

# The Village Voice



Volume 14, Number 10

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

January 11, 2005

## INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday, January 18, 2005 , 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 1, 2005, 7:00 p.m.

### Agenda

- I. Mayor/Council/Committee Reports
- II. Ordinances and Resolutions
- III. Citizen's Forum

Indian Springs Village Telephone Directory  
Number is 982-1755

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

or E-Mail: [tricia@indianspringsvillage.org](mailto:tricia@indianspringsvillage.org)

Website: [www.indianspringsvillage.org](http://www.indianspringsvillage.org)

### 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 co-operation. It is the vehicle for reporting the monthly deliberations of the mayor and 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 and news items to: Alison Stigers, Editor, 5110 Split Rail Trail, Birmingham, Alabama, 35244 (981-1750), Fax: 980-0408, or e-mail: [villagevoice@indianspringsvillage.org](mailto:villagevoice@indianspringsvillage.org).

*The Village Voice* is published the second Tuesday of each month. Articles for publication in the February edition should be submitted by Tuesday noon, February 1, 2005. All materials submitted for publication may be edited, including **letters to the editor, which must be signed and give writer's address and phone number.** 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

Indian Springs Village couriers for hand delivery  
Mildred Wyatt for the masthead drawing

## Message from the Mayor

*Steve Zerkis*

### ATV'S AND DIRT BIKES ON PUBLIC ROADS

I'm sure most children in town had a wonderful Christmas and Holiday Season. For some, “Santa” brought them an ATV (All Terrain Vehicle) or a gas-powered dirt bike. They are fun and exciting to ride. The problem is that they CANNOT BE OPERATED ON PUBLIC STREETS. They are simply NOT SAFE for our streets. The vehicles do not have basic safety equipment, and cannot be registered with the State of Alabama. Some of the children I've seen driving these vehicles are 8 to 13 years old, much too young to drive on a public street. These children are also too young to even have operator licenses. I've also seen a number of these ATV's and dirt bikes driven by children on Indian Crest, the busiest county road in Indian Springs Village. We all know that some drivers ignore the speed limits on that and other streets, so why let them get into harm's way? I'm very concerned about our children's safety. None of us want to see our children involved in an accident because they are driving on a public street. Please keep your young children from driving on our streets. The helmets they are wearing are not going to protect them when they are hit by a car or truck.

We have lots of open space in our town. Most of our homes are on one or more acres of land, plenty of space to play with these vehicles. Have your children operate these vehicles on your private property or take them to areas that are appropriate for them to use. As a last point, it is also illegal for an unlicensed driver to operate an unregistered vehicle on public streets.

## Distracted Driving

*by Steve Zerkis, Mayor*

Here is some useful information for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for all of us.

Failing to pay attention when driving is a growing problem and a leading cause of vehicle crashes. A study by the NHTSA says that inattention causes 68 percent of all rear-end crashes. I think our experiences on route 119 bear out those numbers.

Using a cell phone while driving increases our chance of getting into a crash by 400 percent. That makes sense in that when we are dialing a phone number or in an intense conversation we may not be watching the road as we should. The prudent thing should be to pull over to the side of the road before using a phone.

Driver distractions and inattentive driving play a part in one out of every four motor vehicle crashes. That's more than 1.5 million collisions a year, more than 4,300 crashes each day.

# Town Council Meeting

November 02, 2004

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met on Tuesday, November 02, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. at the Indian Springs Village Town Hall.

Town Clerk Shirley Church called the roll and noted the presence of Mayor Steve Zerkis and Council Members Herb Robins, Brian Stauss, Brenda Guercio and Jack Mendel.

Mayor Steve Zerkis reported that Ed Goodwyn, husband of our past Village Voice Editor, Ruth Goodwyn, had passed away. His funeral will be at Southern Heritage funeral home with visitation from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. and services at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, November 6, 2004.

Town Clerk Shirley Church presented the minutes of the October 19, 2004 meeting. Council Member Brian Stauss made a motion to adopt the minutes. Council Member Herb Robins seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously adopted. No financial report was given.

