

The Village Voice



Vol. 10, No. 1

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

April 11, 2000

INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

**Tuesday, April 18, 7:00 p.m.
Indian Springs Village Town Hall**

Agenda

- I. Mayor/Council Committee Reports**
- II. Ordinances and Resolutions**
- III. Citizens Forum**

**Indian Springs Village Telephone Directory
Number is 982-1755**

**For Town Hall Reservations please call
Patricia Crapet Voice Mail 802-2753**

Editor's Notes

The Village Voice is the official organ of Indian Springs Village, AL, established October 16, 1990. The mission of this newsletter is to foster a spirit of community and cooperation. It is the vehicle for reporting the monthly deliberations of the mayor and the council in town council meetings; additionally it provides these officials and other Villagers a means of communicating--it is a "voice." Expenses are covered by the efforts and donations of ISV volunteers. Deliveries are made at no charge by volunteer couriers.

Address letters to the editor to: Dr. Ruth Goodwyn, Editor, 151 Choctaw Lane, Indian Springs, AL 35124 (988-0896), or e-mail: rutg@juno.com. Questions about circulation should be addressed to Phelan Webb, 213 Cahaba Oaks Trail, Indian Springs, AL 35124 (987-8665); Reporter for Homestead neighborhood is Bonnie Murphy, 51641 Hollow Log Lane, Birmingham 35244 (991-2535). In charge of special projects is Bee Little, 867 Valley View Road, Indian Springs, AL 35124 (985-9988).

The Village Voice is published the second Tuesday of each month. Articles for publication in the May 2000 edition should be submitted by Tuesday noon, May 2. The editor reserves the right to edit all materials submitted for publication, including signed letters to the editor, which will be published if space permits. All opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors of articles; any opinions expressed should not be attributed to the mayor or the council.

Editor's Appreciation to:

ISV aluminum can recyclers for their support
Indian Springs Village couriers for hand delivery
Mildred Wyatt for the masthead drawing
Tricia Crapet, RealtySouth, for production

Seventh Annual Indian Springs Village EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 22, 2000

3:00 p.m.

*(Rain date: Easter Sunday, April 23,
3:00 p.m.)*



**Location: Indian Springs
Village Town Hall
2635 Cahaba Valley Road**

**All children thru age 12 are invited to
participate**

**2,000 Easter eggs to be hidden!
Bring your own basket.**

**\$200 in Cash prizes
plus hundreds of eggs stuffed with
candy and surprises!**

Bring a lawn chair and enjoy the festivities!

Beginning Our 10th Year

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

With Volume 10, No. 1, *The Village Voice* is beginning the 10th year. I remember early in 1991 LaVerne Ramsey and I were gathered with Patricia Crapet around her kitchen table, trying to decide on a name for our publication and who was going to do what. At the time LaVerne was the only one with access to a computer. She served well as our editor for two years (followed by Olivia Weingarten). As the one with training and experience in journalism I was "consulting editor" until I became editor in September 1996. Communications came under Patricia's domain as Councilperson for Place No. 2, an office she has held since our first officials were sworn in February 12, 1991. Tricia has been in charge of production and circulation.

Now we are printing 1,000 copies per issue. Phelan Webb, who has recently taken charge of circulation, picks up copies from the printer, sorts and counts them out and delivers to couriers, who, in turn, deliver to the homes on their agreed routes. This distribution is usually done on the Thursday after the Tuesday date which appears on the masthead of *The Village Voice*. Getting out the monthly newsletter hinges on the work of many volunteers.

I would like to thank Phelan Webb and her husband Mike for efforts to scan in a new masthead by Mildred Wyatt, who, along with daughter Julie Schenk, have contributed so much artwork to the community. My new scanner does not work properly. Phelan and Mike accepted this as a challenge. Phelan spent hours working between my computer and theirs, working with different programs, to scan in the new masthead, and time finally ran out.

When I threatened to fix my computer with an ax, Phelan said she and Mike had learned not to get frustrated with technology. On my first newspaper job we did a lot of cutting with scissors and pasting together typewritten articles. Sometimes I think ways in the "olden times" were better. The time you "save" by modern methods is lost in trying to figure it all out. Hopefully by next month my computer and peripherals will be up and running properly.

