

Council Notes 07-01-2009

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

- Line up at the Alexian Village at 9:30am to participate in the 4th of July Parade. Walkers, bicyclists and strollers are asked to gather in the driveway in front of Alexian. Cars are asked to line up on Signal Point Road and floats and trucks on Ohio Avenue. The parade will begin at 10:00. The route is as follows: James to Ohio then Texas and back to James to the Signal Mountain Golf and Country Club. For questions or additional information, call Catherine Smith at 886-7348.
- Be sure to stop by Althaus Park for the Lion's Club 4th of July barbecue and festivities. There will be fireworks on the golf course at sundown.
- Karen Shropshire, Director of the Mountain Arts Community Center, has announced her retirement in August. The Town will miss her.
- Information for those interested in applying for the position of MACC Director is available on the Town website.
- The Planning Commission has re-scheduled its next regular meeting to Thursday, July 9th at 6:00pm. Julian Bell is scheduled to present plans for potential development of his property on Shackleford Ridge.
- The Council will hold a public hearing for citizen input on the repeal of the Shackleford Ridge Overlay Zone. The SROZ, passed in 2006, decreased minimum lot size on Shackleford 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.
- 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.
- Please do not pile brush directly under power lines or low hanging branches.

Council Notes 07-08-2009

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

- The Planning Commission's regular meeting will be tomorrow, Thursday, July 9th at 6:00pm at MACC. Julian Bell has cancelled his presentation for potential development of his property. The Commission will address an abandonment of an alley and continue its review of Section 4 of the Subdivision Regulations.
- The Council will hold a public hearing for citizen input on the repeal of the Shackelford Ridge Overlay Zone (SROZ) at the Town Hall on Monday, July 13th at 6:30pm. Passed in 2006, the SROZ decreased minimum lot size on Shackelford Ridge to 1/3-acre. The zoning in the rest of the Town is 1/2 acre.
- At its Agenda Meeting on June 29th, the Town Council approved the FY 2009-10 Budget Ordinance, which included no property tax increase. The Council also approved an increase in water tap and delinquent fees equal to the Walden's Ridge Utility District.
- The Council authorized the Town Manager to extend the Town's current contract with Tennessee American Water Company for three years. Beginning July 1st, the Town's purchase price for water from Tennessee American increased to \$0.8977 per hundred cubic feet. The Tennessee Regulatory Authority required Tennessee American to implement this increase last January.
- Intern Tracy Baker gave a presentation to the Council explaining that many municipalities in the state are passing local option sales taxes of an additional 1/2 percent--50 cents per \$100 spent. The Town Manager suggested the additional revenue could serve the Town well if designated for capital improvements such as sidewalks, bike lanes, paving, intersection improvements and facilities building and maintenance. The Council agreed to review the information.
- Town Manager Honna Rogers has been elected secretary for District 3 of the Tennessee Municipal League as well as to Hamilton County's Joint Economic Community Development Board.

Council Notes 07-15-2009

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

- At its regular meeting on July 9th, the Planning Commission concluded its preliminary review of Section 4 of the Subdivision Regulations. In addition, upon the advice of Fred Brunker from the Regional Planning Agency (RPA), the Commission recommended that the Town Council relinquish its interest in a partial alley at 700 Timberlinks Drive. Mr. Brunker also reported on an action by the RPA that approved a lot line modification in Huckleberry Grove to accommodate a wetland area.
- The Tree Board has re-scheduled its regular meeting. This month it will be held on July 16th at 7:00 in the Town Council chamber.
- The Public Works Department is currently working through the process necessary to receive federal stimulus funds. The town was awarded funds for an LED stoplight and paving, which will occur next spring.
- Intern Tracy Baker recently gave a presentation to the Council explaining that many municipalities in the state are passing an earmarked local option sales tax of an additional ½ percent--50 cents per \$100 spent—in order to keep the state from taking the same amount in an expected sales tax hike next spring. The Town Manager suggested that additional revenue could serve the Town well if it were designated for capital improvements such as sidewalks, bike lanes, paving, intersection improvements and facilities building and maintenance. The Council agreed to review the information.
- Last week the Town Police Department hosted the Law Enforcement Management Academy for police supervisory personnel from throughout the state. Among the instructors were Signal Mountain Police Chief Boyd Veal and Captain Greg Hall.
- Town Manager Honna Rogers is representing the Town well. She has been elected secretary for District 3 of the Tennessee Municipal League as well as to Hamilton County's Joint Economic Community Development Board.

