

Council Notes 01-07-2009

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

- The regular Planning Commission meeting will be held tomorrow, Thursday, January 8th at 7:00pm. Newly appointed Commission member Reid Sisson will take his seat, replacing Lou Oliphant. Commission member Wayne Williams will undertake Mrs. Oliphant's duties as secretary.
- The Council will again address the issue of whether or not to allow keeping chickens in residential neighborhoods at its January 12th meeting. Research suggests that keeping a few laying hens (no roosters) for egg production is a growing trend. With adequate restrictions (maximum numbers, setbacks, coops, etc.), keeping backyard chickens has been accepted in many cities and towns. For information on "urban poultry" and "backyard chickens", go to: urbanchickens.net, backyardchickens.com, and backyardpoultrymag.com. The Council would like citizen's input on this issue.
- The Council wishes to thank members of Town boards, commissions, and committees, who have volunteered to continue their service to the Town. And the Council extends its appreciation to new members who have graciously volunteered to serve: Louis Glendenning (Condemnation Board); Sandra McCrea (MACC Board); Reed Sisson (Planning Commission); and Rusty Sewell (Storm Water Board).
- There are still opportunities available to serve the Town on the Transportation Committee, the Clean Stream Task Force, and the Recreation Board. If interested, please contact the Town Hall.
- Our Library has joined the Tennessee Electronic Library, a state program for book categorization containing 26 separate databases. Information not physically available at the Library can now be accessed online.
- A reception honoring Lou Oliphant, who has retired after 28 years on the Planning Commission, will be held Thursday, January 15th from 6-8pm at the Town Hall. Please join us as we express appreciation for her dedication and her service to the community.
- It's time for non-residents to renew their user cards for Town services (the Transfer Station, etc.) Please renew cards at the Town Hall.

Council Notes 01-14-2009

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

- The Planning Commission walked Dr. Wellington Ford's Shackleford Ridge property prior to its regular meeting on January 8th in preparation for the submittal of a preliminary subdivision plat. After a recommendation by the Regional Planning Agency, the Commission voted unanimously to approve Dr. Ford's plat. Each lot will be in excess of one acre.
- A reception honoring Lou Oliphant, who has retired after 28 years on the Planning Commission, will be held tomorrow, January 15th, from 6-8pm at the Town Hall. Please join us as we express appreciation for her dedication and her service to the community.
- The Planning Commission will hold a work session to discuss New Street Criteria on Thursday, January 22nd at 6:00pm.
- At its recent work session, the Council continued its discussion of whether or not to amend the Town Fowl Ordinance to allow the keeping of 3-4 chickens (laying hens) in residential neighborhoods with reasonable restrictions. Information on Urban Chicken Keeping is available at the Town Hall. Citizens are encouraged to stop by for copies.
- The Council is reviewing a request by citizens to amend the Town Ordinance that bans climbing and rappelling in Town limits. Both activities were prohibited in the past due to a series of accidents that required rescue personnel from both the Town and Walden. Please contact the Town Manager to weigh in.
- Council Representatives met with Comcast to discuss citizens' concerns relative to service quality, especially high speed Internet. Although over 1800 feet of cable have been replaced recently, some residents still experience frequent outages. The Town is compiling a list of services interruptions. Please call the Town Hall to report any outages.
- Karin Glendenning invites everyone to come to the Library to shop the Book Nook where a variety of used books in good condition are for sale. Proceeds go to support the Library.

Council Notes 01-21-2009

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

- At its regular meeting on January 12th, the Council entertained a lively discussion on urban chickens. The Council will draft a proposed ordinance at its work session beginning at 9am on Tuesday, January 27th at the Town Hall. Go to urbanchickens.org to evaluate successful ordinances from other municipalities.
- At its work session, the Council will continue its review citizens' requests to amend a Town Ordinance to allow climbing in certain designated areas below the Cumberland Trail.
- On first reading, the Council passed an ordinance restricting the establishment of retail package stores to areas zoned "Highway Commercial". Any store must be located no closer than 200 feet from schools, churches or other places of public gathering.
- The Council authorized a contract for professional engineering services for the design and construction phase for a replacement water line for Palisades Drive.
- The Planning Commission will discuss New Street Criteria at its work session on Thursday, January 22nd at 6:00pm at the MACC.
- Comcast determines areas that require service from a weekly compilation of excessive complaints that are reported directly to them. In the last few weeks, the Town Hall has received considerably more reports from subscribers in its informal survey than Comcast has. Even though it's often frustrating and time-consuming, please report any outages to Comcast as well as to the Town Hall.
- This Saturday, January 24th, from 10am-1pm at Signal Mtn. Presbyterian Church, Habitat for Humanity will collect tax-deductible donations of home improvement and construction items (nails, screws, tools, wire, plumbing supplies, etc.) in good condition. Donations may also be dropped off at their Re-Store at 1201 East Main, M-F.
- The Public Works Department has almost completed its third round of leaf pickup. It will begin its final round soon. 452 truckloads of leaves have been collected as of January 15th.