A Message from the Mayor

By Gene Weingarten

We are in the midst of the tornado season. The following article written by Town Councilman Art Johnson, appeared in the March 1999 issue of *The Village Voice*. It is a good reminder for all of us to refresh our families as to the dangers associated with severe weather. In addition to our two local warning sirens, ISV is in the process of installing another, which will be located at our town hall. After observing the damage that just occurred in the Buckhead section on Rocky Ridge Road, we cannot be too cautious!

An average of 13 people are killed every year in Alabama because of tornadoes. In Alabama, March and April are the

worst months for tornadoes. We remember the 34 people who died in the Alabama tornado outbreak on April 8, 1998, and also cannot forget the 1994 tornadoes our town experienced. Many survivors credit their survival to an adequate warning.

Hearing Severe Weather Warnings

You may think you will always hear severe weather watches and warnings. That might be true if you watch TV 24 hours a day, but we know this isn't the case! Outdoor warning sirens serve a great purpose, but you should never rely solely on them to warn you about a storm that could take your life, or a member of your family's life! Indian Springs Village has two warning sirens, which provide adequate warning if you are outdoors or traveling in a car. However, the best way to hear severe weather warnings *in your home* is a NOAA weather radio. These receivers pick up 24-hour-a-day broadcasts from the National Weather Service and feature a loud alarm that will sound if a watch or warning is issued for your area.

Have a Plan of Action

Don't be near a window and don't open windows.

Pick a small room, such as a closet, hallway, or bathroom to wait out the tornado.

Go to the lowest floor, preferably a basement.

Stay near the center of the house or building, putting as many walls between you and the tornado as possible.

Determine the safest place in your home and be sure everyone in the family knows where it is, especially the children. Your family should go there immediately in case of a tornado warning in your county (Southern Jefferson or Northern Shelby County).

Aluminum Recycling Is April 19

By Art Johnson, Town Council Place No. 4

Aluminum recycling is Wednesday evening, April 19, at 7:00 p.m. To help identify your recycling, please use white, blue recycling, or clear plastic bags with the top of each securely tied with a knot. Place your bags on the other side of your driveway from your trash. Also, please do not add glass or steel cans to your aluminum. Watch for ISV recycling reminders along Highway 119, Indian Crest Drive, and entrances to Homestead.

In March, the recycling volunteers were Margie and Herb Robins, Trudy and Paul Skokel, Mary and Russ Favorite, Nancy Johnson and Pat Potter, and Bob Durbin and Art Johnson. The total weight of Villager-recycled aluminum cans for February and March was 700 pounds.

Every year 100 billion aluminum cans are produced in the United States. Of those, 64 billion used cans are recycled by consumers, for which approximately \$1 billion is earned by recyclers. Recycling programs help reduce the amount of waste going to landfills (2 billion pounds nationwide; up from 53 million pounds in 1972). Recycling protects the environment; it also helps pay for printing *The Village Voice*. Call 988-3217 for information on recycling.

"Loose Papers" Completed

By Shirley Knight

Editor's Note: *I learned of the involvement of Dick and Shirley Knight in this project through one of their neighbors on Auburn Road. I also read Kent Lewis's e-mail message to the 44 volunteers, commending them for completing a very complicated task. One of the volunteers, Martha Geyer of New Hope Mountain Road, said they worked hard, but it was a "fun time," because the group was so congenial. Learning that Shirley had agreed to write this account, Martha said, "Whatever she tells you everybody else did, it wasn't a drop in the bucket compared to what she and Dick did--very meticulously. They worked 'untold hours' and were an inspiration to all."*

If you heard a jubilant shout on Tuesday, March 28th, it came from the old Shelby County Courthouse and Archives in Columbiana as volunteers completed the preparation of documents for the Shelby County "Loose Papers Project."

The project was under the auspices of the Government Records Division of the Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH). The ADAH solicited the help of volunteers from genealogical and historical organizations throughout the area to prepare loose county records for microfilming by the Genealogical Society of Utah (GSU). The Shelby County Historical Society, along with three local genealogical societies, encouraged their members to help with the project. Richard Knight of ISV was the Shelby County coordinator.

"Loose Records" are unbound county records of permanent historical and genealogical value, such as estate case files, marriage licenses, divorces, manumissions and bastardy bonds. Most of these records are found in county probate offices. Shelby County Judge of Probate Patricia Fuhrmeister granted permission to have the records inventoried for microfilming and saw that funding for materials was provided. Dr. Tom Caldwell of the Shelby Historical Society inventoried the number of case files in the basement of the courthouse and a storage annex.