Council Notes 07-22-2009

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

- At its July 13th regular meeting, the Council held a public hearing on the repeal of the Shackleford Ridge Overlay Zone (SROZ), established in 2006, that allows developers to build 50% more homes in the Shackleford Ridge area than in the rest of the Town. The Council voted 4 to 1 on first reading to repeal the SROZ. In other business, the Council voted unanimously to continue the existing ban on guns in Town parks.
- On July 15th, Signal Mountain's Hamilton County representative, Commissioner Richard Casavant opposed the sale of the SMMS property to Tom Poteet on the grounds that his proposal to purchase the SMMS property is inadequate. Commissioner Casavant recommended that the County Commission mothball the property for at least two years in hopes that the property could be sold for more money despite the facts that Mr. Poteet's offer is \$300,000 higher than the property's appraisal, and a majority of the Town residents support his proposal.
- The County Commission's final vote on whether or not to accept Mr. Poteet's proposal will occur on Thursday, July 30th at 9:30am. The Commission meets on the 4th floor of the County Courthouse.
- The Council's next agenda meeting will be held on Friday, July 31st at 10am at the Town Hall.
- To accommodate schedule conflicts, the Council's next regular meeting has been rescheduled to Monday, August 3rd, at 6:30.
- The website copy for the Town's new and improved website has been completed and turned over to the Webmaster for posting to the Town site.
- The Planning Commission workshop session scheduled for July 22nd has been cancelled.

Council Notes 07-29-2009

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

- The Council's next agenda meeting will be held on Friday, July 31st, at the Town Hall.
- To accommodate schedule conflicts, the Council's next regular meeting has been rescheduled to Monday, August 3rd, at 6:30. On the agenda will be the second reading to repeal the 2006 Shackleford Ridge Overlay Zone (SROZ) that allows developers to build 50% more homes in the Shackleford Ridge area than in the rest of the Town.
- The Hamilton County Commission has delayed further discussion and its final vote on whether or not to approve Mr. Poteet's Purchase Agreement for the SMMS Property until Wednesday, August 12, at 9:30am. The meeting will be held on the 4th floor of the County Court House.
- A reception will be held for MACC Director Karen Shropshire on Thursday, August 13th from 5:30-7pm at the MACC for the public to express its best wishes for her retirement and their appreciation for her service to the community
- The Chattanooga Green Team hosted a meeting on July 23rd to bring together representatives of those cities and towns in Southeastern Tennessee that have signed on to the Mayor's Agreement on Climate Change. Southeastern Regional Manager Cyrus Bhedwar led the meeting to facilitate networking among the various towns in order that they might share the processes and the successes they have had meeting the goals of the Agreement. Council Member Annette Allen represented Signal Mountain.
- At its July 16th meeting, the Tree Board discussed the need to follow-up last winter's invasive species removal project on Timberlinks with chemicals. New invasive growth has already begun reclaiming the Timberlinks site. Contact Noah Long at 886-3854 to donate unused chemical spray.

Council Notes 08-05-2009

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

- The Hamilton County Commission has delayed further discussion and its final vote on whether to approve Mr. Poteet's Purchase Agreement for the SMMS Property until Thursday, August 13, at 9:30am. The meeting will be held on the 4th floor of the County Court House.
- A retirement party will be held for MACC Director Karen Shropshire on Thursday, August 13th from 5:30-7pm at the MACC. The public is invited to join the Council as we express our appreciation for her service to the community.
- At its July 31st agenda meeting, the Council heard from Sam Powell representing the Parks Board on suggested changes in park rules for Green Gorge and Rainbow Lake. After much discussion, the Council agreed with the majority of the Board that bicycles and camping continue to be prohibited in those parks. Bicycles cause trail erosion and interfere with hikers. Green Gorge, a neighborhood park, is inappropriate for camping, and would-be Rainbow Lake campers can access a newly refurbished campground (Lockhart's Arch) near Middle Creek in Prentice Cooper State Forest.
- George Davenport, Chairman of the Clean Streams Task Force, reported to the Council the Task Force's short- and long-term recommendations to ensure improvement in the Town's water quality. A public awareness campaign on what citizens can do to help will begin soon.
- The Council thanks departing Summer Intern Tracy Baker for her hard work on several projects. Ms. Baker completed a Vehicle Replacement Plan that would create adequate funding for necessary maintenance and replacement of equipment in the Town's fleet. She also worked to improve guidelines for accident reporting for the Town's Safety Committee and completed a sales tax study.
- After Sunday, August 16th, the pool will be open only on weekends through Labor Day, when it closes for the season.