Council Notes 01-18-2009

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

- At its January 22nd work session, the Planning Commission discussed proposed revisions to Article 4 of the Subdivision Regulations. Fire Chief John Vlasis and Public Works Director Loretta Hopper offered input on the New Street Criteria section.
- The Planning Commission also voted unanimously to change its regular meeting time to 6:00pm beginning Thursday, February 5th.
- Please contact the Town Hall to report potholes or other pavement issues in your neighborhood. The Public Works Department is currently compiling a list of necessary road repairs to address this spring.
- The Town has designated Friday, March 6th, as Arbor Day. This year's theme is TREES ARE TERRIFIC...in Cities and in Towns. The Tree Board is coordinating the celebration, which will include the fifth grade classes at Thrasher and Nolan Elementary Schools. Preparations for Arbor Day with educational activities and a national poster contest are underway. When the big day arrives, eight 5th grade classes will plant trees on their school campuses.
- The Tree Board is soliciting donations from sponsors who want to help buy trees for the Arbor Day planting at the schools. To donate, please contact Tree Board Chairman, Noah Long, at 886-3820.
- Don't forget to report outages (as well as sluggish internet service) to Comcast. Comcast determines areas requiring service by the number of complaints that are reported directly to them. Even though it's often frustrating and time-consuming, please report any incidents of inferior service to Comcast as well as the Town Hall.
- Vice Mayor Susan Robertson and Town Manager Honna Rogers are in Nashville this week to attend a grant-writing workshop. The ability to write grants "in-house" will serve the Town well in its search for project funding.
- Door-to-door solicitors in the Town without permits and picture ID badges should be reported to the Signal Mountain Police Department at 886-2123.

Council Notes 02-04-2009

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

- At its recent agenda meeting, the Town Council passed an ordinance restricting the establishment of a retail package store to areas zoned “Highway Commercial”. Any such store must be located no closer than 200 feet from schools, churches or other places of public gathering.
- The Recreation Board recommended and the Council agreed that the Town Gym will be reserved for adult (ages 15 years and up) basketball play every Sunday from 1:00-3:30pm beginning immediately.
- The Planning Commission has permanently changed its regular monthly meeting start time from 7:00pm to 6:00pm. The next monthly meeting will be tomorrow, Thursday, February 5th, beginning at 6:00pm.
- Citizens with questions regarding the application of Reclimate to their streets are asked to come to the next Town Council meeting at 6:30pm on Monday, February 9th. John Calvert of Pavement Technologies has been invited to respond to citizen concerns.
- The Town Manager is investigating possible shovel-ready projects it can apply for under the upcoming Federal stimulus package. The package is not expected to pass Congress before mid-February.
- The first reading and public hearing of an ordinance to allow the keeping of up to 4 backyard chickens with specific restrictions will be on Monday, February 9th, at 6:30pm.
- Please contact the Town Hall to report potholes or other pavement issues in your neighborhood. The Public Works Department is currently compiling a list of necessary road repairs to address this spring.
- The Tree Board is soliciting donations from sponsors who want to help buy trees for the Arbor Day planting at the schools. To donate, please contact Tree Board Chairman, Noah Long, at 886-3820.
- Door-to-door solicitors in the Town without permits and picture ID badges should be reported to the Signal Mountain Police Department at 886-2123.

Council Notes 02-11-2009

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

- At its February 5th regular meeting, the Planning Commission continued its discussion of Article IV of the subdivision regulations. Specifically discussed were street widths, sidewalk requirements, and traffic impact studies. The next work session will be held at 6:00pm on Thursday, February 19th, at the MACC.
- Recently, the Town received a development proposal for the Town Hall district. In an effort to be proactive in determining changes that may impact Signal Mountain's quality of life, attractiveness, property values and financial security, the town manager has solicited proposals from urban design/planning and land use consultants to advise town leaders, residents, property owners and other community stakeholders on how to evaluate the potential of any proposal and possibly create a Master Plan for future development in the Town. The Town Manager is currently reviewing these proposals.
- The Hamilton County Board of Education has appointed a committee to review Tom Poteet's proposals to purchase the SMMS property to create a health and wellness campus with the intention of leaving the track and field open to the public. The committee members are Richard Casavant, Chip Baker, Paul Parker, Gary Waters, Chuck Teasley, Tommy Kranz, and Mayor Bill Lusk. Mr. Poteet's proposals were the only ones submitted by the December 5th deadline. At this time, no meeting has taken place.
- The Recycle Center does not take Styrofoam peanuts; however, the UPS Store at the foot of the mountain does. Neither Recycling nor the UPS store takes other Styrofoam packaging.
- Citizens are reminded that according to a Town Ordinance, garbage cans may only be set out the night before and the day of pickup. At the close of the calendar day after pickup, cans must be removed from the street and placed on the owner's premises behind the front building line.

