

Council Notes 01/02/2008

For questions or additional information, contact the Town Hall at 886-2177 or council members at *signalmountaintn.gov*.

- Other problems have surfaced at the Town Pool. There is erosion at the rear of the pool; the interior of the pool needs sandblasting and re-plastering; and, there is sand failure in the backwash system. The sand has not been replaced in 13 years. Its life expectancy was 6 years.
- The Town is looking into grants to help defray costs of significant repairs to pool infrastructure. Meanwhile, the community is encouraged to join Dan Sawyer (*sawyer001@comcast.net*) to create an action committee, “Friends of the Pool”, to address a minor repairs and a face-lift.
- The Fire Department has lost the use of a utility vehicle and the Water Department the use of its backhoe. Because of age and condition, repair costs exceed worth. The Town has completed an emergency purchase of \$64,805 for a backhoe. Replacement of the utility vehicle will be addressed in January.
- Lynn Wampler has suggested a solution to a long-term problem—the leaking roof at the maintenance shop. Since the Town can’t afford a new building, he suggests purchasing a metal shell to place over the existing shell. When the Town can afford to build a new building, the shell can be relocated and used for storage.
- There are still several openings on Town committees and boards (the Condemnation Board needs a volunteer realtor). If interested, please contact the Town Manager.
- The Personnel Committee will meet Jan. 8th, the 2nd Tuesday rather than the first. They will review the updated and new job descriptions as well as the final draft of the Town’s new Personnel Policy Manual.
- A final review of the Land Use Plan document will take place at the next regular Planning Commission meeting, which has been rescheduled for Thursday, Jan 10th.

Council Notes 01-09-2008

For questions or additional information, contact the Town Hall at 886-2177 or council members at *signalmountaintn.gov*.

- The town wants to extend its appreciation to Water and Public Works Department employees who responded on New Year's Eve to remove gravel from Short Creek. Using shovels and buckets, they loaded over 6 tons of gravel, which had washed into the creek as result of heavy rains. Special appreciation goes to volunteers Chuck Gearhiser, Jarred Thompson, and Cliff Fite who in the spirit of teamwork joined in the back-breaking work and spent day helping out.
- The new backhoe the town was recently forced to acquire in an emergency purchase proved invaluable for transferring the gravel into a dump truck to be hauled away.
- The Library is happy to accept memorial donations and honoraria. Such donations will be used to purchase books in which the honoree will be recognized and letters of acknowledgement will be sent to the honorees or their families.
- The final review of the Land Use Plan document will take place at the next regular meeting of the Planning Commission, which has been rescheduled for Thursday, Jan 10th, 7:00 p.m., at the Town Hall.
- The town is grateful to have received nine applications for the three openings on the Planning Commission. According to the Mayor, winnowing the nine down to three will be a difficult process.
- A special meeting will be held January 25th at 4:30 at the Town Hall with representatives of TVA's Economic Development Board to discuss the pros and cons of increasing small business development in the town.
- Telephone numbers for town fire and police departments are still incorrect in local telephone books. Also, the fire department numbers now differ from those reported earlier. Until new books are available, please make corrections.

Council Notes 01-16-2008

For questions or additional information, contact the Town Hall at 886-2177 or council members at *signalmountaintn.gov*.

- At its regular meeting, the Planning Commission asked the Town Attorney to draft a resolution approving the final draft of the Land Use Plan. The Plan requires a mandatory review in six months to ensure any changes in Subdivision Regulations and Zoning Ordinances are reflected in the Plan.
- The Planning Commission will vote on a formal resolution to accept the LUP at 7:00 p.m. on Wed., Jan. 16th, at the Town Hall.
- The Town is investigating the efficacy of entering into a contract with a water tank management company. At a set cost, such a contract would provide regular maintenance and repair of Town water tanks to ensure that the Town complies with State regulations and to prevent costly, unanticipated repairs and disruptions of service.
- The Town has received 15 applications for the position of Town Manager. Interviews will begin this month.
- Non-resident fees for the use of the Town Transfer Station is currently \$59 a year, which is less than the cost for non-residents to employ private collection services. After study and consideration of costs to town residents, the Town has raised non-resident fee for use of the Transfer Station to \$125 a year.
- Review and adjustment of other non-resident fees are underway. Ultimately, however, the Town hopes to develop a plan for all mountaintop residents to equitably use Town facilities through a cost-sharing approach.
- The special meeting with representatives from TVA's Economic Development Board to discuss small business development in the town has been rescheduled to Mon., Jan. 28th at 4:30.
- Negotiations are still underway with the Hamilton County Unified 911 Authority for fair and equitable cost for services. Meanwhile, please help save the Town money and improve our negotiating position by noting the correct numbers for Fire and Police the CN's little blue box. Call Dispatch to request officer assistance or report an incident. 911 is for emergencies only.

Council Notes 01-23-2008

For questions or additional information, contact the Town Hall at 886-2177 or council members at *signalmountaintn.gov*.