Council Notes 08-12-2009

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

- A retirement party will be held for MACC Director Karen Shropshire tomorrow, August 13th from 5:30-7pm at the MACC. The public is invited to join the Council as we express our appreciation for her service to the community.
- The County Commission's final vote to approve Tom Poteet's purchase of the former SMMS property has again been delayed at the request of Commissioner Richard Casavant. It is now scheduled for Thursday, August 27, at 9:30am. The meeting will be held on the 4th floor of the County Court House.
- At its regular meeting, re-scheduled for August 3rd, the Town Council voted 4 to 1 to repeal the Shackelford Ridge Overlay Zone. The Council also authorized the Town Manager to apply for a "Safety Partners" matching grant to purchase safety equipment for Town employees and to sign an 18-month contract with Tennessee American Water Company at a water purchase rate increase from \$1.061 per 1,000 gallons to \$1.1969 per 1,000 gallons. The increase was mandated by the Tennessee Regulatory Agency.
- At its regular meeting on August 6th, the Planning Commission continued its review and revision of the Subdivision Regulations with Article 6, Conservation Subdivisions. Its next work session will be on Wednesday, August 12th, 6pm at the Town Hall.
- Several acts of vandalism have occurred at Althaus Park necessitating closure of the public bathrooms. Toilets have been smashed and sinks ripped from the walls. Incidents of graffiti, damage to play ground equipment, and lighting have also occurred. Anyone with knowledge of these incidents is asked to contact the Town Hall.
- After Sunday, August 16th, the pool will be open only on weekends through Labor Day, when it closes for the season.

Council Notes 08-19-2009

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

- At its August 12 Planning Commission workshop, Linda Harris, Senior Watershed Representative of TVA, gave a presentation demonstrating how low impact development features such as grass swales, narrower streets and smaller cul-de-sac turnarounds can significantly reduce storm water run-off and protect water quality.
- Ms. Harris brought copies of The Center for Watershed Protection Better Site Design Worksheet that the Planning Commission will use to evaluate how effective the Town's codes, regulations and ordinances are at protecting water quality.
- The County Commission's final vote to approve Tom Poteet's purchase of the former SMMS property has again been delayed at the request of Commissioner Richard Casavant. It is now scheduled for the Thursday, August 27 meeting at 9:30 am on the 4th floor of the County Court House.
- The Town welcomes the new MACC director, Barb Storm, to the community. Ms. Storm brings with her a strong background in and enthusiasm for arts education.
- The Town would like to thank Dick Gee for the lovely benches he built for the front of the Library where patrons can relax, read or have a chat. The Library appreciates the support of both Dick and Sue Gee over the years.
- The Library wishes to thank its wonderful volunteers and later this month will host a Volunteer Appreciation Day. Several two-hour volunteer shifts once or twice a month are currently available. Call 886-READ (7323) for more information.
- Several acts of vandalism have occurred at Althaus Park necessitating closure of the public bathrooms. Toilets have been smashed and sinks ripped from the walls. Incidents of graffiti and damage to playground equipment and lighting have also occurred. Anyone with information about these incidents is asked to contact the Police Department.
- After Sunday, August 16th, the pool will be open only on weekends through Labor Day, when it closes for the season.