Council Notes 02-18-2009

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

- At its regular meeting on February 9th, the Council passed an ordinance on first reading providing rules and regulations to allow the keeping of laying hens in the town by special permit on a one-year trial basis. The second and final reading will be on Monday, March 9th.
- The Council passed a motion asking Mayor Bill Lusk to write a letter formally declining an unsolicited proposal to purchase a portion of town hall property for commercial development.
- The temporary addition of “WILLKOMMEN” to the town welcome sign located at Shoal Creek has generated questions. The council approved the sign to express solidarity with the county in its enthusiasm upon the coming of Volkswagon. The sign will come down within 30 days.
- Several town planners have responded to bids requested by the Town Manager offering to advise the council and community on how to evaluate needs and create a plan for future commercial development. The town manager is investigating possible grants to fund a consultant and a series of public visioning meetings.
- Recreation Director Jarred Thompson has recently returned from the Park Profession School in Dixon, TN where he received training on efficient and economical maintenance of ball fields as well as best management practices for safe use.
- The town is investigating the idea of expanding the number of days the Recycling Center is open by including Tuesdays. This would allow mountain businesses an extra day to conveniently deposit cardboard packaging. Please contact the Town Manager with any questions or concerns.
- The Council passed a resolution encouraging our citizens to celebrate Earth Hour on Saturday, March 28, 2009 from 8:30-9pm. All over the world people will be turning off non-essential lights and electrical items in their homes. The Town has agreed to participate too, by turning off all but essential emergency light at Town facilities.

Council Notes 02-25-2009

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

- Beginning Tuesday, March 3rd, the operating hours at the Recycling Center will change: Tuesday 9am-6pm, Wednesday-Friday 11am-6pm, and Saturday 8am-6pm. Please mark your calendars.
- At its February 19th work session, the Planning Commission continued its work on the New Street criteria section of the subdivision regulations. The Commission, Fire Chief Vlasis and Public Works Director Loretta Hopper are considering narrower street widths.
- On Thursday, March 5th, the Commission will continue its review and also elect a new chairman. Chairman John Trimpey, who is moving off the mountain, has resigned from the Commission.
- Those citizens who wish to serve on the Planning Commission are asked to submit a letter of intent and a resume to the Town Manager as well as complete a formal Town application, which is available at the Town Hall.
- On Tuesday February 17th, the Town Manager and the Mayor met with the Transportation Planning Organization to submit a list of shovel-ready projects that could qualify for funds from the recently approved federal stimulus package. TDOT is currently determining the total amount that will be available.
- The Tree Board will facilitate Arbor Day celebrations at Thrasher and Nolan Elementary Schools on Friday, March 6th at 10am. Come celebrate with the 5th graders and the kindergarteners as they plant trees on their respective campuses.
- This Saturday, February 28th, Habitat for Humanity will be at Signal Mountain Presbyterian Church to collect tax-deductible donations of home improvement and construction items (nails, screws, tools, wire, plumbing supplies, etc.) in good condition.

Council Notes 03-04-2009

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

- After considerable research and discussion, the Council responded to professional advice from the Fire Chief, the Police Chief, the Town Attorney, the Town insurance carrier, and the Municipal Technical Advisory Service and voted unanimously not to lift the climbing ban on public and private property in the Town.
- The Town has developed a policy to address temporary road closures for special events such as road races, walks, block parties, etc. Those interested in applying for a closure should contact the Town Hall for an application.
- There are two openings on Town boards: the Planning Commission and the Design and Review Commission. Citizens who wish to serve on either board are asked to submit a letter of intent and a resume to the Town Manager as well as to complete a formal Town application, which is available at the Town Hall.
- The Town is considering setting up an Administrative Hearing Board to address stormwater fine appeals to comply with anticipated directives in the rules and regulations for the Town's Stormwater Permit from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). Such a board would allow the Town to increase its maximum fine for violations.
- Regular season leaf pickup rounds have ended for the year. A final town-wide leaf pickup is scheduled for early April.
- Arbor Day will be celebrated on the campuses of Thrasher and Nolan Elementary schools this Friday, March 6th at 10am. Come join the 5th graders and the kindergarteners in a tree planting celebration!
- Reminder: The Town only picks up brush cut by residents. Contractors are responsible for removing any brush debris they create.
- Reminder: Beginning yesterday, March 3rd, the operating hours at the Recycling Center changed to Tuesday 9am-6pm, Wednesday-Friday 11am-6pm, and Saturday 8am-6pm. Please mark your calendars.