- At a special meeting on Wed., Jan. 16th, the Planning Commission accepted the Land Use Plan unanimously on the condition that a mandatory review be held in six months.
- John Trimpey, Van Bunch and Wayne Williams have been appointed to the Planning Commission. Dan Saieed, Dick Dillender and Hale Hamilton, whose service to the Town totals 60 years, have retired.
- Sixty pieces of Town equipment—police cars and radios, utility trucks, pickup trucks, dump trucks, the lawn tractor, the leaf vacuum, etc.—are in need of immediate replacement at an estimated cost of \$1,737,756. The Town is looking for grant money to help. Meanwhile, the Town Manager is instituting a Capital Projects Fund that, in time, will address such major expenses without diminishing the General Fund--the Town's operating fund and saving's account--which is currently at an all-time low.
- Necessary repairs to the Town pool—scraping, re-plastering, sealing the pool and wading pool surfaces; new guttering; and repair of the filtration system—are estimated to cost \$111,000. It is hoped the Town can patch the pool for the upcoming season. In March the Town will apply for a grant to help fund the repairs in 2009. Meanwhile, Friends of the Pool welcomes any volunteers or donations. Contact Jarred Thompson, Recreation Director, at 886-3381.
- Donations are being accepted for the “Stan Crewe Christmas Train Maintenance Fund.” Send checks made out to the fund to Alison Phillips at 3019 Hobblebush Lane, Signal Mtn., TN, 37377 or drop them off at the Town Hall.
- The Library would appreciate all book donations, with the exceptions of encyclopedias, textbooks and dated reference books.
- CPA Mark Johnson from Whitwell, TN, has agreed to join the Town as its Recorder and Finance Director effective Jan. 28th.

Council Notes 02-06-2008

For questions or additional information, contact the Town Hall at 886-2177 or council members at *signalmountaintn.gov*.

- The Town has operated its recreation programs and facilities at a deficit for many years. Maintenance costs have become expensive—mowing, mulching, and cleaning; replacing bleachers, dugouts, and fencing; \$200,000 (\$100,000 if we can get a grant) is necessary for pool repairs; the Gym roof leaks and the siding is buckled. Program costs have also risen: equipment and higher salaries to attract qualified summer help. As a result the Town cannot continue to maintain its recreation facilities and programs without additional financial support from those who use them, especially non-residents.
- At its next regular meeting at 7:00 on Monday, February 11th at the Town Hall, the Council will discuss proposed cost-based resident and non-resident increases in its fees and rates as well as a \$5 maintenance fee for all team members.
- There were three fires in the Town during the week of Jan. 20-27th. The Town is grateful for the rapid response, expertise, and professionalism the Fire and Police Department personnel provided.
- The Town also learned that one of the fire hoses leaks and must be replaced. It was last replaced in 1976.
- The Town met with a TVA representative to discuss economic development in our community; in particular, attracting more retail business to serve citizens who like to shop on the mountain as well as increase revenues to the Town.
- The WWTA has presented a plan to reduce inflow and infiltration into the Town sewer system by 50% over the next five years to comply with Federal (EPA) regulations that the State (TDEC) enforces. The plan requires installation of clean-outs for inspection capability as well as replacement of some residential service lines. The WWTA is planning a public meeting to discuss details.
- Signal Mountain will celebrate Arbor Day on March 7th. Details will be announced.

Council Notes 02-13-2008

For questions or additional information, contact the Town Hall at 886-2177 or council members at *signalmountaintn.gov*.

- The Planning Commission in its regular meeting elected John Trimpey as Chairman, Wells Blake as Vice-Chairman, and re-elected Lou Oliphant as Secretary.
- Annette Allen presented Subdivision Regulations from Portland, TN, which are based on Randall Arendt's model regulations in his book Growing Greener. It is hoped that these Regulations along with Mr. Arendt's specific suggestions to update and improve the Town's existing Regulations will guide the Commission as it prepares to undertake this important review. The Commission will meet more frequently as the revision process progresses. Meetings will be public and announced in advance.
- Building Official Chuck Gearhiser informed the Commission that future mandates from the EPA under the Clean Water Act will no longer allow states to accept detention ponds as a remedy for stormwater runoff. In place of detention ponds, green infrastructure such as grassy swales, rain gardens, and constructed wetlands will be required to drain, clean and filter water back into the aquifer.
- Meanwhile, the Town is preparing a review of existing detention pond regulations to isolate ponds that may present a hazard to small children.
- The Signal Mtn. Golf & Country Club is interested in acquiring Driver Field, located behind the Club, to build a short practice course. The Town has agreed to study use patterns at the field after our new schools open and consider their proposal at a later date.
- On Arbor Day, March 7th, 5th Graders from Nolan and Thrasher, who will comprise the first class of 6th Graders at the new Middle School, will plant a grove of native trees at the new school. The Town thanks Noah Long for organizing this event and securing the sponsors to provide the trees and help with planting.