Council Notes 08-26-2009

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

- The County Commission's final vote on Tom Poteet's purchase of the former SMMS property has been rescheduled for Thursday, August 27th at 9:30 am on the 4th floor of the County Court House.
- The Transportation Planning Organization will sponsor a public input session at the Development Resource Center, 1250 Market Street, Room 1A on Thursday, September 10th, 4:30-6:00 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend to help determine transportation spending priorities and express their concerns about transportation infrastructure such as Highway 127 up the front of the mountain.
- The Library will host a Volunteer Appreciation Day Aug. 29th at 2:15 p.m. One- and two-hour volunteer shifts once or twice a month are currently available. Call 886-READ (7323) for more information.
- The Library is pleased to announce other upcoming events. On September 24th at 6:30 p.m. Signal Mountain author Cathy Holton will give a talk about her new book, Beach Trip, and on October 1st at 6:30 p.m. Signal Mountain resident Dick Morel will present a program, "Connecting with the Cosmos," a condensation of a series he recently presented at the Chattanooga Nature Center.
- In other Library news, the Preschool Storytime will resume September 8th at 11 a.m., Chess Club meets every Monday night at 6 p.m. and the Creative Writing Class with instructor Bruce Palmer meets at 6 p.m. on Monday nights.
- The MACC is accepting registrations for its fall classes. Catalogs were mailed last week. Check out the array of offerings including music, art, drama, woodwork and yoga.
- Leaves will soon be falling and citizens are encouraged to mulch or compost them. Mulched leaves make a great natural fertilizer for lawns and gardens. For more info: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/dep/greenman/autumnleaves.pdf

Council Notes 09-02-2009

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

- Although the Hamilton County Commission voted to approve the sale of the old middle school property to Tom Poteet to redevelop it into a health and wellness campus, the commission placed twenty restrictions on the deed, thereby limiting the future use of the property in perpetuity. The School Board will have to vote again due to these new restrictions, and Mr. Poteet will have to agree to accept a deed with significant encumbrances.
- The Signal Mountain Clean Streams Task Force will have a booth at the Labor Day Picnic Monday, September 7th. Stop by to learn about their mission to improve the water quality of mountain streams. Take a brief survey and receive a t-shirt while supplies last!
- At the August 28th Agenda Meeting, Police Chief Boyd Veal gave a presentation to the Council on the significant speeding problems on Town roads and possible solutions. Chief Veal will give the presentation again at the September 8th Town Council meeting.
- Through recycling and hazardous materials collection the Town diverted 21% of its waste stream from the landfill over the last fiscal year. The Recycle Center is open Tuesday 9:00 - 6:00, Wednesday – Friday 11:00-6:00 and Saturday 8:00 – 6:00.
- The Transportation Planning Organization will sponsor a public input session at the Development Resource Center, 1250 Market Street, Room 1A this Thursday, September 10th, 4:30-6:00 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend to help determine transportation spending priorities and express their concerns about transportation infrastructure such as Highway 127 up the front of the mountain.
- The Town pool will be open for Labor Day Weekend and will then close for the season.
- Please Note: Labor Day garbage pickup will be Tuesday, September 8th.
- Town Hall and the Transfer Station will be closed Monday, September 7 for Labor Day.

Council Notes 09-09-2009

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

- The Times Free Press Community News hosted an appreciation breakfast at Sweet Gipsy for the Mountain Business Association on September 3rd. The Town thanks the Community News for its support of mountain businesses and for its thorough news and events coverage that keeps the community informed.
- The Transportation Planning Organization will sponsor a public input session at the Development Resource Center, 1250 Market Street in Room 1A on Thursday, September 10th from 4:30-6:00pm. The Signal Mountain public is encouraged to attend to offer its input to help determine transportation spending priorities and to express concerns regarding Town transportation infrastructure such as Highway 127 up the mountain.
- The Town is accepting applications for a part-time position at the Mountain Arts Community Center (MACC). An evening assistant is needed to work three days a week from 4pm to 8pm. For additional information go to the Town website or stop by the Town Hall for an application.
- The Council is seeking an applicant who wishes to volunteer to serve on the MACC Board. For more information call Barb Storm at 886-1959. To submit an application, contact the Town Hall.
- Signal Mountain's Fall Hodgepodge sponsored by the MACC will be held in the Town Gym on Friday, October 2nd from 11am-7pm, and Saturday, October 3rd from 10am until 5:30pm. Admission is \$2 for adults. Children under 12 are admitted free. A variety of vendors will be selling handcrafted one-of-a-kind items.
- Each garbage cart must have two feet of clearance on all four sides in order for the automated arm of the garbage truck to successfully raise and lower the cart. If there isn't enough clearance, the driver will not empty the cart in order to avoid injury to nearby objects such as mailboxes, plantings or other carts.