Council Notes 03-11-2009

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

- At its regular March 5th meeting, the Planning Commission unanimously elected Melissa Cantrell as its new chairman. In response to a request by the Hamilton County Department of Education, the Commission also approved a final plat for the SMMS property. The plat required changing a 50-foot road right-of-way into a utility easement since the utilities are located there.
- The Commission has scheduled its next work session on Wednesday, March 25th at 6:00pm as it continues its review of Article IV of the subdivision regulations.
- Citizens who wish to serve on the Planning Commission, the Design and Review Commission or the Mountain Arts Community Center Board are asked to submit a letter of intent and a resume to the Town Manager as well as to complete a formal Town application, which is available at the Town Hall.
- The Council wishes to encourage citizens to celebrate Each Hour on Saturday, March 28, 2009 from 8:30-9:30 pm. All over the world people will be turning off non-essential lights and electrical items in their homes. The Town has agreed to participate too and will turn off all but essential emergency lights at Town facilities.
- The Tree Board is soliciting donations of chemicals to treat spring shoots from the roots of the non-native invasive trees, vines and plants it has cut. The goal is permanent removal. Call Noah Long 886-3820 for more information.
- Reminder: The new hours at the Recycling Center are Tuesday 9am-6pm, Wednesday-Friday 11am-6pm, and Saturday 8am-6pm. Please mark your calendars.
- Reminder: The Town only picks up brush cut by residents. Contractors are responsible for removing any brush debris they create.

Council Notes 03-18-2009

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

- At its regular meeting on March 9th, the Council passed resolutions reappointing Steve Jacoway to the Recreation Board and appointing John Tucker to the Clean Streams Task Force.
- The Council authorized the Town Manager to enter into a contract with G. W. & Son Excavating and Grinding Work Company for brush chipping services to continue to provide free mulch at the recycling center at a projected savings to the Town of \$11,000 a year.
- On second reading the Council passed an ordinance providing rules and regulations to allow the keeping of up to 4 chickens—no roosters—in the town by special permit on a one-year trial basis. The ordinance will be up for review in early 2010.
- On first reading the Council passed a new ordinance requiring persons, groups or organizations in need of dedicated police services for special events (not including community events widely attended by Town residents) to apply for a special events permit and to establish hourly fees for dedicated police services occurring outside an officer's regular work schedule.
- The Council discussed an anticipated water rate increase by the Tennessee American Water Company at the expiration of the Town's current contract on June 1st.
- The Town Manager reported that the Town could receive stimulus funds of up to \$435,000 for the paving of two collector streets, North Palisades and sections of James Blvd., and an LED stop light.
- The Town is still seeking applicants who wish to serve on the Design and Review Commission or the MACC Board. To apply, submit an application, available at the Town Hall.
- The Council congratulates Town Attorney Phil Noblett who recently received the PRESIDENT'S AWARD from the Tennessee Bar Association. The Town is proud of him!

Council Notes 03-25-2009

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

- At its meeting on March 18th, the Hamilton County Water and Waste Water Treatment Authority (WWTA) voted to authorize the Executive Director to assign a start date for its Private Service Lateral Program. Once the Program begins, gravity sewer users countywide will be assessed an \$8 per month surcharge that will appear on their water bills. The Program is designed to eliminate inflow and infiltration by systematic testing and repair of sewer lines on private property.
- Inflow and infiltration (I & I) of ground water into sewer lines during heavy rains have repeatedly overwhelmed the WWTA's Signal Mountain Sewage Treatment Plant, resulting in the release of partially treated overflow into the Tennessee River. As a result, the Tennessee Department of Environmental Conservation imposed a moratorium on new sewer hookups in the Town in 2006.
- I & I is a serious issue throughout the WWTA system affecting not just SM and the county, but of all its municipalities: Lookout Mtn., Red Bank, East Ridge, Lakesite and Soddy Daisy. Age-related deterioration of sewer lines results in contamination of ground water that in turn contaminates streams and the Tennessee River, the area's primary water supply.
- A deteriorating countywide sewer system is a health hazard that can't be ignored. The Town hopes that SM residents and others on gravity sewers will remember when they pay the WWTA surcharge they are contributing to the resolution of a widespread public health problem.
- On March 19th, The Town Manger attended a Government Health Roundtable. The topic under discussion was disease management to reduce associated costs of employee health insurance and lost workdays.
- Reminder: Celebrate Earth Hour on Saturday from 8:30-9:30pm by turning off non-essential lights and electrical items. And Coffee House will be in the MACC cafeteria at 7pm lit with hurricane lamps for Earth Hour.