Council Member Jack Mendel reported he had attended a meeting of the Alabama League of Municipalities held in Birmingham. Over 400 people attended the seminar, including Mayor Steve Zerkis. Council Member Mendel also suggested ISV citizens recycle at Heardmont Park as there is no longer recycling pickup at the Town Hall.

Council Member Brenda Guercio reminded everyone that Christmas will be here shortly and asked everyone to consider making a donation to the ISV Children's Fund. This will be announced in the next *Village Voice*.

Council Member Brian Stauss reported that the website is current and all new officials' e-mail addresses are now available. He plans to update the home page.

Council Member Herb Robins reported there was no additional news on the turn lane project and bids are still expected to be let next spring. He plans to speak with Shelby County Senior Engineer, Scott Holladay, regarding the 55 mph sign on Hwy 119 North, located in front of Our Lady of Valley Church and school. (As a reminder to all citizens traveling in that general area— at the August 3<sup>rd</sup> Town Council meeting, an ordinance was passed reducing the maximum speed of this portion of AL 119 from 50 mph to 45 mph within the ISV Town limits.)

*Village Voice* Editor Alison Stigers reported that *The Village Voice* is getting a new look with more photos to be included in future editions. Anyone having pictures to consider using in *The Village Voice* may e-mail them to [villagevoice@indianspringsvillage.org](mailto:villagevoice@indianspringsvillage.org) or they may be given to Alison.

Zoning Board of Adjustment Chairman Brian Stauss reported that the Zoning Board of Adjustment met Thursday, October 28, 2004. The Board considered two variance requests, both of which requested setback allowances. The Board granted both variance requests. One of the property owners, Mr. Glenn Sidle, plans to donate his old residence to the North Shelby County Fire and Rescue, once his new house is completed. The Fire Department will torch the old house for a fire drill exercise.

Mayor Steve Zerkis reported that a public hearing to allow public input on the Comprehensive Plan will be held on November 16, 2004. Copies of the Comprehensive Plan will be available at the Town Hall and on the ISV website.

If any villager notices dead wild animals on public property near their residence, they should contact Mayor Steve Zerkis who will contact the proper County officials to pickup the animals.

There was discussion regarding the use of an Excel Spreadsheet to report monthly and annual financial reports. Also discussed was the formation of a committee to study possible revenue sources for the Town.

It was announced that our current and long-time City Engineer, Marty Martin resigned. A replacement is being sought.

The Mayor asked if there was any other business. Council Member Brian Stauss made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shirley Church, Town Clerk

## Building Permits

*by Steve Zerkis, Mayor*

This is just a reminder that you need to get an ISV Building Permit if you are doing any changes to your home or land that has a significant effect on your property. It is the responsibility of every contractor, electrician, plumber, heating and air conditioning, landscaping and irrigation contractor to obtain a permit before they begin work in Indian Springs Village. Please verify that your contractor has a permit to assure your project will be inspected for code compliance. If you are acting as your own contractor, you must obtain the permits before work can be started. The value of the work typically needs to be \$500 or more. Some of the typical projects that require a building permit may include: a swimming pool, fencing, a deck or patio, landscaping, building sheds, barns and garages, and plumbing and electrical work. This includes renovations to your home such as a kitchen or bath room. Normal repairs, such as replacing fences, windows, driveways or roofs may not require a building permit. You also need to obtain a permit for any changes that have been made to your land including significant landscaping. Changes made without a building permit are in violation of the Building Ordinance and will need to be corrected, and the appropriate fees and penalties paid. For further information, please contact Frazier Christy of Paragon Engineering, the City Engineer, or Bart Trammell, City Administrative Assistant.