Council Notes 02-20-2008

For questions or additional information, contact the Town Hall at 886-2177 or council members at *signalmountaintn.gov*.

- The Town passed two ordinances on second reading at its regular February meeting.
- The first ordinance established a Capitol Projects Fund. Over time this fund will be used to purchase replacement or new equipment when necessary. In the past, such purchases have been funded by borrowing or spending monies from the Town's general fund, its emergency savings account.
- The second ordinance updated the state and federal mandated Occupational Safety and Health Program for Town employees.
- An ordinance to increase resident and non-resident fees based on the Town's costs passed on first reading.
- A resolution was passed empowering the Town Manager to enter into a contract with Utility Services Holding Company, Inc., for regular repair and maintenance of the Town's 5 water towers. The contract will ensure the Town complies with State regulations and will prevent costly, unanticipated repairs and disruptions of service.
- A second resolution authorized the Recreation Director to submit an application to the Local Parks and Recreation Fund for a grant of \$100,000, half of the \$200,000 necessary for pool repairs. Should the Town be awarded the grant, repairs can begin after Labor Day.
- The Town also resolved to declare the first Friday in March 2008 as Arbor Day. A celebratory tree planting will be held at the new school that morning, Mar. 7th, at 11:00 a.m.
- The Town wishes to thank the Recreation and Water Department Heads, Jarred Thompson and William Sanders, for repairing the sand filter at the pool. Their teamwork saved the Town over \$8,000.
- To reduce inflow and infiltration into sewer lines during heavy rains, which cause the treatment plant to release overflow into the Tennessee River, the WWTA asks that we remind citizens to ensure that their downspouts and P-traps are not connected to their sewer lines.

Council Notes 02-27-2008

For questions or additional information, contact the Town Hall at 886-2177 or council members at *signalmountaintn.gov*.

- In August the middle school will relocate to the new school site on Shackleford Ridge. The old junior high/middle school building and property (approximately 13.5 acres) on Ault Road will become vacant.
- The Hamilton County School Board owns the site, and they want to sell it.
- The sale of the site will affect the Town in two ways: it will bring additional funding to all Signal Mountain schools because profit from the sale will return to support them; and, it will provide an opportunity for the community to consider the site's land use.
- There are several types of land use to consider: residential, commercial, or mixed use (a combination of residential, commercial and recreational).
- During the Land Use Plan meetings, many citizens expressed a desire for the site to become a Town Center. There were suggestions that it could include some or all of the following: recreation (playground; walking track; grassy playing field; bandstand); commercial (restaurant, small retail stores; WI-FI coffee shop; mini-Green Life; medical offices); and houses, town homes, or condos.
- The Town will be inviting neighbors in the vicinity of the property to share their preferences, ideas, and thoughts on the site's potential. A meeting will be announced in the near future. Broader community meetings will follow.
- The Town has received an Economic Community Development interest-free loan of \$40,300 to update a number of our facilities with energy-efficient fixtures and systems.
- The Town is continuing to negotiate along with Red Bank and Collegedale to lower cost increases from the 911 Unification Board.
- The Town Manger and the Personnel Committee have completed personnel Handbook for Town employees to be distributed Feb. 25th.

Council Notes 03-05-2008

For questions or additional information, contact the Town Hall at 886-2177 or council members *at signalmountaintn.org*.

- On Feb. 17th the Planning Commission held a workshop meeting. Annette Allen presented a Power Point overview of why a revision of the current Subdivision Regulations is necessary to meet the goals and objectives of the new Land Use Plan.
- Chairman John Trimpey appointed three subcommittees to begin work on the first three sections of the Regulations.
- The concessionaire at the Town pool has retired. As a result, the Town is investigating options for concessions at the pool this summer. One option is to install machines. Another option is a new concessionaire. Is anyone in the community interested?
- The Norris Field ballpark on Piper's Path is no longer used for organized play. Neighborhood residents have asked the Town remove the backstop and plant grass in the infield, which will return to the park to its original purpose--a grassy common for neighborhood use.
- After much research, the Town along with Red Bank and Collegedale have discovered that setting up its own emergency dispatch system is both legally and financially prohibitive. As a result the Towns have accepted a negotiated agreement with the Hamilton County Emergency Communications District (911). The agreement discounts the rate increase originally proposed by \$20,000 for five years and allows for two representatives chosen from the three Towns to serve on the 911 District board.
- The Town has renewed its non-tort liability coverage for \$1 million, the amount other similar-sized towns in the state carry as an umbrella policy. It was felt the Town was over-insured at \$2 million. The savings to the Town this year will be \$4,000.
- Reminder: An Arbor Day Celebration at the new school, will be held Friday, Mar. 7th at 11:00.
- On March 10th at its regular meeting, new Town Manger, Honna Rogers, will be sworn in.