Council Notes 04-01-2009

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

- The first publication of “Council Notes” was April 25, 2007. Today’s column is the 100th edition. Many thanks to the “Community News” and the dedicated readers whose interest and involvement in Town government is so essential to its success.
- The Town Manager attended the Tennessee Municipal League Legislative Conference held in Nashville on March 23-24th to receive legislative updates and to discuss issues that affect the Town with our State delegation.
- At its March 25th work session, the Planning Commission continued its discussion of street criteria—street widths, sidewalks, curbing, etc. Fire Chief John Vlasis and Public Works Director Loretta Hopper were both present to offer comments and suggestions.
- The Clean Stream Task Force met on March 26th to discuss its mission. Meetings will be held at noon on the last Thursday of each month at Mocha and Main.
- The Tree Board also met on March 26th to schedule the planting of 7 Honor Trees. Additionally, the Board discussed requirements the Town must meet to become a “Tree City USA” by the Arbor Day Foundation to qualify to apply for grant money to fund such projects as invasive species removal and native species re-planting to create healthy pocket woodlands in Town parks. The requirements are a Tree Board, a community forestry program, an Arbor Day proclamation and observance, and a municipal landscape policy. There are currently 38 Tree Cities USA in Tennessee. The Town would like to become the 39th this year.
- The Council is still seeking applicants who wish to serve on the Design Review Commission or the MACC Board. To apply, submit an application, available at the Town Hall.
- The Recycle Center and the Transfer Station will be closed on Friday, April 10th, for Good Friday.

Council Notes 04-08-2009

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

- At its March 30th agenda meeting, the Council appointed Cheryl Graham to the Planning Commission. Ms. Graham has an extensive background in town government having served as a SM commissioner from 1987-1991 and as a member of the Design Review Commission since 1998.
- The Council passed an Ordinance on second reading to regulate Special Event Police Services. In the past, officers working private parties and events have been “off duty” without the protection of Town liability insurance or worker’s compensation coverage. In the future, officers performing “special event” services will be working “on duty” and will be covered by all Town guidelines. Residents who require the services of an officer for a party or special event should contact the Police Department.
- At its regular meeting April 2nd, the Planning Commission approved a variance to allow a neighbor to locate her chicken coop within the 25-foot setback with the approval of the adjoining property owner. The Commission also continued its discussion of New Street Criteria.
- The private speed limit sign on Shackelford Ridge Road was installed before the current sign ordinance. Therefore, it is a legal non-conforming sign. Reportedly, it is effective in reducing speed violations.
- The Council is still seeking applicants who wish to serve on the Design Review Commission or the MACC Board. To apply, submit an application, available at the Town Hall.
- The Town of Signal Mountain is approaching its 90th anniversary. The Town was incorporated on July 30, 1919.
- The first of two final town-wide spring leaf pickups is complete. The second will occur the first week of May.
- The Town Hall, the Recycle Center and the Transfer Station will be closed on Friday, April 10th, for Good Friday.

Council Notes 04-15-2009

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

- The Hamilton County Water & Wastewater Treatment Authority (WWTA) has issued an announcement that beginning May 1st it will begin charging current and future gravity sewer customers an \$8 a month fee to support its Private Service Program that will repair or replace deteriorating sewer lines in the Town. The charge will be included on water bills as a separate sewer use fee.
- At the regular Personnel Committee meeting on April 6th, the Town Manager announced that there would be no increase in Town employee life insurance benefit costs for the next fiscal year. The Committee also discussed the potential benefit of instituting an employee wellness program and the possibility of providing interested employees with an option to purchase supplemental life insurance and critical illness policies.
- Like other municipalities in Tennessee, the Town is projecting a shortfall in state income for the up-coming fiscal year, which begins July 1st. The Town has already begun tightening its belt.
- The Public Works Department is currently working on pothole repairs. To report a pothole, please contact the Town Hall at 886-2177.
- The Town Attorney is currently negotiating the Town's franchise agreement with Comcast.
- The Council is still seeking applicants who wish to serve on the Design Review Commission or the MACC Board. To apply, submit an application, available at the Town Hall.
- State Representative Richard Floyd has offered to draft a resolution to be read in Nashville commemorating Signal Mountain's 90th anniversary which occurred on the 4th of this month. The Historical Committee will provide Rep. Floyd with historic information from their archive to be included in the resolution.
- The first of two final town-wide spring leaf pickups is complete. The second will occur the first week of May.

Council Notes 04-22-2009

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

- At its regular meeting on April 13th, the Council passed an ordinance on first reading to allow beer and wine to be served by special permit at the MACC when it is rented for special events such as wedding receptions or anniversary parties.
- The Council authorized the Town Manager to purchase a new police car scheduled for replacement next year before the end of this fiscal year on July 1st. The money is currently available in this year's budget. Next year's budget will be tight.
- The Council appointed Karen Rennich to the Design Review Commission and re-appointed Willis Murdock to the Health, Educational and Housing Board. Karna Levitt, Bill Allen, Ruzha Cleaveland, Sam Powell, David Cook, John Richardson, and Bill Lord were appointed to the Transportation Subcommittee.
- The Hamilton County Water & Wastewater Treatment Authority (WWTA) plans to begin working on the "Private Service Lateral Program" in the Town in June. The \$8 fee for gravity sewer customers will appear on water bills issued after May 1st.
- The Town Manager recently attended a training seminar on Tennessee state rules governing workman's compensation and employee safety. She noted that as a result of the Town's switch to automated garbage service and the use of the knuckle-boom truck, there has been a reduction in on-the-job injuries and worker's compensation claims against the Town.
- The Council is still seeking applicants who wish to serve on the Design Review Commission and the MACC Board. There is also an opening on the Historical Committee. To apply, submit an application, available at the Town Hall.
- The Public Works Department is currently working on pothole repairs. To report a pothole, please contact the Town Hall at 886-2177.
- The second and final town-wide leaf pick-up will begin the first week of May.