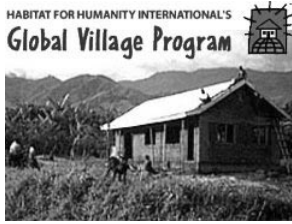
## Building Permits Approved

*by Frazier Christy, City Engineer*

Lot 9, 133 Indian Gate, Carter Homebuilders, new residence  
2394 Indian Crest Drive, Richard and Lori Feist, approval of foundation location and pool addition

# Putting Faith into Action with Habitat for Humanity

By Lynn M-H Andrews



Almost ten years ago, I took a leap of faith journeying to the Big Apple. Although I have been blessed in many ways, my heart always yearns for more philanthropic endeavors. Thus said, I am taking a break from the crazed, fast-paced advertising

world of New York and delving whole-heartedly into one of my life-long dreams... participating in mission work where I can truly give of myself for others. My next adventure uproots me from the "concrete jungle" of New York and places me amidst those who are in need of the simplest and barest necessities that we take for granted. Something I have always felt called to do... and now will be doing in loving memory of my father, Dr. Warren McCormick Andrews.

My first destination is Uganda, where I will build houses with a Habitat for Humanity Team. Upon my return from Africa, I will focus my volunteerism on the home front, working with Habitat's Hurricane Recovery Efforts in Florida.

The need for decent, affordable housing around the world is staggering. An estimated 25 percent of the world's population, more than a billion people, live in substandard housing or have no housing at all. Families are trapped in a daily struggle to survive amidst horrible, often inhuman, living conditions. Since the founding of Habitat for Humanity by Millard Fuller in 1976, over 150,000 houses have been built providing more than 750,000 people with shelter through out the United States and 88 other countries around the world. Habitat for Humanity is dedicated to the ideal that all people deserve a simple, decent, healthy place to live - working in partnership with communities to make it all possible. Habitat and I would greatly appreciate your support - will you please help us in building houses for families in need?

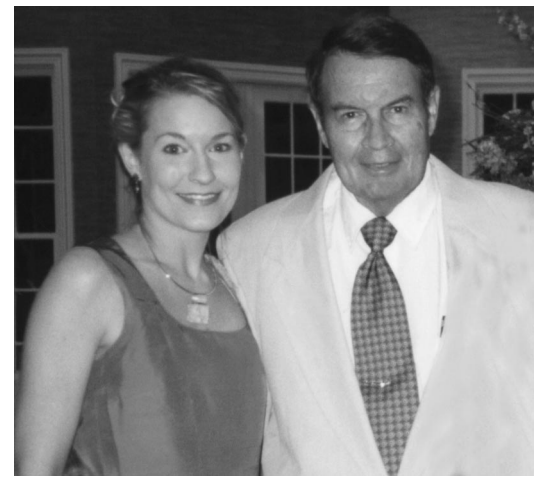
Please visit my Habitat web page to learn more about my trip and the work of Habitat:

<http://www.habitat.org/gv/mytrip/9050-7955>

I would gratefully appreciate your support and prayers, not only for myself, but also for all the volunteers and the families that we are able to assist. To support our efforts and to provide the materials necessary for building the houses, would you please consider making a donation?

Every dollar counts: \$10 is a box of nails - \$75 is a window - \$150 a front door! Donations are tax deductible - and can be made quite simply through my Habitat web page (using my

Lynn  
Andrews  
and her  
father, Dr.  
Warren M.  
Andrews



ID 9050-7955 and code gv5172) or you may contact me directly to see how you can become involved. [bamabellenyc@yahoo.com](mailto:bamabellenyc@yahoo.com) 646.234.1664.

Thank you for helping me achieve my dream and have the ability to answer another child's prayer - a simple prayer... a house to keep their family safe and sheltered.

*(Editor's Note: Lynn Andrews is a former resident of Indian Springs Village, and her mother lives on Pawnee Drive)*

## Garden Club News

by Gladys Price, Indian Springs Village Garden Club

In January we will return to our regular meeting date on the 4th Thursday of the month. We'll meet on Jan. 27th at the home of Sandy Luster for a soup and salad supper at 6:30 pm. There we'll share warm fellowship and have a brief meeting - "Come Grow With Us." Any questions, call Marge Dunn at 987-4765.

February 12 and 13 is the annual Camellia show at the Botanical Gardens. The show is open to the public. Feb. 12th - 2:00 - 5:00 and the 13th 1:00-4:30 pm.