Council Notes 03-12-2008

For questions or additional information, contact the Town Hall at 886-2177 or council members at *signalmountaintn.gov*.

- At its regular meeting, the Planning Commission approved a recommendation by the Regional Planning Agency to allow 17.8 acres located in the town to be included in a community lot as part of the Bluff Creek Subdivision, located in the county. The 50-acre lot will be under a conservation easement and designated as a park.
- The Fire Chief pointed out that the Town's Subdivision Regulations have inconsistent fire hydrant codes—300 ft. apart in some circumstances and 500 ft. in others. 500 ft. is adequate in all circumstances throughout the Town and exceeds standards. The PC agreed to consider removing the 300 ft. requirement in the revised Subdivision Regs.
- The PC also agreed to obtain or develop a map detailing sensitive natural areas and riparian buffers as an aid to planning in future development.
- The PC will hold a workshop meeting on Tuesday, Mar. 25th as it continues to revise the Subdivision Regs.
- The Personnel Committee is considering the renewal of employee benefits for the next fiscal year. Costs are expected to be higher for both the employees and the Town. At the request of the Committee, the Town Manager is preparing a request for proposal for a professional insurance broker to represent the Town.
- At its monthly meeting, the Mountain Business Association learned about the services TVA's Consumer Connection can offer retailers and service providers in the town to attract, maintain, and sustain businesses, both existing and future.
- TVA's Chuck Marquis described the three four-hour sessions he offers communities to identify retail and service gaps, determine which ones can be filled, and strategies to fill them using existing businesses, recruiting new ones, or both.
- Several MBA members have offered to serve on a retail development team to participate in the program. Residents are encouraged to serve too. If interested, please contact the Town Manager.

Council Notes 03-19-2008

For questions or additional information, contact the Town Hall at 886-2177 or council members at *signalmountaintn.gov*.

- On Sat., March 8th, the Town Council met with Orange Grove to discuss its proposal to undertake the management of the Recycle Center. OG believes it can increase the Center's efficiency, expand its services and save the Town money.
- On March 10th at its regular meeting, the Town Council passed an ordinance authorizing moderate increases in fees for resident and non-resident use of recreation and other Town facilities. In addition, all members of athletic teams will be assessed a \$5 fee for facilities maintenance.
- Annual non-resident fees for unlimited use of the transfer station have been increased to \$125. A non-resident per use fee for household refuse is \$5. Items such as appliances, building materials and carpet require additional fees for both residents (who use the transfer station free-of-charge) and non-residents.
- The Town also approved several resolutions: 1) authorizing Mayor Hendricks to sign the recently negotiated 911 Unification Agreement on behalf of the Town; 2) authorizing the purchase of an automated garbage truck for \$154,113.11; 3) authorizing \$140,108.28 a year to pay for hauling and disposing of waste from the Town transfer station; 4) authorizing paving of Middle Creek and Signal Roads for an amount not to exceed \$100,000; and 5) recognizing April 10th as National D.A.R.E. Day.
- Interim Town Manager Lynn Wampler received a standing ovation from the Council, Department Heads and the audience in appreciation of his service to the Town over the last four months. Honna Rogers was sworn in as new Town Manager.
- The Town is looking for community volunteers to participate in TVA's Consumer Connection project to identify retail and service gaps in the Town, to determine which ones can be filled, and to develop strategies to fill them. If interested, please submit a letter of intent to the Town Manager.
- The Town Manger is currently evaluating proposals for a professional insurance broker to represent the Town.

Council Notes 03-26-2008

For questions or additional information contact the Town Hall at 996-2177 or council members at *signalmountaintn.gov*.

- A drop-in farewell reception for Interim Town Manger Lynn Wampler will be held at the Town Hall on Friday, March 28th, from 12-2:00 p.m. Town employees as well as the public are invited to attend.
- In response to public interest expressed at the Land Use Plan meetings last year, the Mountain Vision Committee has researched existing tree ordinances from around the state and the country in order to draft an ordinance that might be appropriate for the town. The Committee will hold a meeting the end of April (the exact date is as yet undecided) to discuss its progress on a draft of a Signal Mtn. landscape, tree, and buffer ordinance in order to solicit comments, questions, and suggestions from the community, developers and builders.
- The Norris Field ballpark on Piper's Path is no longer used for organized play. Some neighborhood residents have asked that the backstop be removed and the park be returned to a grassy playground, for which it was originally deeded. Others want the backstop to stay. The Town's concern has been deteriorated wooden dugouts and hazardous fencing. These have been removed. The Town awaits a majority decision from the neighborhood as to whether or to remove the remaining backstop.
- Chuck Gearhiser, Town Building Official and Storm Water Manager, will offer a workshop on conserving water with rain barrels, as a means of saving money and protecting water resources, at the MACC on Saturday, March 29th, at 10 a.m.
- On Feb. 21st the Library, which operates on a limited budget, sent out 96 letters notifying patrons of outstanding fines in the amount of \$982.05. As of March 4th only \$124.25 had been received.