Council Notes 04-29-2009

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- Standing water at Scott and Rutledge fields near the batting cages has caused some citizen concern. After investigation, the Town has determined the cause is a stopped up stormwater drain. Any detectable odor is the result of a build up of iron oxide, not wastewater. No sewer lines or septic tanks exist anywhere near the area. The Town has taken steps to correct the problem.
- The Town has initiated a Culvert Cleaning Program using a Hydro-Jetter. Contact Town Stormwater Manager, Chuck Gearhiser at the Town Hall, to request this free service.
- Two ribbon-cutting ceremonies are planned to celebrate completion of 18 miles of interconnected trails built over the last 40 years by the Signal Mountain Trailbuilders on Saturday, May 2nd. The first ceremony is at Green Gorge Park at 10:00am; the second at Rainbow Lake at 11am.
- A reception will be held at the Signal Mountain library on Thursday, April 30th, at 6:30pm, for Frank Hill, who has donated six masterfully handcrafted model ships for permanent display.
- The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation is compiling data from across the state to update its 2003-2010 Recreation Plan, which will determine its future funding. TDEC is requesting that citizens, who use recreation parklands, facilities and programs, complete a survey to determine needs. The survey is available on-line at tn.gov/environment/recreation/plan. Click on the blue button.
- The Public Works Department is currently working on pothole repairs. To report a pothole, please contact the Town Hall.
- Reminder: Place garbage carts 3 feet from trees, mailboxes, parked cars, utility lines and other garbage carts. The front of the cart has to face the pavement, and the can must be completely closed. And, don't forget, recycling can reduce the amount of household refuse and save the cost of a second can.

Council Notes 05-06-2009

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

- The Tree Board has planted 25 trees since it was established six months ago. Arbor Day trees were planted at both Thrasher and Nolan Elementary Schools, and Honor Trees were planted at Althaus Park, the Library and in front of the Town Hall.
- Honor Tree Donation brochures and order forms are available at the Town Hall. Trees may be donated at any time, but planting takes place October through March to ensure survival.
- The Town Council will hold its 2009-10 Budget hearing on Tuesday, May 12th, at noon at the Town Hall.
- The Town Pool will open on Saturday May 23rd. Adults and children, Town residents and non-residents, must have their orange resident's card to be admitted. Cards are available at the Town Hall.
- The final session of the TVA Consumer Connection series occurred on Thursday, Apr. 30th. Local business owners, realtors, and property owners gathered to discuss how to increase community support for local businesses and the need for a long-term planning for any future economic development.
- The Town Manager recently attended the Tennessee Managers Association meeting. Economic forecasts for Tennessee cities, updates on police certification requirements, legislative updates that may affect municipalities and other pertinent topics were discussed.
- The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation is compiling data from across the state to update its 2003-2010 Recreation Plan, which will determine its future funding. TDEC is requesting that citizens, who use recreation parklands, facilities and programs, complete a survey to determine needs. The survey is available on-line at tn.gov/environment/recreation/plan. Click on the blue button.
- The Town has initiated a Culvert Cleaning Program using a Hydro-Jetter. Contact Town Stormwater Manager, Chuck Gearhiser at the Town Hall, to request this free service.

Council Notes 05-13-2009

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

- At its regular meeting on Thursday, May 7, the Planning Commission discussed the Community Commercial zoning ordinance in light of Tom Poteet's proposed purchase of the SMMS property. Additionally, the Commission continued its review of Article 4 of the subdivisions regulations.
- Town Manager, Honna Rogers, Planning Commission Chairman, Missy Cantrell, Councilmember Annette Allen and Vice Mayor Susan Robertson participated recently in a 3-day series of presentations, meetings and discussions by the 2009 Sustainable Design Assessment Team, sponsored by the American Institute of Architects and the Lyndhurst Foundation. The Team opened a regional dialogue on how to foster sustainable development in the Hamilton County and North Georgia region. The Team, a group of national planners and environmentalists, addressed specific topics such as the natural environment, the built environment, energy needs and economic realities. It stressed the importance of maintaining regional and local character through careful planning to regulate growth, to preserve the natural environment, and to achieve economic sustainability.
- The new Town website, under discussion for the last several years, is finally under construction. It should be up and operating by this summer. Residents are asked to submit suggestions or photographs that might illustrate the Town's special character.
- The Town Pool will open on Saturday May 23rd. Adults and children, Town residents and non-residents, must have their orange resident's card to be admitted. Cards are available at the Town Hall.
- REMINDER: Please, do not blow or place grass clippings, leaves or brush in the street. When it rains, the debris stops up the catch basins and impedes the flow of stormwater.
- REMINDER: Residents who qualify for backdoor garbage service are limited to 4 bags, regardless of size. Loose garbage or trash will not be collected.