Council Notes 09-16-2009

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

- Mayor Bill Lusk, members of the Transportation Committee, and other Town residents attended the last in a series of Regional Transportation Planning Organization public input meetings on Sept. 10th to discuss an interim revision of the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan. The TPO provided information on the Signal Mtn. Sub Area Study, which covers alternate routes to the mountain, bike and pedestrian facilities, traffic count monitoring, ride-share and other alternative modes of transportation. For more detail, go to http://www.chcrpa.org/Divisions_and_Functions/TPO/Plans_and_Projects.htm.
- The Town has received a “Safety Partners” matching grant from the TN Municipal League in the amount of \$1,500 to purchase safety equipment to support its continuing commitment to provide employees with a safe and hazard-free workplace.
- “Restore the Dogwoods” will be the Tree Board’s theme at Hodgepodge. The Board will be selling disease-resistant dogwoods and taking orders for Honor Trees.
- Booths are still available for those vendors who wish to participate at the annual Fall Hodgepodge sponsored by the Mountain Arts Community Center. Contact the MACC at 886-1959 for more information.
- The Hodgepodge will be held in the Town Gym on Friday, October 2nd from 11am-7pm, and Saturday, October 3rd from 10am until 5:30pm. Admission is \$2 for adults. Children under 12 are admitted free.
- The Town is accepting applications for one part-time and one full-time worker in the Maintenance Department. For additional information go to the Town website or stop by the Town Hall for an application.
- Reminder: Each garbage cart must have two feet of clearance on all sides in order for the automated arm of the garbage truck to successfully raise and lower the cart. If there isn’t enough clearance, the driver cannot empty the cart.

Council Notes 09-23-2009

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

- At its regular meeting on September 14th, the Council heard a presentation from Police Chief Boyd Veal on the Town's continuing speeding problem. The Chief requested that the Council consider a photo-speed enforcement program. The Council will hear more information about such a program at its next meeting on October 12th at 6:30. Interested citizens are asked to attend.
- The Council passed resolutions thanking and commending Dick Gee for the benches he donated to the Library and appointing Nathan Bell to the Board of the Mountain Arts Community Center (MACC). In other business, the Council approved the replacement of two trucks for the Water and Recreation Departments and authorized Mayor Lusk to sign the contracts to receive approximately \$430,000 in stimulus funds for upgrading the traffic signal and for paving on James and North Palisades.
- Preliminary engineering and surveying to connect the sidewalks on James from Maryland to the Library will begin soon. The new sidewalks, funded by a matching grant, are slated for completion next fall.
- The Planning Commission will meet with Randall Arendt for a work session to discuss Article VI of the Subdivision Regulations on September 24th from 9-11 in Room 2B at the Development Resource Center in Chattanooga. In October, Larry Collins, a conservation planner from North Carolina will also meet with the Commission.
- The Signal Mountain Library's Toddler Story Time program has received a grant from Target in the amount of \$2,000.
- The Fire Department is partnering with Signal Mountain Social Services on a Food Drive. Drive through the Fire Station with your donations this
- Leaf mulch is now available at Recycle Signal along with regular brush mulch. Each pile is labeled.
- Habitat for Humanity will be accepting donations of building materials in the Signal Presbyterian parking lot from 10-1 this Saturday.

Council Notes 09-30-2009

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

- On Wednesday, September 23rd, Council Member Annette Allen spoke at a session during the Tennessee American Planning Association's recent conference held at the Chattanooga Trade Center. She enumerated the steps the Town has taken to lower its carbon emissions over the last three years as a member of ICLEI: Local Governments for Sustainability. Replacing light bulbs, reducing its waste stream, and switching to once-a-week garbage service are just a few of the steps the Town has taken to conserve energy and save money as well.
- Members of the Planning Commission, the Town Council and several landowners met with Randall Arendt in a special planning session on September 24th, held at the Regional Planning Agency, to discuss various principles of conservation development and how best to implement them into the Town's Subdivision Regulations.
- On Thursday, October 8th, the Planning Commission will hold a special session at 10am to hear the ideas of conservation planner Larry Collins. This meeting will take the place of the October 1st regular meeting, which has been cancelled. Interested citizens are invited to attend.
- The Town's Hodgepodge will be held this Friday, October 2nd and Saturday October 3rd, at the Town gym. This year the Tree Board and the Mountain Stewards will each have a booth. The Tree Board will be offering disease-resistant dogwoods for sale and taking orders for Honor Trees. The Mountain Stewards will be offering information and ideas on conservation and the importance of recycling.
- Recreation Director Jarred Thompson recently returned from the annual meeting of the Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association, held in Kingsport. Upcoming legislation, grant writing, trends throughout the state, and how to energize and maintain recreation programs on a tight budget were among the topics discussed.
- Along with regular brush mulch, leaf mulch is now available at Recycle Signal. Each pile is labeled.