Council Notes 04-09-2008

For questions or additional information contact the Town Hall at 886-2177 or council members at *signalmountaintn.com*.

- At its regular meeting on April 3rd, the Planning Commission approved the plat of a county lot adjacent to Nolan Elementary. The Hamilton County School Board will sell the property to the WWTA for placement of a sewage pumping station to service the Shackelford Ridge area.
- The Planning Commission will hold its next work session on April 15th at 7:00 p.m. as it continues to review and revise the Town subdivision regulations. The location will be announced.
- Planning Commissioner Wayne Williams will meet with GIS, the Regional Planning Agency, and the Town Manager to study the details of the current plat submission and approval process for the Commission's review.
- The Town Manager has contacted State Local Planners to request assistance for the PC in the technical aspects and writing of the Town's subdivision regulations.
- Andrew Hausler, SMMHS architect, will appeal a decision by the Design and Review before the Council at its regular meeting on April 14th. The Town Sign Ordinance does not allow electronic signs. Mr. Hausler will request that the Town amend the current Ordinance to allow such a sign at the entrance to the new schools.
- The TVA Consumer Connection Team will meet on Tuesday, April 15th at 6:00 in the Guild Room.
- The Mountain Stewards will host three workshops on April 19th at the MACC from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.: Natural Beauty Products; Soap Making; and Reusable Shopping Bags. For more information contact the MACC 886-1959.
- Louie Mann, founding member of Recycle Signal, will present a program at the MACC at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 22nd. Her topic will be "Recycle Signal: Past, Present and Future."

Council Notes 04-16-2008

For questions or additional information, contact the Town Hall at 886-2177 or council members at signalmountaintn.gov.

- The Council unanimously passed a resolution requesting Representative Floyd and Senator Watson to introduce legislation to change the TN Code Annotated to allow communities under private act charters, such as Signal Mtn., to appoint their planning commission members by a majority vote of the council rather than appointment by the mayor alone.
- According to School Board Member, Chip Baker, the Board will issue a Request for Proposal in June to developers who wish to buy the current Middle School Property (15 acres on Ault Road). There will a public meeting seeking citizen input on future zoning of the site. The time and place will be announced.
- The Ham. Co. Water and Wastewater Treatment Authority (WWTA) has been issued an Order by the TN Dept. of Environment and Conservation to pay \$257,000 in fines unless it reduces inflow and infiltration (I&I) of ground water into town sewer lines in the next 3 to 5 years. The WWTA believes 60% of I&I originates in homeowner service lines on private property. The WWTA has installed flow meters to determine the areas in the town most susceptible to I & I. Testing of lines will begin soon to determine which ones are faulty and in need repair or replacement.
- The WWTA will hold a public meeting to explain the action steps necessary to comply with the Order and how such steps will affect those residents who are connected to the sewer as well as those who hope to become connected. The time and place will be announced.
- The Town is trying a new telephone system. The answering machine has been put in the closet. Office staff is answering calls instead.
- Reminders: The Mtn. Stewards will host workshops on Sat., Apr. 19th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the MACC. Louie Mann will speak on “Recycle Signal: Past, Present, and Future” at the MACC on Tues., Apr. 22nd at 7:00 p.m.

Council Notes 04-23-2008

For questions or additional information, contact the Town Hall at 886-2177 or council members at signalmountaintn.gov.

- At its April 14th meeting, the Council upheld the Design and Review Commission's decision by denying the request of SMMHS architect Andrew Hausler and Principal Eddie Gravitte for a variance to the Town's Sign Ordinance to allow an electronic lighted message board to be placed at the intersection of Sam Powell Trail and the exit to the high school.
- Noah Long, Chairman of the Vision Committee, presented a report on the Volkert Traffic study, which was based on 2006 traffic counts and extrapolated to 2013. The study concluded there is and will be no traffic problems, not even at the intersection of Sam Powell Trail and Shackleford Ridge Road. The Committee disagrees and recommends that this intersection and others be re-studied. It also recommends an aggressive campaign involving a coalition of PTA and school officials to encourage incentives for carpooling.
- The Town is forming a transportation committee to address these and other traffic concerns. The committee will research ways to improve traffic flow and recommend solutions. If interested in serving, please contact the Town Manager.
- The Council passed a resolution requesting that the Hamilton County Commission provide funding a school resource officer for the new SM high school as part of its 2008-9 school budget.
- The council honored Stan Crewe, the founder of the SM Playhouse and the creator of the Christmas Train. The entrance to the playhouse will now be known as STAN CREWE WAY.
- At its April 15th work session, the Planning Commission continued its work on the subdivision regulations and discussed the relevance and compatibility of the Shackleford Ridge Overlay Zone with the recommendations of the Land Use Plan.
- The Vision Committee will present a public forum at the Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 29th, to summarize and explain its proposed landscape, buffer and tree ordinance in order to solicit comments, questions and suggestions from the community, developers and builders.

