

Council Notes 07-02-2008

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

- The Town Manager and members of the Council attended the Tennessee Municipal League 69th Annual Conference on June 21-24 at the Cook Convention Center in Memphis, Tennessee to learn how to better serve the Town.
- Several workshops addressed transportation issues: 1) New Fuel Purchasing Program offered ideas for stabilizing fuel budgets; 2) the Transportation Funding workshop discussed how the Highway Trust Fund, financed by federal gas taxes and redistributed to cities and towns through the states, is not keeping up with demand. Recent estimates indicate that it will fall \$4.3 billion short authorized spending in 2009. This workshop provided information on the status of federal and state dollars and proposed changes to the funds that flow to local governments; and 3) How to Create Accessible Streets.
- There were also several workshops pertaining to growth: 1) Development Through Private-Public partnerships; 2) the Politics of Growth addressed such issues as “How does a city know when it’s time to grow? Is there such a thing as bad growth? Is it possible for a city to continue to protect and promote a community’s quality of life and maintain a healthy tax base?” 3) Opposition to Public Projects addressed polarization between citizens and developers and suggested ways that they can learn to work together for common community goals.
- Other workshops covered such areas as Current Stormwater Developments in Tennessee; Disaster Training: Lessons Learned from Jackson; Urban Forestry & Tree City USA; Leadership Training for Elected Officials; Leadership Training for Professional Staff; and Open Records.
- Reminders: Reception today from 1-3 at Recycle to honor Bob Lowery and Claude Griffith. The Planning Commission will not meet this week. The next meeting will be Thursday, July 10th. To participate in the 4th of July Parade, line up at 9:30: walkers, cyclists and strollers at the Alexian; cars on Signal Point Road; and trucks and floats on Ohio.

Council Notes 07-09-2008

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

- The federal Clean Water Act requires the Town to operate a Stormwater Management Program funded by fees from each residence in the town. Currently, the Town collects a yearly fee of 1 cent per square foot of permeable surface; however, due to an expected increase in federal guidelines, the cost of the program for 2009 will exceed its income.
- The Stormwater Board will meet at 6:00 on Monday, July 14th, at the Town Hall to explain what the Stormwater Management Program does as well as its progress as it continues to facilitate the clean-up of mountain streams. It will also discuss the need to increase stormwater fees.
- Dick Cook will speak on Green Zones—designated parking spaces for bicycles—at the Council’s next regular meeting (following the Stormwater Board meeting on July 14th).
- The Town is still not satisfied with the Humane Education Society’s annual charge of \$36,000 for animal control services. A Town audit has revealed considerable discrepancies between numbers of animals and calls received from the Town and those that can be verified. HES attributes 152 of the animals it’s received to the Town; however, the majority of the animals listed came from addresses outside the Town limits and, in some instances, Sequatchie County. The Town is vigorously pursuing other options for animal control.
- The Town wishes to thank Jim Smith, Jeff Wardeberg, and Joe Decosimo for volunteering to serve on the Signal Mountain Health Education & Housing Facility Board Committee.
- The Town Manager has suggested that the Town Council’s regular meeting time be held on the second Monday at 6:00 pm, an hour earlier than the traditional 7:00. The council has agreed to consider her proposal.
- Reminder: Be sure and sign in before attending Town meetings. It’s an important public record.

Council Notes 07-16-2008

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

- At the request of citizens, the Town Council recently asked the Planning Commission to revisit the Shackleford Ridge Overlay Zone Ordinances.
- At its regular July meeting, the Planning Commission discussed the merits of removing them from the Zoning Ordinance at this time. The Commission agreed that the SROZ ordinances are not compatible with the principles of the new subdivision regulations currently being formulated. However, in a 6-2 vote the Commission decided that the SROZ ordinances should remain until the new subdivision regulations and compatible zoning ordinances have been approved.
- In other business, the Commission continued its review of a model for subdivision regulations that supports design flexibility and conservation development. Wayne Williams presented highlights of his revision of Article 2 of the proposed subdivision regulations. This article describes the necessary steps a developer must follow for subdivision approval. One discussion point was whether or not to require a developer to include neighbors in preliminary discussions of development plans. This point will be among the issues the Commission will deliberate further into the process.
- A Planning Commission workshop has been scheduled for Thursday, July 24 at 6:00 pm to review Articles 3 and 4 of the subdivision regulations.
- At its next meeting the Retail Team will work with TVA's Consumer Connection facilitator to come up with action steps for filling retail gaps.
- Town Manager Honna Rogers will be attending a conference in Nashville to learn how the Town can help facilitate the work of the Retail Team.

- The terms of Council Members Annette Allen, Bill Lusk and Susan Robertson end in November. All three members have chosen to run for election
- TDOT is interested in implementing a program called GreenRide to encourage ride sharing throughout Chattanooga. The Town has indicated its interest in participating.
- Reminder: Please sign in before Council Meetings! The sign-up sheet is an important public record.