Richard and his wife, Shirley, attended a training workshop at the ADAH in Montgomery to learn the procedures for handling, cleaning and preparing fragile records for microfilming. The Knights then trained over 44 volunteers from Shelby and Jefferson counties in record preparation procedures. Volunteers met at the old Shelby County Courthouse and Archives once a week. Over 1700 estate files from the early 1800's to 1915 and 2000 divorce case files from early 1800's to 1950 were prepared for microfilming. Bound volumes of marriage records from 1930 to 1950 were found in the Shelby County Archives and permission was granted to microfilm these records also.

Cotton gloves were used to handle each paper in the case packet. As the papers were removed from their packets, they were cleaned with special long-bristled brushes. Any fasteners (brads, grommets, paper clips, rubber bands or ribbons) were removed using special tools. Creases were pressed out with small flat spatulas and especially weak or brittle documents were humidified. Each case file was then placed in a labeled acid-free folder and stored in acid-free boxes in alphabetical order prior to microfilming.

The Genealogical Society of Utah photographers arrived from Arizona in mid-January to begin microfilming. They set up their equipment in the Shelby County Courthouse and Archives, where they continued to work from 9:00 to 3:00 each day. After all the files are photographed and processed the GSU will send silver copy masters of

all the loose records microfilm to ADAH for statewide reference purposes. The ADAH will in turn provide a free diazo reference copy to each county probate office that participated in the project. Every name indexes for the microfilmed estate, divorce, and marriage records were prepared. These indexes will be available for use at the old Shelby County Courthouse and Archives, where boxes of original records will probably be stored.

Lasagna Gardening

By Ed Goodwyn

You would like to put in a garden, but you think it is too much work, you are too old, or your soil is not good enough--too hard, too rocky, or has too much clay. Do the "lasagna" method and you can get rid of that Rototiller and hoe and save both time and water.

"Lasagna gardening" doesn't mean you are growing your own lasagna. It does mean to have a neat, attractive, time-saving garden that will supply you and your family with healthy vegetables or flowers. Unhealthy chemical fertilizer is not needed. The vegetables that you and your family will be eating will be grown organically.

Unlike traditional gardening, lasagna gardening can be done on any kind of soil: rocky, clay, or soil compacted by years of being parked or walked on, since you will not be digging down. You will be building the soil up. Just make sure the spot you choose gets at least eight hours of sun per day. You can get by with less, but the yield may not be as much.

Ingredients: newspapers (no glossy or colored pages), peat moss, grass clippings, shredded leaves, compost, barnyard manure, wood ash or limestone or bonemeal.

Procedure:

1. Lay wet newspapers, 10 to 12 sheets thick, on a 3 or 4 x 12 foot section, on the ground, overlapping the edges.
2. Cover the newspapers with 2 inches of peatmoss and moisten with water.
3. Add 4 inches of grass clippings; moisten
4. Add 2 more inches of peatmoss; moisten
5. Add 4 inches of shredded leaves; moisten
6. Add 2 inches of peatmoss; moisten
7. Add 4 inches of compost; moisten
8. Add 2 inches of peatmoss; moisten
9. Add 4 inches of manure; moisten

You can substitute hay or straw for the compost, grass, manure, and leaves.

10. Sprinkle limestone or wood ash or bonemeal on top.

11. Cover the bed with plastic, anchored with rocks or bricks.

Let it "bake" a few weeks, the longer the better. Then remove the plastic and stir all the ingredients with a garden fork. Then plant, water, and mulch. Be careful not to use any commercial fertilizer like 8-8-8 or 10-10-10. Doing so will kill your earthworms, the best friends in your garden, that help break down materials and loosen the soil to create rich compost.

Lasagna beds need new mulch layers in the fall to provide fresh nutrients to the soil and suppress weed growth.

I have put in my lasagna garden and can testify that it beats digging. For more information on this type of gardening see Patricia Lanza's book, *Lasagna Gardening*, 1998, Rodale Press.

Town Council Highlights

March 21, 2000

By Patricia Crapet, Town Council Place #2

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met on Tuesday, March 21, 2000, at 7:00 p.m. at the ISV Town Hall. Mayor Gene Weingarten presided, with council members Herb Robins, Patricia Crapet, and Art Johnson present. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.

Town Clerk Paul Stephens announced revenues for the month were: beer taxes, \$643; zoning and planning applications, \$1,575; building permits, \$560; automobile licenses, \$385; and road funds, \$684. The balance in the general fund was \$184,845, with a road fund balance of \$93,333.