Council Notes 05-20-2009

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

- At its May 11th meeting, a majority of the Council asked the Planning Commission to recommend whether to repeal the Shackleford Ridge Overlay Zone ordinances at this time. These ordinances reduced minimum residential lot size in the Shackleford Ridge area to 1/3 acre. The majority expressed the view that residential zoning should be consistent throughout the Town with a minimum lot size of ½ acre.
- The Council authorized the Town Manager to sign an agreement for the retaining wall repair on Palisades Dr. and to purchase a cost saving SCADA system, which will automatically monitor the pump station and water tank levels, and a new fire hose for the Fire Department. In addition, the Council authorized the renewal of Town auditor and Town liability insurance contracts.
- On final reading, the Council passed ordinances allowing properly licensed caterers to serve alcohol when the MACC is rented for special events as well as amendments to the Tree Board and Memorial Policy Ordinances.
- Claire Griesinger was appointed unanimously to serve on the Design Review Committee.
- CORRECTION: Wayne Williams, Planning Commission Secretary, also attended the 2009 Sustainable Design Assessment Team meetings sponsored by the Lyndhurst Foundation.
- The Town Pool will open on Saturday May 23rd. Adults and children, Town residents or non-residents, must have their orange cards to be admitted. Cards are available at the Town Hall. And, please, remember, babies and small children must wear plastic pants.
- REMINDER: Residents who qualify for backdoor garbage service are limited to 4 bags, regardless of size. Loose garbage or trash will not be collected.
- REMINDER: Please, do not blow or place grass clippings, leaves or brush in the street. When it rains, the debris stops up the catch basins and impedes the flow of storm water.

Council Notes 05-27-2009

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

- At its May 21st work session, the Planning Commission continued its review of New Street Criteria.
- On May 19th, Tom Poteet, hosted a meeting for the neighbors of the former Signal Mountain Middle School to unveil his plans for the property. He intends to keep the buildings as they appear now, but with outside improvements and re-landscaping. Phase I will entail relocating the Athletic Club from Ashley Plaza to the old SMMS gym. Mr. Poteet will also rehab the main building to provide professional office space, light retail and perhaps a delicatessen. The old shop/band room/art room could become a climate-controlled indoor storage facility. In Phase II, Mr. Poteet envisions an indoor/outdoor exercise pool, nature trails that meander through the woods with exercise stations, racquetball courts, and after school study and physical education programs. Although the neighbors voiced concerns over increased traffic and potential noise, they expressed support for Mr. Poteet's plans.
- On Thursday, May 4th at 6pm, Mr. Poteet will request that the Planning Commission re-zone the SMMS property from low-density residential to community commercial.
- Also, at the May 4th meeting, the Planning Commission will address the issue of whether or not to recommend that the Council repeal the SROZ ordinances at this time. These ordinances, passed in August 2006, reduced minimum residential lot size in the Shackleford Ridge area from ½ acre to 1/3 acre.
- A new LED traffic signal light will be purchased to replace the traffic signal at the intersection of Palisades and Ridgeway as part of the Town's portion of the Stimulus Package. The signal light will be about 8 times brighter than the existing light, but it will use up to 80% less energy.
- The Council's next agenda meeting will be on Thursday, May 28th at 2pm.

Council Notes 06-03-2009

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

- John Richardson and Karna Levitt discussed the scope of the Transportation Committee at the May 28th Council agenda meeting. The Committee intends to concentrate on ideas to encourage the Town to become more pedestrian and bicycle friendly, to incentivize car-pooling, and to encourage street connectivity.
- The Council agreed to waive non-resident fees for use of the library, the MACC, and the pool for Town employees.
- By making extra payments on the principle, the Town has reduced its debt for the construction of the new schools from the \$7.3 million to \$4.8 million.
- At its June 4th meeting, the Planning Commission will address the issue of whether or not to recommend that the Council repeal the SROZ ordinances at this time. These ordinances, passed in August 2006, increase the number of houses that can be built in the Shackleford Ridge area by allowing greater density.
- On Thursday, June 4th at 6pm, Mr. Poteet will request that the Planning Commission re-zone the SMMS property from low-density residential to community commercial and warehouse and wholesale district (for indoor climate-controlled storage).
- The first reading of the 2009-10 budget will occur on June 8th at the Council's regular meeting. The second and final reading of the budget will take place on Monday, June 29th at 10am. The Town has completed the 2008-09 fiscal year in sound financial condition.
- Beginning Monday, June 1st, Shoal Creek Road will be closed for approximately two weeks for construction at the intersection of Palisades Drive. Intermittently, one lane of Palisades will be closed. Crews will be on site to direct traffic.
- Reminder: Both residents and non-residents are reminded to stop by the Town Hall to pick up their orange cards. Pool users must have this card for admission. And, please, remember, babies and small children must wear plastic pants.