Council Notes 07-23-2008

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

- The Stormwater Management Board met recently to consider the adequacy of current stormwater user fees mandated by the Federal Clean Water Act. The Board determined that in order for the Town to continue to meet federal and state guidelines, homeowner fees should be increased from .01 cent per square foot of impervious surface to .0165. This increase will appear on the next property tax bill.
- In October the Council met with the residents of Fox Run and Windtree to discuss the pros and cons of annexation. As a result the Town decided to review the plan of services for those areas and reassess the fiscal impact annexation would have on the town.
- This review and reassessment are now complete. At its regular meeting on July 14th, the Council passed a resolution requesting that the Planning Commission study and issue a written report on the proposed plan of services for Fox Run and Windtree.
- The Council also passed an ordinance establishing a Signal Mountain Tree Board, an advocacy committee that works in concert with the National Arbor Day Foundation to encourage good stewardship by educating best management practices for maintaining and protecting tree canopy.
- Mountaintop residents wishing to serve on the Tree Board are asked to submit a letter of intent to Town Manager Honna Rogers at 1111 Ridgeway Ave., Signal Mtn., TN 37377.
- The Council wishes to congratulate the Signal Mountain Library on a banner 2007-8 fiscal year. Total circulation was 68,744 (an increase of 10,119 from last year). Also, there were 424 new members, and the total collection increased by 1,674 items to 25,675.
- The Council is considering changing the time of its regular meetings on the second Monday of each month to 6:30 pm.
- The Planning Commission will hold a workshop meeting on Thursday, July 24th at 6:00 pm to review Articles 3 and 4 of the subdivision regulations.

Council Notes 07-30-2008

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

- At its July 24th workshop meeting, the Planning Commission discussed methodology to shorten the time frame for its review and revision of the subdivision regulations. The Planning Commission also appointed a subcommittee to create a section 6 to encompass conservation subdivision development.
- The Planning Commission will discuss the proposed plan of services pertaining to the Town's possible annexation of Fox Run and Windtree at its next regularly scheduled meeting on August 7th.
- The Town has begun distributing cans for automated garbage service. Please note that cans are being placed in the spot necessary for automated pick-up. The arrival of the cans marks the switch to once-a-week service. The information attached to each can designates the day of the week each residence can expect garbage pick-up.
- Please keep paint and hazardous liquids out of the trashcan. Drop such items off at Recycling; the landfill does not accept them.
- Remember to bring extra swim diapers for babies and children not yet potty-trained. The Hamilton County Health Dept. requires closing both pools (they share filtration) for 3-13 hours when accidents occur. In the last two months, five accidents have inconvenienced patrons and cost the pool revenue.
- The TN Agricultural Extension Service reports three confirmed infestations of the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid on Signal Mtn. Infested trees die in 2 to 4 years. Educating residents on how to combat this insect is one of the first projects of the newly established Tree Board. Folks wishing to serve on the Board are asked to submit a letter of intent to Town Manager Honna Rogers at 1111 Ridgeway Ave., Signal Mtn., 37377.
- In spite of many generous contributions to the "Stan Crewe Christmas Train Maintenance Fund," it still falls short of the \$5,000 required to qualify for tax-deductible status under the Hamilton County Community Foundation. To contribute, please send checks to Alison Phillips, 3019 Hobblebush Lane, Signal Mtn., TN, 37377.

Council Notes 08-06-2008

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

- On August 7th at 7:00, the Planning Commission will consider the reasonableness of the proposed Plan of Services for Fox Run and Windtree should the Town decide it is in the best interest of its citizens to annex those subdivisions. Whether or not the annexation will occur, will not be discussed nor voted upon.
- The Town is distributing cans for automated garbage service. Please note that cans are being placed in the appropriate spot to use for weekly pick-ups. The arrival of the cans marks the switch to once-a-week service. The information attached to each can will name the designated day of the week for pick-ups.
- Only 95-gallon cans are currently available. Those citizens wanting smaller 65-gallon cans, please call the Town Hall (886-2177) to request them. The Town will switch the larger cans to smaller cans as soon as they are available. They are expected to arrive in September.
- The Town can now receive water bill payments electronically. Citizens can sign up by completing an authorization form at the Town Hall. The form can also be downloaded from the Town website and mailed in. Automatic bank payments will begin approximately two billing cycles after the authorization is received.
- The Town thanks the Mountain Stewards for gathering, loading, and transporting packing materials—cardboard, mixed paper, plastics and Styrofoam—from the new schools to the recycling center. It's a tremendous job and will continue for a few weeks. Those who wish to volunteer or anyone in need of Styrofoam packaging material, contact Bill Lusk at 886-3660.
- The Mountain Business Association website signalmba.com is up and running. The Town encourages everyone to visit the site to learn about local merchants, mountaintop events, and retail opportunities.
- Council members Annette Allen, Bill Lusk and Susan Robertson have qualified and will be on the Signal Mountain Town Council election ballot in November.

Council Notes 08-13-2008

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

- Once-a-week garbage service will begin throughout the town on August 18th. Residents who have not received cans will receive letters designating their new pick-up day. Since the change in service includes revised routes and schedules, citizens are required to place cans at the curb by 7:00 a.m. on their pick-up day.
- At its agenda meeting, the Council took advantage of an interest-free loan by passing resolutions awarding contracts for energy efficient upgrades to Town facilities.
- Dr. Lisa Szczukowski, Signal Mtn. Animal Clinic, attended the meeting to discuss possible revisions of the Town's animal control ordinance. Various issues were discussed such as should certain breeds be identified as "vicious", enforcing registration and related fees, the use of microchip identification, and how to deal with injured animals. The Council agreed to review and update the ordinance.
- Dr. Szczukowski asks citizens to microchip or use collar ID tags on all pets to facilitate identification in case of loss or injury.
- The Council discussed a Glendale, AZ ordinance that requires developers to invite citizens to participate in discussions of proposed projects in the early planning stages of development. Citizen involvement in the planning process has worked to benefit the entire Glendale community. The Council referred the ordinance to the Planning Commission for review.
- At its regular meeting, the Personnel Committee reviewed a proposed donation policy to allow employees to donate vacation or comp time to others in the case of an extraordinary or severe illness of an employee or his/her family member. The committee recommended the policy to the Council.
- Complaints have been received about Sunday closures of Shoal Creek Road. If citizens would like to express an opinion—either pro or con—please contact the Town Hall to help the Council accurately assess the situation.