Council Notes 04-30-2008

For questions or additional information, contact the Town Hall at 886-2177 or council members at signalmountaintn.gov.

- On April 15th the TVA Consumer Connection Committee, a group of realtors, citizens, merchants, and service providers met for the first time. They agreed to attend three four-hour seminars facilitated by TVA's Economic Development Division.
- On April 24th the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council held its April Board meeting at the Town Hall. Afterward, the Board expressed the importance of building an urban forestry program on Signal Mtn. because of the aesthetic, economic and environmental benefits the program offers. Prentice Cooper is an asset, but it is a state forest and could be sold or timbered.
- Creating an urban forestry program is the first step toward becoming a Tree City USA, a prestigious Arbor Day Foundation designation that also provides eligibility for grant money.
- Representatives from the council recently attended a Benwood Foundation lecture by Fred Kent on how to make community parks and open spaces desirable gathering places.
- Representatives also attended Chattanooga's Green Committee Vision meeting, which stressed the importance of communities coming together to conserve energy, reduce waste, protect the environment, and save money: "Today's growth must not be achieved by sacrificing tomorrow," according to one speaker.
- The Hamilton County School Board will issue a Request For Proposal to developers who wish to buy the current Middle School Property (15 acres on Ault Road) in June. On May 7th and 8th the Town, with the assistance of Karen Rennich of the Regional Planning Agency, will hold an extended public meeting to seek citizen input on future use of the site. Times and place will be announced.
- The Hamilton County Water and Wastewater Treatment Authority will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, May 13th, to explain the steps they will take to reduce inflow and infiltration in the sewer system and how these steps will affect citizens. Time and place will be announced.

Council Notes 05-07-2008

For questions or additional information, contact the Town Hall at 886-2177 or council members at signalmountaintn.gov.

- The Hamilton Co. Department of Education is putting the middle school property (SMMS) on Ault Rd. up for sale next month. The Town has met with adjacent property owners to explore possibilities and share ideas about the potential use of the SMMS site.
- All residents will have the opportunity to do the same on Wed., May 7th, and Thurs., May 8th, between the hours of 2 and 7 p.m. Please stop by the Town Hall either day at your convenience to participate in this important information-gathering process. Karen Rennich, the Regional Planning Agency (RPA), and Town volunteers will be on hand to assist.
- The time and place for the sewer update meeting to be held by the WWTAA (Hamilton County Water and Wastewater Treatment Authority) is April 13th, 7:00 p.m., at Nolan Elementary School. All homeowners—whether serviced by sewer or septic tank—are encouraged to attend.
- Vision Committee chairman, Noah Long, introduced a proposed buffer, landscape and tree ordinance at a meeting on April 29th. Comments were varied—too strict; not strict enough; does/doesn't violate individual property rights; places/doesn't place undue hardships on builders. Several suggestions to modify and improve the draft ordinance were offered too.
- The Vision Committee will meet soon to set a date and time for a public workshop meeting with builders and developers to listen to their specific concerns as it continues to fine-tune its draft. “A successful tree ordinance can only be achieved when citizens, builders, and governments work together for a common goal”, according to Gene Hyde, Chattanooga's Urban Forester.
- The Planning Commission has completed its first draft of Article I, General Provisions, as it continues its review and revision of the Town Subdivision Regulations. It will invite builders and developers to input the Plan Review Process and the Design Standards sections of the Subdivision Regulations at its next workshop meeting. The time and date will be announced.

Council Notes 05-14-2008

For questions or additional information, contact the Town Hall at 886-2177 or council members at signalmountaintn.gov.

- On May 5th, the Personnel Committee met. The Town Manager explained her choice to appoint insurance broker Russ Blakely to represent the town because of his extensive municipal experience as well as his pro-active long range strategic plan to manage insurance costs to both employees and the town.
- The Vision Committee met with representatives of the Design and Review Commission as it continues to review and refine the proposed tree ordinance. It was agreed that a good first step toward encouraging tree maintenance and protection is education. It was suggested that the Town be asked to establish a Tree Board, which is not a control board but an advocacy board to encourage good stewardship and to educate best management practices for maintaining tree canopy.
- For those citizens who were unable to come by the Town Hall last week to weigh in on the potential land use of the 15 acre SMMS property which the School Board is putting up for sale, you may still drop by the Town Hall and do so. There is a table set up in the foyer with information and materials for your comments through Friday, May 16th.
- The Planning Commission is working on a draft of subdivision regulations informed by a model developed by a TN state planner. Developers and builders on the mountain (actual or potential) been invited to attend to participate in a work session at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 15th. The drafts are currently available for perusal on the Town website. The public is welcome to attend.
- The Public Works Department is working on a 20-year strategic plan to address paving needs. This year the Town intends to pave 2 miles of road. In the future it hopes to pave 3 miles every year.
- Shoal Creek Road will be closed every Sunday from 1-5 for family walks and recreation.

