much more.

We invite you to follow us on Facebook and subscribe on YouTube so you don't miss a single episode. Join us as we honor the past and celebrate the future of South Hill together!

@southhillva



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