Council Notes 08-20-2008

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

- For all residents with Monday garbage pickup, Labor Day garbage pickup will be on Friday the 29th.
- Friday, Sept. 22nd, is the date of the first football game at the new Signal Mtn. Mid-High School. This kick-off game will be dedicated to Signal Mtn. Coach Al Ball who will be honored during half time, but shhhhhh—it's a secret.
- At its regular meeting on Thursday, September 4th, the Planning Commission will present a report on the adequacy of the Plan of Services for Fox Run and Windtree as the Town continues to consider annexation of these areas.
- On Monday, September 8th, at 6:00 pm the council will hold a public hearing to decide if it is in the best interest of the Town of Signal Mountain to annex Fox Run and Windtree. Interested citizens are urged to come. The regular meeting will follow.
- The EPB has been in the town evaluating trees for trimming and cutting. Trees with an orange dot have limbs within ten feet of the power line and will be trimmed. Trees with a combination of two numbers and one letter will be removed. The EPB will remove the brush from these trees but will leave cut firewood for the homeowner's use and/or disposal. For more information contact Ray Davis at 240.4981.
- Stormwater rates have been increased from .01 per sq. ft. of impervious surface to .0165 per sq. ft after the minimum charge. The increase is necessary for the Town to meet federal and state guidelines. The increase will appear on the next property tax bill.
- Residents who prefer garbage cans smaller than the 95-gallon cans that have been distributed may call Town Hall for a replacement.
- Beginning in October, the Council's regular meeting time on the second Monday of each month will be 6:30 pm instead of 7:00 pm.
- Note: the Town website address has changed from signalmtntown.org to signalmountaintn.gov.

Council Notes 08-27-2008

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

- For all residents with Monday garbage pickup, Labor Day garbage pickup will be on Friday the 29th.
- The regular October meeting has been moved to Oct. 6 at 6:30 p.m. due to the school fall break schedule.
- Starting in October, the Council's regular meeting time will be 6:30 pm instead of 7:00 pm.
- The Town is currently researching the feasibility of an inter-local agreement with other municipalities to purchase a machine that converts oil and grease from animal products into bio-diesel fuel. Several Alabama towns have reported success with such a program.
- At its regular meeting on Thursday, September 4th, the Planning Commission will discuss its report on the adequacy of the Plan of Services for Fox Run and Windtree as the Town continues to consider annexation of these areas.
- On Monday, September 8th at 6:00 pm the council will hold a public hearing to decide if it is in the best interest of the Town of Signal Mountain to annex Fox Run and Windtree. Interested citizens are urged to come. The regular meeting will follow.
- The EPB has been in the town evaluating trees for trimming and cutting. Trees with an orange dot have limbs within ten feet of the power line and will be trimmed. Trees with a combination of two numbers and one letter will be removed. The EPB will remove the brush from these trees but will leave cut firewood for the homeowner's use and/or disposal. For more information contact Ray Davis at 240.4981.
- Residents who prefer garbage cans smaller than the 95-gallon cans that have been distributed may call Town Hall for a replacement.
- The Town Manager is investigating options for redesigning the Town website. Note that the website address has changed from signalmtntown.org to signalmountaintn.gov.

Council Notes 09-03-2008

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

- Important Notice: For automated pick-up (which will begin in two weeks), the arrow on the top of the new garbage cans must face the street. Cans that are incorrectly positioned will not be emptied.
- A subcommittee appointed by the Planning Commission met August 26th to discuss Section 6, Conservation Subdivision Design, as it continues to review and revise the Town Subdivision Regulations.
- At its regular meeting on Thursday, September 4th, the Planning Commission will review a report on the adequacy of the proposed Plan of Services should the town decide to annex Fox Run and Windtree.
- On Monday, September 8th, the council will meet at 6:00 pm in order to hold a public hearing to decide if it is in the best interest of the Town of Signal Mountain to annex Fox Run and Windtree. Citizens are urged to come. The regular meeting will follow the hearing.
- The Town has contracted with Engineering Research International to analyze town streets. ERI will employ a state-of-the-art system using ground-penetrating radar and high-speed precision laser profiling to assess the condition of town streets. The findings will not only enable the Town to evaluate and identify those streets that require immediate attention, it will also provide the data necessary for the Town to develop a long-term pavement management plan.
- The Town would like to involve the community in a visioning session as part of the TVA “Consumer Connection” program to consider questions such as: Do we need more retail? If so, how much? More restaurants? A Town Center? The time and date will be announced.
- The Sunday closure of Shoal Creek Road is still controversial. Citizens who would like to express an opinion—either pro or con—please contact the Town Manager by phone or email to help the Council assess the situation.