Council Notes 05-21-2008

For questions or additional information, contact the Town Hall at 886-2177 or council members at signalmountaintn.gov.

- On May 5th, the Personnel Committee met. The Town Manager explained her choice to appoint insurance broker Russ Blakely to represent the town because of his extensive municipal experience as well as his pro-active long range strategic plan to manage insurance costs to both employees and the town.
- The Vision Committee met recently with representatives of the Design and Review Commission. It was agreed that a good first step as the town works toward a buffer, landscape, and tree ordinance is to establish a Tree Board.
- At its May 12th meeting the Council agreed to consider passing an ordinance to establish a Tree Board, an advocacy board which works in concert with the National Arbor Day Foundation to encourage good stewardship and to educate best management practices for maintaining and protecting tree canopy.
- The Planning Commission met with landowners, developers and builders on May 15th in a forum to discuss the continuing revision of the town's subdivision regulations. Street width, sidewalks, steep slopes and open space in particular were discussed. The PC indicated that both conservation and conventional development options would be available under the revised regulations.
- The town has delayed the re-paving of Signal Road until all water and sewer line repairs are completed.
- A public input meeting to discuss the future of Norris Field will be held at the Town Hall on Thursday, May 29th at 6:00 p.m. All those interested—especially neighbors--are urged to attend.
- The SM Guild is updating telephone information for its new edition. Only those residents that are listed in the Bell South/AT&T directory with 886 or 517 exchanges will be automatically be included. To correct a listing or to include computer or cell phone numbers, contact Ellen Heavilon at 886-6323 or email her at ech@Comcast.net.
- Shoal Creek Road will be closed every Sunday from 1-5 for family walks and recreation.

Council Notes 05-28-2008

For questions or additional information, contact the Town Hall at 886-2177 or council members at signalmountaintn.gov.

- The following amendment to the Tennessee Code Annotated was passed into law by the State Legislature on May 22nd: "...any member of a planning commission created by a municipality incorporated under a private act...shall be appointed by a majority vote of the legislative body of such municipality."
- Previously, Signal Mountain's Private Act Charter designated the mayor to appoint, serve, and vote on our planning commission. In an effort to avoid any appearance of unfairness, the Town Council voted unanimously to request this amendment. The Council is grateful to Representative Floyd and Senator Watson for their diligence over the past year in shepherding the amendment through the legislative process.
- The Town has approached Hamilton County to discuss traffic issues at the new schools: a traffic light at the intersection of Sam Powell Trail and Shackleford Ridge Road; a third High Occupancy Vehicle lane from Nolan to the Middle School as an incentive for carpooling; signage; and, traffic entrance and exit patterns. Hamilton County has agreed to address signage and traffic patterns but will not install a traffic light or a third lane.
- The Signal Mountain Guild is updating telephone information for its 2008-10 telephone directory. Only those residents listed in the Bell South/AT&T Directory with an 886 or 517 exchange will be automatically included. To correct a listing or to include computer (Comcast, Vonage, etc.) or cell phone numbers, contact Ellen Heavilon at 886-6323 or email her at ech@comcast.net.
- A public input meeting to discuss the future of Norris Field will be held at the Town Hall on Thursday, May 29th at 6:00 p.m. All those interested—especially neighbors—are urged to attend.

Council Notes 06-04-2008

For questions or additional information, contact the Town Hall at 886-2177 or council members at signalmountaintn.gov.

- A citizen's meeting was held on May 29th at Norris Field to discuss the status of the park. The backstop as it now exists—with safety issues corrected—will remain. The field will be used for community enjoyment, recreation and play, but not for organized sports. The Town will continue to maintain it, but encourages citizens to support the park by planting flowers or donating benches and playground equipment in good condition.
- An ordinance allowing a \$5 one-time non-resident user fee to dump garbage at the transfer station has failed on second reading because of problems of enforcement. Beginning immediately, all non-residents must pay a yearly fee of \$125 to use the transfer station.
- The Hamilton County Wastewater and Treatment Authority (WWTA) delayed instituting a proposed \$8 fee for Hamilton County (including Signal Mountain) residents connected to gravity sewers while it considers complaints from other municipalities and alternative methods for financing lateral service line repairs on private property and public rights-of-way to address a compliance order instituted by the Tennessee Department of Environment Conservation.
- The town manager and four department heads are currently participating in Municipal Management Academy II, sponsored by the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) of the University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service. The training is designed for experienced managers and supervisors to help them improve skills in communication, delegation, decision-making and teamwork. Also, the Town court clerk recently participated in applicable job training in Nashville.
- Join Mary Scott Norris and Pris Shartle at the Library on Thursday, June 12th between 6 and 8 p.m. to celebrate the release their new book on local history entitled, "Signal Mountain".
- The pool is up and running and a great place to cool off on hot days. Stop by the Town Hall to obtain a summer pass.