Councilman Herb Robins announced that the sprinkler system had been installed at the town hall at a cost of \$1,800. New shrubs were provided courtesy of Jim Loper Landscape Services. Several trees have been planted to replace those that succumbed to drought conditions of the previous summer. Five maple trees and one leyland cypress were planted by volunteers Paul Stephens, Bart Trammell, and Jim Boyett.

Councilman Robins reported that Shelby County will be letting their annual bids on road work in April. Indian Springs Village will once again be allowed to participate in the bid process for village streets deemed to be in need of paving. The streets that will be included in the annual bid will be Wildwood Lane, Mallard Circle, and portions of McGuire Road.

Gerald Templeton, chairman of the ISV Planning and Zoning Board, presented the council with a request by GBS Development for approval of a new plat for that commercial area. The council tabled the matter until April pending discussions with the town engineer, Marty Martin, on water runoff and drainage.

What Was Planted

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

Councilman Herb Robins has reported on the recent plantings at the ISV Town Hall by Villager Jim Loper of J. Loper & Co., landscape contractor. This is the third time he has contributed his time and shrubbery to beautify the town hall grounds, and he did so on condition that the Village install a sprinkler system, which was done (Key Irrigation), and which he supervised. American boxwoods were planted one on each side of the walkway; carissa holly, cleyera, and parson's juniper were planted. Mr. Loper also transplanted spiraea and pulled up old plants and top-soiled the flower beds. Shredded bark was added; he plans to put annuals and perennials in the beds in front of the flagpole and verbena and lantana in front of the IVS entrance sign. Another improvement he made was patching sparse places in the sod.

Accolades also go to Villager Harry Little for donating another load of mulch to go around the trees.

**Free Day at the Shelby County
Landfill is Saturday, May 13**

Book Sale Is April 29

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

The Friends of the North Shelby Library will hold a used book sale Saturday, April 29, their first at the new library site, 5521 Cahaba Valley Road. The last book sale was in 1998, and since then many books have been collected, Pam Holton, chairperson of the book sale, has said.

Sale hours are 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., upstairs in the library in the unfinished area on the north side of the building. An elevator is located to the right of the stairwell.

Hardbound books will sell for \$1.00-\$3.00; paperbacks 50 cents, and an assorted collection of magazines including *National Geographic* will sell for 25 cents. All proceeds from the sale benefit the library.

Drawing, Wedgwood at Library

"Wedgwood, Not Always Blue and White," is the title of a slide lecture and "show and tell" at the North Shelby Library on Wed., May 3, 10:30 a.m. Pat Millhouse, a Birmingham Museum of Art docent with vast knowledge of Wedgwood and other decorative arts, will discuss Josiah Wedgwood (1730-1795) and show and discuss some less familiar examples of his work.

Whether you want to draw for relaxation or improve your skill, Instructor Betty Sims will work with you to improve your ability and help you realize your potential at three-hour sessions on four Tuesdays in May. Dates are May 9-30, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Enrollment is limited to 12; fee is \$50. plus supplies. Call 254-2964 or 254-2571 to register.

Around the Village

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

Jim Wyatt Improves

Assistant Town Clerk Jim Wyatt, who suffered a heart attack at home March 24, is now at home under Mildred, Julie and Rusty's care after being hospitalized. He usually cooks at a bi-monthly Saturday breakfast held by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Mildred went along last Saturday to drive and make sure he did nothing but supervise.

Church to Burn Mortgage

Villagers are invited to The Episcopal Church of St. Francis of Assisi on Saturday evening, May 6, from 6:30 - 9:30, to help celebrate their 20th anniversary. According to the invitation they will "burn the mortgage, enjoy great food, dance to the music of jazz guitarist Eric Essex, share old stories and dream new dreams." The church is at 3545 Cahaba Valley Road.

Reminders and Announcements

Oak Mountain Middle School will sponsor a Business & Craft Fair in the school gymnasium April 28, 29, and 30 in conjunction with the OMMSEXPO 2000.

Tickets are now on sale for the **Oak Mountain High School** production of *Lil' Abner* April 14-15, 7:00 p.m. in the school's auditorium.

The Shelby County Historical Society meeting/Confederate Memorial Service is 2:30 p.m., April 30, Confederate Cemetery on Highway 42.