Council Notes 09-10-2008

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

- At its Sept. 4th meeting, the Planning Commission found the proposed Plan of Services for Fox Run and Windtree both reasonable and timely, but recommended the inclusion of a plan for a fire station.
- Susan Humphries of Taft Hwy requested re-zoning of her property, on which her home and the Sunshine Learning Center are located, from “Low Density Residential” to “Office”.
- The Planning Commission’s next work session will be held on at 6pm on Tuesday, Sept. 23, as it continues its review and revision of the Subdivision Regulations.
- Placing items on the ground at the Transfer Station rather than in the trash compactor is against Tennessee State Law.
- At its agenda meeting, the Council discussed possible alternatives for re-usable items dropped off at the Transfer Station. One idea was to hold swap meets for citizens to trade or sell unwanted goods. Another was to request charitable organizations to place collection boxes beside the compactor. Citizens wishing to contribute ideas please contact the Town Manager.
- Despite high-hopes, the Signal Mtn. pool was not awarded the \$100,000 repair grant. The Town will have another opportunity to submit a grant application in 2011.
- **Notice:** For fully automated garbage pick-up (which will begin shortly), the arrow on the top of the new garbage cans must point toward the street. Cans that are incorrectly positioned will not be emptied.
- **Also Note:** Garbage cans overfilled until the lids won’t close, additional bags placed on top or nearby the cans, and boxes or other items that will not fit in the cans will not be emptied or picked up. Citizens are asked to call the Town Hall to acquire additional cans if one is not enough. And, of course, all citizens are encouraged to recycle.
- The Town wishes to thank Mayor Hendricks and all the folks who participated in the Labor Day Barbeque recycling effort.

Council Notes 09-17-2008

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

- At its monthly Variance Committee meeting on September 4th, the Hamilton Co. Water and Wastewater Treatment Authority reviewed rule changes to incorporate provisions of the Private Service Lateral Program. This program, which includes an \$8 monthly surcharge, was adopted to correct the inflow and infiltration problems that resulted in a moratorium on new sewer connections. The town recommended a number of changes to language in the rules to clarify that repairs made or authorized by the WWTA will be undertaken at the WWTA's expense and funded by the \$8 monthly fee.
- The October council meeting has been rescheduled because of Fall Break when local schools close and families often take vacation. The meeting will be held at on Monday, October 6th (instead of October 13th), at the new meeting time of 6:30.
- The Hamilton County Department of Education has not yet issued its Request for Proposal in an effort to sell the SMMS property. However, the RFP is working its way through channels and is expected to be issued by the end of the year.
- At its regular meeting the council passed a resolution authorizing the Town Manager to amend the Personnel Policy to include employee leave, holiday and vacation donation rules. Such rules will allow employees to donate accrued leave to other employees in catastrophic situations.
- The Town has been asked to reconsider its ordinance that disallows the keeping of fowl. For instance, could a resident keep a few ducks for eggs? Potential requirements such as a minimum number of animals in an enclosed area with the permission of neighbors were discussed. Residents wishing to weigh in on this subject, please contact the Town Manager or council members.
- In its effort to promote recycling, the Town will be placing bins at Town recreation areas such as ball fields, tennis courts and the gym.

Council Notes 09-24-2008

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

- Please place garbage cans on the street by 7:30am to ensure pickup. Pickup times on routes are undergoing change due to the new automated system.
- Used, cleaned garbage cans are being accepted at the Transfer Station on Mississippi Ave. for recycling. Place cans by the attendant's house next to the compactor.
- The next regular council meeting will be held on Mon., Oct. 6th at the new meeting time of 6:30. The meeting date, one week earlier than usual, was chosen to accommodate Fall Break when schools are closed.
- At its regular meeting on Sept. 17th, the Hamilton County Water and Wastewater Treatment Authority Board adopted its Revised Rules and Regulations including the \$8 monthly surcharge to correct countywide inflow and infiltration problems in WWTa-owned sewers lines. The WWTa also adopted its Budget establishing a 6% increase in basic sewer rates. Although a majority of Board members voted to accept the rate increase, Town Representative Bill Lusk voted against it citing the WWTa's inadequate justification, lack of public notice, and poor timing in light of the \$8 surcharge.
- Mayor Paul Hendricks and Town Manager Honna Rogers attended the Tennessee Municipal League's annual Policy Committee meeting in Nashville on Sept. 17th to participate in establishing TML's legislative agenda for 2009.
- The Holiday Hodgepodge is now the Fall Hodgepodge, and the Friends of the Mountain Arts Community Center will operate it as a fundraiser for the MACC. The Hodgepodge, featuring local arts and crafts, will hold its sale in the Town Gym on Friday, Oct. 3rd, 9:30am-7pm and Sat., Oct. 4th, 9:30am-5pm.
- On Sat., Oct. 4th, at 12:00 EST, a ceremony will take place at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church to designate US Hwy 127 in Hamilton, Sequatchie, Cumberland, and Bledsoe Counties as "Veterans Memorial Highway" all the way to Sgt. York Memorial Hwy in Fentress County.

Council Notes 10-01-2008

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

- The Town is under contract with the Tennessee-American Water Company through June 2009. There can be no increase in the rate the Town pays for water until that time. Since the Town has not had an increase in several years, it is expected that one will occur. But, as yet, the Town has received no official word from the State agency responsible for regulating rates. Is there to be an increase? Probably. What will it be? The Town doesn't know.
- At its September 23rd workshop meeting, the Planning Commission completed a draft of Article I as it continues its revision of the subdivision regulations. A draft of Article II will be discussed at the regular meeting on Thursday, Oct. 2nd.
- The new Tree Board held its first meeting on Wed., Sept. 24th. The Board stated its goals: public education in best management practices for healthy trees; eradication of invasive non-native species; planting trees; and, involving the community in celebrating special projects for Arbor Day.
- The Town Manager has recently returned from the International City/County Management Association Annual Meeting where she participated in several workshops dedicated to small communities: creating sustainability; strategies for acquiring infrastructure funding; employee wellness programs; and, other issues relevant to improving the management of the Town.
- Used, cleaned garbage cans are being accepted at the Transfer Station on Mississippi Ave. for recycling. Place cans by the attendant's house next to the compactor.
- Place garbage cans on the street by 7:30am to ensure pickup. Routes and times are changing.
- Support the MACC. The Fall Hodgepodge, featuring local arts and crafts, will hold its sale in the Town Gym on Friday, Oct. 3rd, 9:30am-7pm and Sat., Oct. 4th, 9:30am-5pm.
- The next regular council meeting has been rescheduled for Monday, Oct. 6th at the new meeting time of 6:30.