Council Notes 06-11-2008

For questions or additional information, contact the Town Hall at 886-2177 or council members at signalmountaintn.gov.

- Tom Poteet, owner of the Signal Mtn. Athletic Club, described his vision for the SMMS property when he spoke to the Mountain Business Association at its regular meeting on June 5th. Mr. Poteet is interested in purchasing the property in order to move the Athletic Club--which he hopes to expand--to the SMMS building and gym. He envisions batting cages, racquetball courts, and even a pool. He wants to keep the track and field for public use and perhaps partner with the town to relocate the ball fields on Ridgeway to the SMMS property to create a public/private space for the community that will focus on health and wellness. The Hamilton County School Board is selling the SMMS property and is expected to release a Request for Proposals this month.
- Cigna, the Town's health insurance carrier, has increased its rates 49% this year. The Town Manger is considering other options.
- Reminder: The Signal Mountain Guild is updating telephone information for its 2008-10 telephone directory. Only those residents listed in the Bell South/AT&T Directory with an 886 or 517 exchange will be automatically included. To correct a listing or to include computer (Comcast, Vonnage, etc.) or cell phone numbers, contact Ellen Heavilon at 886-6323 or email her at ech@comcast.net.
- Join Mary Scott Norris and Pris Shartle at the Library on Thursday, June 12th between 6 and 8 p.m. to celebrate the release of their new book on local history entitled, "Signal Mountain."
- An increase in storm water fees will be discussed at the next regular council meeting on July 14th. Also, Dick Cook of Go Green will offer a presentation on designated bicycle parking places to encourage biking.

Council Notes 06-18-2008

For questions or additional information, contact the Town Hall at 886-2177 or council members at signalmountaintn.gov.

- At its regular June meeting, the Council passed a resolution authorizing the Town Manager to enter into an agreement with United HealthCare for medical insurance for Town employees for one year beginning July 1st at a cost increase of 7%. Both Cigna and Blue Cross were too expensive, with cost increases of 49% and 27% respectively.
- On second reading the Council passed an ordinance for an Acknowledgement and Memorial Donation Policy to provide a means for citizens to honor individuals or groups. Those wishing to donate, please contact the Town Hall.
- The “Design Principles and Standards” of the Design and Review Committee were also passed into law on second reading. In the future those failing to abide by the majority decisions of the DRC may be cited to court.
- The Town Manager has contracted Johnson, Murphey & Wright, PC, to audit Town accounts for the next fiscal year.
- The Storm Water Director has been authorized to purchase a Trailer Hydro Jetter to maintain the Town’s stormwater drainage system as mandated by the state. This system will facilitate clearing debris from stopped-up culverts.
- Beginning July 1st Orange Grove will take over management of Recycle Signal at a considerable savings to the Town. Rock-Tenn Converting Company will undertake the hauling and selling of scrap and recycled materials for the Town, also at a considerable savings. Citizens are encouraged to stop by Recycle and thank Bob Lowery and Claude Griffith for their dedication and hard work over the years.
- The Planning Commission will hold a work session on Wed., June 25th to review Article II of the proposed Subdivision Regulations. See Town website. Due to the 4th of July holiday, the Planning Commission’s next regular meeting will be July 10th at 7:00.

Council Notes 06-25-2008

For questions or additional information, contact the Town Hall at 886-2177 or council members at signalmountaintn.gov.

- The Planning Commission has cancelled its work session tonight, Wed., June 25th. Its next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, July 10th at 7:00 pm.
- A reception will be held on Wed., July 2, from 1-3 at Recycle to honor Claude Griffith and Bob Lowery for their hard work over the years. All citizens are urged to stop by. Orange Grove will take over management of the center on July 9th.
- The Ham. Co. Real Property Division is currently reviewing the School Board's Request for Proposals to solicit potential buyers for the SMMS property. The RFP will be issued soon.
- Tom Poteet, owner of the Signal Mountain Athletic Club, described his vision for the SMMS property when he spoke to the Mountain Business Association at their regular meeting. Mr. Poteet is interested in purchasing the property in order to move the Athletic Club—which he hopes to expand—to the SMMS building and gym. He envisions batting cages, racquetball courts, and a lap pool. He wants to keep the track and field for public use and perhaps partner with the Town to relocate the ball fields on Ridgeway to the SMMS property to create a public/private space for the community that will focus on health and wellness.
- To participate in the 4th of July Parade, line up by 9:30 am. Walkers, bicyclists and strollers will gather in the driveway in front of Alexian. Cars will line up on Signal Point Road and floats and trucks on Ohio Ave. The parade will begin at 10:00. For questions or additional information, contact Catherine Smith at 886-7348.
- Town Manager Honna Rogers recently attended a Government Health Round Table workshop that focused on better ways to manage the cost and quality of employee health care. The Town is currently investigating the development of an employee wellness program.