Council Notes 10-07-2009

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

- On Thursday, October 8th, the Planning Commission will hold a special work session at the Town Hall at 10am to hear a presentation by North Carolina conservation design planner Larry Collins.
- At its next regular meeting on Monday, October 12th at 6:30pm, the Town Council will hear additional information in response to the Police Department's request that the Town consider a photo-speed enforcement program. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend.
- The Town welcomes the Fire Department's new Training Officer, Captain Kevin Nichols.
- This week is National Fire Safety Week. The Fire Department reminds residents to check the batteries in their smoke detectors regularly and to have their chimneys and other heating equipment professionally inspected, serviced and cleaned each year.
- The Library will host a presentation by Frank Hill on Thursday, October 15th at 6:30pm. Mr. Hill will explain and demonstrate how he crafted the six model ships on permanent display at the Library.
- The Emma Bell Miles Celebration on Sunday, October 18th from 2-5pm, at Walden Park and Arboretum (formerly known as the McCoy property) will include a talk by Emma Bell Miles biographer Kay Gaston, an art show by local artists, mountain music and refreshments.
- Dick Morel will give a presentation, "Connecting to the Cosmos," at the Library on Thursday, October 22nd at 6:30pm.
- The Mountain Arts Community Center (MACC) is now offering private voice lessons with Cassandra Riddle--call 827-2909 to schedule lessons. Also, the new Elementary String Ensemble will meet on Tuesdays from 4:30-5:15. To register, call 886-2372. The "Sit 'n Knit" Knitting Club will meet Thursdays beginning at 6:30 for anyone interested—call MACC at 886-1959 for more information.
- The Recycle Center's hours are posted. Please don't leave recyclables outside the fence when the Center is closed.

Council Notes 10-14-2009

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

- At its regular meeting on October 8th, the Planning Commission listened to a presentation from North Carolina conservation subdivision design planner, Larry Collins. Mr. Collins complimented the Commission's work on its revision of the Town's subdivision regulations.
- At its agenda meeting on October 5th, Town Manager Honna Rogers explained that many municipalities in the state are passing an earmarked local option sales tax of an additional ½ percent—50 cents per \$100 spent—in order to keep the state from taking the same amount in the future. She suggested that additional revenue could serve the Town well if it were designated for capital projects such as facilities building/maintenance, sidewalks, bike lanes or intersection improvements. She encouraged the Council to hold a referendum this winter to allow citizens to vote on the issue.
- Representatives from the Electric Power Board met with the Council to discuss a franchise agreement that would allow the EPB the right to operate a fiber optic grid communication system within the Town. According to the EPB, they will be offering high-speed Internet, television and telephone by early 2010 in direct competition with Comcast.
- The Town has received a Governor's Highway Safety Grant to pay for additional traffic control.
- In an effort to keep visitors to SMMHS from being lost on residential streets in neighborhoods, the Town has posted signs directing them through the Town to Anderson Pike and onto Shackelford Ridge Road. Residents and school officials are asked to advise visitors of the preferred route and to update any websites containing directions to the school.
- Leaf season is here--citizens are encouraged to compost as many leaves as they can. Leaves make great mulch and build rich soils.