Council Notes 10-08-2008

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

- The Planning Commission, at its regular meeting, recommended that the Council re-zone the Sunshine Learning Center property “Office District.” It also approved a revision of lots 4 and 5 at the corner of James and Hathaway at the request of the Mtn. Land Company.
- The Town Manger offered to work with Karen Rennich of the Regional Planning Agency and the Town Attorney to research and draft a new zoning classification for mixed-use that is appropriate for the Town.
- At the Council’s agenda meeting on Sept. 29th, Debbie Fassino reported that many citizens enjoy the Sunday afternoon closure of Shoal Creek Road for family recreation. The failure to open the road promptly at 5:00pm has been a chief complaint. Often the police, busy elsewhere, have been unable to open the road on time. The Town is looking into options to resolve delayed openings.
- The Council has requested that the Building Official begin creating maps detailing slopes, rock outcroppings, riparian and other sensitive natural areas in the Town for use by developers choosing conservation-style development. Landowners will be included in the project.
- The Tennessee Regulatory Authority has proposed a 12.77% water increase for Signal Mountain. The Town was not consulted prior to the decision nor was it informed that Signal Mountain rates would be discussed at the TRA meeting. Even though the increase will not take place until July 2009, the Town is not happy and wants to protest. The Town Manger is investigating options.
- The Town will pick up large bulky items such as water heaters, TV’s, mattresses, furniture, microwaves, etc. on the first Wednesday of each month. Small items should be placed in the garbage cart. Some items such as refrigerators, carpet, and air conditioners require a small charge. Residents must call the Town to arrange for pickup. Items should be at the curb by 7:30am.

Council Notes 10-15-2008

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

- At its regular meeting on Oct. 6th, the Town Council passed resolutions to establish an Identity Theft Prevention Policy, to enter into a 3 year agreement with the Signal School of Physical Education for use of the Town gym, and to award a roofing contract for the Quonset hut at the Transfer Station that functions as the Town's maintenance facility. The new roof will provide a short-term solution to the problem of the inadequacy of the maintenance facility.
- The Council also appointed Nancy Caldwell, Corinne Giagnorio, Neeld Messler, Noah Long, Jeff Simmons and Barbara Womack to the Tree Board.
- On first reading the Council voted unanimously in favor of ordinances to annex Fox Run and Windtree, to establish a commercial garbage fee, and to raise the Water Department deposit fee (refundable after payment of final bills) for initiating new service from \$50 to \$100.
- The Town has a Peddler Law. All business solicitors in the Town must undergo a background check and be registered. A registered solicitor will be in possession of a permit and wearing a picture ID badge. Solicitors without permits and badges should be reported to the Signal Mountain Police Department at 886-2123.
- The Town is striving to find a solution to the problem of the timely re-opening of Shoal Creek Road each Sunday. Meanwhile, remember that it only takes an additional minute and forty seconds to drive (at 35 mph and waiting for the redlight to change) from the intersection of Shoal Creek/Signal Mtn. Blvd. to the stoplight to turn right and proceed (at 25 mph) to arrive at the intersection of Palisades Drive and Shoal Creek Road.
- The Town Manager has hired Derryberry Public Relations to re-design the Town website. Any suggestions for the improvement of the website are welcome.
- Permanent directional signs to the new Signal Mtn. Middle/High School are being considered and, hopefully, will be installed soon.

Council Notes 10-22-2008

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

- The Hamilton County Real Property Office has issued a Request for Proposals for the purchase and redevelopment of the former Middle School Property on Ault Road. The property is currently zoned Low Density Residential. The Town must approve re-zoning of the property for any other purpose. The 13.75-acre site includes buildings of approximately 63,808 square feet. The original building was constructed in 1959 with subsequent additions in 1962 and 1987. The property is being sold in “as is” condition.
- The Personnel Committee met on October 7th to clarify the Town’s sick leave, court leave, harassment, and over-time policies. The Committee also discussed the possibility of providing a Long Term Disability benefit for employees in the next budget year.
- The Town Manager and several council members attended the Governor’s Summit on Clean Energy Technology in Knoxville on October 14th where they learned about several significant green infrastructure grants available to municipalities for storm water abatement, clean water management, and repair of wetlands. The Town is researching the grants and hopes to apply for one.
- The purpose of the Summit was to discuss the importance of public/private partnerships to create sustainability whereby each generation creates and uses what it needs to thrive without usurping the needs of the next generation.
- Reminder: Door-to-door business solicitors in the Town without permits and picture ID badges should be reported to the Signal Mountain Police Department at 886-2123.
- The Planning Commission’s next work session as they continue their review and revision of the Subdivision Regulations will be October 23rd at 7:00pm.
- The MACC is hosting their second Coffee House Evening on October 25th at 7pm. It promises to be another great evening of good company and good music.