Council Notes 06-10-2009

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

- At its regular meeting on June 4th, the Planning Commission approved an amendment to Community Commercial District zoning on the recommendation of the Regional Planning Agency (RPA) to allow the Signal Mountain Athletic Club to locate on the former SMMS property because it is consistent with the Town Land Use Plan, is located on a collector street, and is within 500 feet of a major street (Ridgeway Ave.).
- The Planning Commission heard a request from Tom Poteet asking for a recommendation to re-zone the SMMS property from Low Density Residential to Community Commercial District and Warehouse Wholesale District. With input from the RPA, Mr. Poteet's request was approved and forwarded to the Council for re-zoning. The Council will address the recommendation at its next regular meeting.
- The Planning Commission voted to recommend that the Council repeal the SROZ and replace it with Residential Estate zoning that would increase density on Shackleford Ridge from one-third to one-half acre. The Council will address the recommendation at its regular meeting on July 14th. Meanwhile the Planning Commission is continuing its revision of the Subdivision Regulations in order to ensure greater environmental protections and offer more design flexibility.
- The Council welcomes Tracy Baker, a recent recipient of a Masters in Public Administration from UTK, who will be interning with the Town this summer.
- Shoal Creek Road will be closed to vehicular and pedestrian traffic for approximately two weeks due to construction at the intersection of Palisades Drive. Intermittently, one lane of Palisades will be closed. Crews will be on site to direct traffic.
- Reminder: If garbage cans aren't on the street by 7:30am and the lids are not completely closed, they may not be picked up. Remember to take all cardboard, cans glass and paper to the Recycle Center.

Council Notes 06-17-2009

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

- Test results by Marion Environmental for E.coli in the puddled water at the batting cages at the Town Complex ball fields were negative. The odor is due to iron oxide and decomposing biological material, not sewer or septic runoff. The Town has authorized the purchase of a bobcat to facilitate drainage remediation for this and other areas throughout the Town. The Water, Parks and Recreation, and Public Works Departments will also use the bobcat to address building and repair in areas too small to operate the backhoe.
- Following a public hearing at its regular meeting on June 8th, the Council accepted the recommendation from the Planning Commission to re-zone the SMMS property on Ault Road to Community Commercial District and Warehouse Wholesale District. The ordinance passed on first reading. The final reading will occur at the July 13th Council meeting.
- The Town Manager reported a shortfall in this year's Budget attributed to a reduction in state-shared revenues and interest earnings. The new 2009-10 Budget reflects a 6.2% decrease in revenues as a result. The Council voted to accept the new 2009-10 Budget on first reading with no tax increase. The final reading will occur at the Council's agenda meeting at 10am, June 29th at the Town Hall.
- The Council also voted on first reading to accept an increase in water tap fees to match those charged by Walden's Ridge Utility District. Delinquent fees were increased as well.
- The Town has negotiated a new contract for employee health insurance with Blue Cross/Blue Shield at only a slight increase in cost from that of fiscal year 2008-09. Employee dental insurance was also renewed.
- Due to the 4th of July holiday, the regular July Planning Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, July 9th, instead of July 2nd.

Council Notes 06-24-2009

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

- The Council's agenda meeting will be held on June 29th at 10:00am at the Town Hall. The second reading of the FY 2010 Budget will take place at that time.
- The Planning Commission will not hold its regular meeting on July 2nd due to the 4th of July holiday. That meeting has been re-scheduled for Thursday, July 9th at 6:00pm. Julian Bell is scheduled to present plans for potential development of his property on Shackelford Ridge.
- The Council will hold a public hearing for citizen input on the repeal of the Shackelford Ridge Overlay Zone. The SROZ, passed in 2006, decreased minimum lot size on Shackelford Ridge to 1/3-acre. The zoning in the rest of the Town is 1/2 acre. The hearing will occur at the Town Hall on Monday, July 13th, at 6:30pm.
- Vice Mayor Robertson, Town Manager Honna Rogers, Police Chief Boyd Veal and Public Works Director Loretta Hopper attended the Annual Conference of the Tennessee Municipal League in Chattanooga July 14-16. Among the workshops they attended were Budget for Outcomes, Not Costs; Tennessee Healthcare Survey; Immigration Issues in Tennessee; Green Ideas to Employ in your Community; Quality Growth through Sustainable Land Use Planning; Green Roads for Red Budgets; and, Municipal Audits and Error Free Procedures.
- The Transfer Station will be closed Friday and Saturday, July 3rd and 4th.
- The Recycle Center will be closed Saturday, July 4th. Please do not leave items outside the gate when the Recycle Center is closed.
- The 4th of July Parade will take place as usual. Participants should line up at the Alexian Village at 9:30 for the march to the Country Club playground. For questions or additional information, call Catherine Smith at 886-7348.