Council Notes 10-21-2009

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

- At its regular meeting on October 12th, the Town Council heard a presentation from Bill Kroske, American Traffic Solutions, explaining the benefits of fixed cameras or camera vans to enforce Town speed limits. Mr. Kroske said cameras are a proven deterrent to speeding. Many in the audience agreed, but spoke against the use of cameras for other reasons. Arguments from both sides were often compelling. The Council made no decision, but will continue to listen and gather information.
- In a second presentation, Town Manager Honna Rogers explained the Town could benefit if citizens vote to accept a local option sales tax of an additional ½ percent—50 cents per \$100 spent—in order to keep the state from taking the same amount in the future. She said such revenue could be designated for capital improvements such as a new Public Works facility, building maintenance, paving and sidewalks. Ms. Rogers recommended the Town hold a referendum this winter.
- In other business, the Council authorized Mayor Lusk to accept the transfer of the former Signal Mountain Grammar School's deed to the Town; approved an engineering contract for the completion of sidewalks on James; and, approved an emergency purchase for cleaning services at the MACC necessitated by raccoons.
- Fire Chief John Vlasis reports the Town's firefighters have excelled in training and as a result each has been certified a minimum Firefighter II. Some have attained or are working toward the higher certification of Fire Officer.
- MACC Director Barb Storm reports the Elementary Strings Program is now operational to the benefit of students from Nolan, Thrasher, and Home Schools.
- The Town is accepting applications for seasonal employees to help with leaf collection, which is expected to begin in early November.

Council Notes 10-28-2009

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

- Mayor Bill Lusk will present the annual State of the Town address at the Council's next regular meeting on November 9th at 6:30pm at the Town Hall. The Council's agenda meeting will be held at the Town Hall on November 2nd at 9am. The November Planning Commission meeting will be held on November 5th at 6pm.
- The Town is accepting applications for appointment or re-appointment from those who wish to serve on Town Boards. The Board and the number of positions to be filled are as follows: Board of Zoning Appeals (1); Design Review Commission (3); Mountain Arts Community Center Board (1); Parks Board (1); Personnel Committee (3); Planning Commission (3); Historical Committee (1); and, Board of Adjustment for Mechanical Appeals (5). For more information, contact the Town Manager. Board application forms may be downloaded from the Town website and dropped off or mailed to the Town Hall.
- SMMHS will have a community service day on Friday, October 30th. Students have volunteered to help the Tree Board replace several trees planted last Arbor Day, which didn't survive the summer, and to spread mulch at both Nolan and SMMHS.
- In an effort to keep visitors to SMMHS from being lost on residential streets in neighborhoods, the Town has posted signs directing them through the Town to Anderson Pike and onto Shackelford Ridge Road. Residents and school officials are asked to advise visitors of the preferred route and to update any websites containing directions to the school.
- Employment applications are being accepted for a full-time Water Department laborer, a firefighter, and several seasonal employees for leaf collection, which is expected to begin in early November. Job descriptions and applications are available on the Town website.
- Leaf season is here—citizens are encouraged to compost. Leaves make great mulch and build rich soils.

Council Notes 11-04-2009

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

- At its regular meeting on Thursday, November 5th at 6pm, the Planning Commission will consider a recommendation from the Regional Planning Agency on a request by Gary Greve of Blue Highway Development Partners, LLC, to rezone the property behind the old CVS from Low-Density Residential to Highway Commercial District. The Council will be interested to hear what the Partners propose for that property and will report on what it learns at its regular meeting on November 9th at 6:30. No decision to re-zone that property will occur without community involvement through public meetings, discussion, and citizen input.
- At the November 9th meeting, Mayor Bill Lusk will also offer a power-point presentation of the annual State of the Town Report. Citizens are encouraged to come to the meeting.
- The Town is accepting applications for appointment or re-appointment from those who wish to serve on Town Boards. The Board and the number of positions to be filled are as follows: Board of Zoning Appeals (1); Design Review Commission (3); Mountain Arts Community Center Board (1); Parks Board (1); Personnel Committee (3); Planning Commission (3); Historical Committee (1); and, Board of Adjustment for Mechanical Appeals (5). For more information, contact the Town Manager. Board application forms may be downloaded from the Town website and dropped off or mailed to the Town Hall.
- Noah Long, Tree Board Chairman, attended the TN Urban Forestry Council's Annual meeting in Nashville October 23-4 and returned with new ideas, information and a reminder: The Tree Board is a Town resource--to learn how to place the right tree, in the right place, in the right way, pick up a planting guide at Town Hall or call Noah for advice at 886-3820.