Council Notes 10-29-2008

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

- At its October 23rd workshop meeting, the Planning Commission completed its revision of Article II of the subdivision Regulations. The Commission will review Article III at its regular meeting on November 6th.
- Randall Arendt, noted international land use planner, will present a workshop on revitalizing commercial corridors in Walker County, Georgia. Members of the Town Council and the Planning Commission have been invited to attend.
- The Tree Board held its organizational meeting on October 23rd. Noah Long was elected chairman and Nancy Caldwell was elected secretary. The Board's goals are to provide educational outreach, initiate and operate a memorial tree program, celebrate Arbor Day, and plant trees.
- The Board's first community outreach projects will begin on October 31st in coordination with SMMHS's student community service requirement. Board members and students will gather at 8:30 on Friday, October 31st at the school.
- A group of middle school students will work with Board members at SMMHS in the tree grove the 6th graders planted last Arbor Day in March. Several trees did not survive the summer and must be replaced. All the trees need to be mulched.
- A second group of high school students will work with Board members to remove non-native invasive trees such as mimosa, princess, and privet from the Town property on Timberlinks.
- Residents on Green Gorge and Ravine are reminded that Patten Park is a "No Dumping" zone. Please place brush and leaves where the Town can collect them.
- Recycle Signal is now accepting rinsed aluminum foil, aluminum trays, and plastic bottles with the caps on. The Transfer Station on Mississippi Ave. is accepting cleaned used garbage cans for recycling. Place cans by the attendant's house next to the compactor.
- Door-to-door business solicitors in the Town without permits and picture ID badges should be reported to the Signal Mountain Police Department at 886-2123.

Council Notes 11-05-2008

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

- At its October 27th Agenda Meeting the Council passed an ordinance establishing rates for supplementary commercial refuse pickups and equipment charges within the Town: The first two cans will be issued at no cost; additional cans will cost \$60 each. There will be no charge for emptying the first two cans; additional cans will cost \$13 a month each. The Town's commercial maximum is four cans.
- Hamilton County has determined the intersection of Shackleford Road and Sam Powell Trail does not warrant a traffic light at this time. Peak traffic occurs only 30 minutes each day. However, in the interest of safety, the Town has decided to install a 3-way stop at that intersection.
- The Council has agreed to clarify and edit the Town's existing ordinance regarding dogs and cats.
- On October 29th the Town Manager, several council members and planning commission members attended a lecture and slide presentation by Randall Arendt in Walker County, GA, on rehabilitating commercial corridors. Mr. Arendt suggested that strip developments from the 1960-80's should be replaced or re-designed into multi-story, multi-use buildings with parking at the side or rear and as much green space and as many trees as possible.
- Newly elected council members will be sworn in at 2:00pm on Saturday, November 8th at the Town Hall.
- At its regular meeting on November 10th the new council will elect a mayor and vice-mayor, address the rezoning request for 1603 Taft Hwy, and render a decision on the annexation of Fox Run and Windtree.
- Remember garbage cans that are incorrectly placed and overfilled will not be emptied. Boxes and/or bags placed on top of or to the side of garbage cans will not be collected.

Council Notes 11-12-2008

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

- At its regular meeting on November 6th, the Planning Commission reviewed Article III (Bonding). Member Wayne Williams and Town Manager Honna Rogers agreed to work on a draft for a multi-use/mixed-use zoning ordinance for the Town. The next workshop meeting has yet to be scheduled.
- The Town has installed 3-way stop signs at Shackleford Road and Sam Powell Trail. Directional signs to SMMHS will be installed soon. The signs will route visitors out Taft Hwy to Anderson Pike and onto Shackleford Road rather than out Timberlinks.
- On November 21st, Bill Lusk and Honna Rogers will meet with the Hamilton Co-NW Georgia Regional Transportation Planning Organization to discuss transportation issues pertinent to Signal Mountain.
- The Tree Board is looking for volunteers to help with its on-going project to eradicate exotic invasive species from Town property. If interested, call Noah Long 886-3820.
- This year Sunday on Signal is on Saturday too. Support our local merchants on Nov. 15th and 16th. Enjoy specials, entertainment and give-aways.
- Leaf pickup has begun. As the rotation gets underway, signs will be posted in each neighborhood.
- Residents on Green Gorge and Ravine are reminded that Patten Park is a “No Dumping” zone. Please place leaves where the Town can collect them.
- Remember temporary signs and fliers such as those for lost animals, garage sales, yard sales, open houses and other special events must be removed promptly.
- Due to the Thanksgiving holiday on November 27th, Thursday garbage collection will be scheduled for Wednesday, November 26th.
- Recycle Signal is now accepting electronics, rinsed aluminum trays and pie pans, and plastic bottles with caps on. The Transfer Station on Mississippi Ave. is accepting cleaned used garbage cans for recycling. Place cans by the attendant’s house next to the compactor.

Council Notes 11-19-2008

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

- At its regular meeting on Nov. 10th, the Council, as directed by the Town Charter, chose new officers to serve for the next two-year term. Bill Lusk was chosen as mayor and Susan Robertson as vice-mayor.
- A public hearing was also held on a zoning request by Susan Humphries to re-zone the Sunshine Learning Center from Low-Density Residential to Office District, restricted to uses consistent with LDR or a daycare. The council voted on first reading to approve the change pending approval of a plat indicating existing septic systems. An amendment to the beer ordinance also passed on 1st reading.
- The final reading of the annexation of Fox Run and Windtree passed unanimously as well as an ordinance raising the initial water deposit fee.
- Resolutions were passed authorizing the necessary purchase of a leaf machine. Also, the Town Manager was authorized to enter into a contract for Reclamite, a pavement rejuvenator, and to contract with other municipalities for the services of a post-graduate public administration intern.
- The Council also appointed Bill Close to the Historical Committee, Honna Rogers to the WWTA Board, and Mike DeHart to serve as the Town's volunteer arborist and consultant to the Tree Board.
- The Town has several openings on its boards: Planning Commission, Stormwater Board, Recreation Advisory Board, Board of Zoning Appeals, Library Board, MACC Board of Directors, Parks Board, and the Condemnation Board needs a volunteer realtor and an insurance broker. To learn more and apply, contact the Town Manager.
- The Library Foundation is soliciting donations "...to establish and to maintain a fund for special needs of the Library beyond the usual operating expenses". Donations may be sent to the Foundation at 1114 James Blvd.
- Thursday garbage pickup next week will occur on Wednesday, Nov. 26th, due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Council Notes 11-26-2008

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

- On Tuesday, Nov. 18th, Frank Powell, representing Lookout Mtn. Investment Co., owner of Signal Plaza and Signal Crossing, held a public meeting for citizen information and discussion on his preliminary plan to seek re-zoning of 8.5 acres behind Signal Crossing to build a mixed use, commercial/residential development.
- At its regular November meeting the WWTA announced agreements have been prepared to secure the necessary easements to allow Signal Mountain to connect to the Moccasin Bend Sewage Treatment Plant. The preliminary design and engineering work has already been completed.
- The Town has authorized Mayor Lusk to endorse a Resolution to Support 21st Century Transportation Solutions, which recommend improvements in federal transportation funding to prioritize public transportation systems, repair of existing roads and bridges, and focus transportation dollars on projects to reduce oil consumption, alleviate congestion and improve public safety.
- The Town has several board openings: Planning Commission, Design and Review Commission, Stormwater Board, Recreation Advisory Board, Board of Zoning Appeals, MACC Board of Directors, Parks Board, and the Condemnation Board needs a volunteer realtor and an insurance broker. To apply, submit a letter of intent or fill out an application at the Town Hall.
- The next MACC Coffee Café will be held Saturday, Nov. 29th, at 7:00. Featured will be Mario Piccolo, Shanni Hedden, and Jim Palmour. All musicians and their instruments are welcome.
- The Annual Tree Lighting Celebration at the Mountain Arts Community Center, sponsored by the Mountain Business Association and the MACC, will be held Saturday, December 6th, from 5 to 8pm. Cookie decorating, photographs with Santa, and choral groups from Thrasher and Nolan will add to the fun.
- The Town Hall will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holidays Thursday and Friday the 27th and 28th of November.

Council Notes 12-03-2008

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

- Town Manager, Honna Rogers, recently visited Hoover, AL, as the Town continues its exploration of alternative fuel choices. In 20 months, Hoover has produced 25,000 gallons of bio-diesel, using recycled grease and oil from citizens and restaurants, to power its city fleet.
- The Annual Tree Lighting Celebration at the Mountain Arts Community Center will be held Saturday, December 6th, 5-8pm. Cookie decorating, photographs with Santa, and choral groups from Thrasher and Nolan will add to the fun.
- Arts on the Mountain at the MACC will be held on Friday, December 12th, 12-7pm and Saturday, December 13th, from 10am-5:30pm. Over 30 artists will show and sell handcrafted jewelry, pottery, metal work sculpture, painting, woodturning, calligraphy, fiber art and more.
- The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, Children's Holiday Theatre, will be held Friday and Saturday December 12th and 13th at 7:00pm, and on Sunday, December 14th at 2:00pm. Adults \$4 and Children \$6.
- Thursday, December 18th, from 8-11am, Tree Board Members will team with SMMHS high school students to continue its work on the eradication of exotic invasive tree/plant species at the Town's Timberlinks property. Community volunteers are welcome. Wear sturdy gloves and bring limb loppers, clippers, and saws.
- The Town has several board openings: Planning Commission, Design and Review Commission, Stormwater Board, Recreation Advisory Board, Board of Zoning Appeals, MACC Board of Directors, Parks Board, and the Condemnation Board needs a volunteer realtor and an insurance broker. To apply, submit a letter of intent or fill out an application at the Town Hall.
- Please remember Town employees at Christmas. The Employee Fund will be divided among all Town employees except for the Police and Fireman who have a separate fund. Donation boxes for each are located at the Town Hall, 1111 Ridgeway Avenue.

Council Notes 12-10-2008

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

- At its Agenda Meeting on Dec. 1st, the Council decided to establish a special task force to address septic tank maintenance issues to include those failing systems that contribute to E.coli in mountain streams to determine and recommend corrective actions. Those wishing to participate, please contact the Town Manager.
- The Council is working on two ordinances: crafting a zoning ordinance for a potential package store specifying acceptable locations and necessary restrictions and reviewing and revising the sign ordinance. For guidance, the Council is studying successful ordinances from other municipalities.
- The Planning Commission, at its regular meeting on December 4th, welcomed Mayor Bill Lusk to its membership and accepted the resignation of Commissioner and Secretary Lou Oliphant, who is retiring after 28 years of service. Commissioner Wayne Williams agreed to assume the duties of secretary.
- Town Manager Honna Rogers presented a draft for Mixed Use Subdivision Zoning for the Commission to evaluate. Mixed Use allows for a variety of land uses in a single development—small-scale retail, restaurants, offices, personal and business service establishments, civic and institutional uses and neighborhood parks, greens or squares.
- The Commission deferred approval of Wellington Ford's Preliminary Plat for Boulder Point (Lots 1 through 27) on Shackleford Ridge until the final report from the Health Department is completed. Approval was given to Jim O'Kelly's request to postpone his Preliminary Plat for Conner Creek for two years.
- The Public Works Departments reminds citizens not to overfill garbage cans. Unclosed lids result in garbage spills. Over-filled garbage cans will not be picked up.
- Please remember Town employees at Christmas. The Employee Fund will be divided among Town employees except for the Police and Fireman who have a separate fund. Donation boxes for each are located at the Town Hall, 1111 Ridgeway Avenue.

Council Notes 12-17-2008

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

- The request to allow the keeping of fowl in residential neighborhoods is still before the Town Council. Research across the country suggests such an allowance is not unusual with reasonable restrictions—appropriate zoning, a limited number of birds, no roosters, no slaughter, coop setbacks, etc. The Council has heard from many residents in favor of the proposal, but has heard from few who are against it. All opinions are welcome and necessary—contact the Town Manager or Council members. The issue will be decided in January.
- At its regular December 8th meeting, the Council agreed to enter into an inter-local agreement with East Ridge, Cleveland, Cleveland Utilities, Dayton, Etowah, Soddy-Daisy and the University of Tennessee for the services of a post-graduate intern during June and July of 2009.
- The Council passed an Ordinance to amend the 2008 budget to allocate monies to pay its portion of the grant to finish and connect the sidewalks on James Blvd. Work will begin next fall.
- Accountant Brian Wright presented the results of the Town budget audit for the Town Fiscal Year 2008, which he described as an “unqualified and clean opinion”. After meeting its responsibilities, the Town ended the year with a surplus.
- The Council thanks all those who applied to serve on Town boards and commissions. Only two openings remain. Those interested in applying for a position on the Recreation Board, contact the Town Manager.
- Please remember Town employees at Christmas. The Employee Fund will be divided among Town employees except for the Police and Firemen who have a separate fund. Donation boxes for each are located at the Town Hall, 1111 Ridgeway Avenue.
- The Tree Board has re-scheduled its planned invasive-species eradication workday on December 18th until January. Date and time will be announced.
- The Town Hall will be closed December 24th and 25th. Please check the Town website for the Holiday garbage schedule.

Council Notes 12-24-2008

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

- The Town has the right to require a reliability study from Comcast under its franchise agreement. Residents who have had recurrent outages—especially with Comcast high-speed Internet—are asked report them to the Town Hall to help the Council determine the need to enforce the service reliability clause in its agreement. A reliability study would pinpoint the areas in the Town that need repair and/or maintenance.
- The Town Council is forming a Transportation Committee to address present and future transportation needs of the community. To ensure safe routes to work and school and adequate capacity to meet future needs, the Committee will work with the Regional Transportation Planning Organization to determine and effect necessary improvements to the Town's road infrastructure. Mountain residents wishing to serve on this committee, please contact the Town Hall. There is a special need for a traffic engineer or tech, a residential or commercial developer, and an environmentalist.
- The Town Council is forming a Clean Stream Task Force to address failing septic systems including those that are contaminating mountain streams. Mountain residents wishing to participate, please contact the Town Hall.
- Town residents interested in serving on the Town's Recreation Board are also asked to contact the Town Hall.
- The Tree Board asks residents to support the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council for New Years. It is offering a "Trees Make a Difference" license plate for sale. Plates may be ordered online at tufc.com or by calling 615-352-8985. From each plate sold, \$17.50 will help fund the Council's tree planting and arboretum programs.
- The Town Hall will be closed December 24th and 25th. Backdoor garbage collection has been rescheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 23rd. Wednesday the 24th curbside collections will also be picked up that Tuesday. Thursday collections will be picked up on Friday Dec. 26th.

Council Notes 12-31-2008

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

- Tom Poteet's proposals to purchase the SMMS property from the Hamilton County Department of Education in order to relocate and expand the Signal Mountain Athletic Club will begin the review process in January. Mr. Poteet's proposals were the only ones the HCDE received.
- The Signal Mountain Tree Board Honor Tree Program brochures with order forms are now available at the Town Hall for those interested in donating a commemorative "Honor Tree" in 2009.
- Residents who have had recurrent cable outages—especially with Comcast high-speed Internet--are asked report them to the Town Hall to help the Council determine the need to enforce the service reliability clause in its franchise agreement with Comcast. A reliability study would pinpoint the areas in the Town in need repair and/or maintenance.
- The Town Council is forming a Transportation Committee to address present and future transportation needs. To ensure safe routes to work and school and adequate capacity to meet future needs, the Committee will work with the Regional Transportation Planning Organization to determine and effect improvements to the Town's road infrastructure. Those wishing to serve on this committee, please contact the Town Hall. There is a special need for traffic engineers or techs, residential and/or commercial developers, and environmentalists.
- The Town Council is forming a Clean Stream Task Force to address failing septic systems including those that are contaminating mountain streams. Those wishing to participate, please contact the Town Hall.
- Town residents interested in serving on the Town's Recreation Board are also asked to contact the Town Hall.
- The Transfer Station and the Recycle Center will be closed on Thursday, New Year's Day (1/1/09). Curbside garbage pickup that day has been rescheduled for Friday, 1/2/09.
- Reminder: Non-resident user cards for Town services (the Transfer Station, Library, etc.) expire tomorrow. Please renew cards at the Town Hall.