**Tip for the Month:** This month is your last chance to plant spring blooming bulbs. Mix bone meal in the soil when planting.

## Library Happenings

by Carol Farr, Director

North Shelby County Library Reading Group

North Shelby Library

Friday, January 21, 2005 10:15 AM

Hosted by the American Association of University Women

Book: To Kill A Mockingbird

For more information, contact Audrey Salgado at 437-0951

Spanish classes will be held at the North Shelby Library beginning February 7 at 6:00 PM. Sign up for the classes by picking up a registration form at the library. For more information please call Mark Milam at 205-337-2625 or call the Library business office at 439-5555.

# Town Council Meeting

November 16, 2004

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met on Tuesday, November 16, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. at the Indian Springs Village Town Hall.

Mayor Steve Zerkis called the roll and noted the presence of Council Members Herb Robins, Brian Stauss, Brenda Guercio, Stewart Dudley and Jack Mendel.

The minutes of November 02, 2004 were waived. Mayor Steve Zerkis reported revenues for the month as follows: General Account: Beer Tax - \$1,251; Variance Application - \$388; Business License - \$10; State of Alabama - \$16; Manufactured Home - \$6; resulting in a balance of \$61,800. The Road Fund received \$1,059, resulting in a balance of \$84,693. Noteworthy expenses: Attorney Fee - \$1,100; Shelby Sewer (ADEM) - \$913.86.

Council Member Herb Robins reported he has talked to Gary Ray regarding the 55 mph sign on Hwy. 119 North, located in front of Our Lady of the Valley Church and school. The State Highway Department will consider moving the 55 mph sign further North to eliminate confusion and reduce the speed limit in front of the Church and school.

Council Member Robins also reported that his wife, Margie, was collecting children's names from social workers of Oak Mountain Elementary and Intermediate Schools for the Christmas Children's Fund and will be purchasing gifts in early December. Everyone is encouraged to participate in this effort. Checks should be made payable to ISV Children's Fund and mailed to Shirley Church, Indian Springs Village, 2635 Cahaba Valley Road, Indian Springs, AL 35124.

Mayor Steve Zerkis reported the Council had a work session on Monday, November 15 to prepare a rough draft of the budget. The budget should be approved in December.

The ISV Comprehensive Plan was discussed and several citizens raised questions that were addressed by the Council. A motion was made by Council Member Jack Mendel to adopt the plan as amended (minor changes on Pages 31 and 32). A roll call vote was made and Mayor Steve Zerkis and Council Members Mendel, Robins, Stauss, Guercio and Dudley accepted the motion. The motion was unanimously adopted.

There was discussion regarding a legal challenge to a Zoning Board of Adjustment decision on the Gabrielle Cook property on Foxfire Court.

Mayor Steve Zerkis reported that the Pelham water tank repair on Indian Crest Drive should be completed by January 2005.

The Mayor asked if there was any other business. Council Member Brenda Guercio made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shirley Church, Town Clerk

# News from the North Shelby Library

by Michelyn Reid, Reference Librarian

We're improving our Business Collection here at North Shelby. We now have *Reference USA* at the North Shelby Library.

*Reference USA* can be used to:

- conduct job searches
- look for sales leads
- find new business opportunities and suppliers
- locate out-of-town companies
- find addresses and phone numbers
- conduct patent and market research

We also have a subscription to the *Wall Street Journal* and *Value Line*.

## North Shelby Library Children's/Teen Department

### JANUARY HAPPENINGS

by Rachel Hodges, Children's/Teen Librarian

**The library will be closed 1/3 for New Year's and 1/17 for a staff work day.**

**Mondays, Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup>**  
Toddler Tales @ 10:30 & 11:30 am

**Wednesdays, Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>**  
Mr. Mac (Storyteller Extraordinaire!) @ 10:30 am

**Thursdays, Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup>**  
P. J. Storytime @ 7 pm

**\*Join us January 28 @10:30 am for a Special Storytime with Maisy!**

Come meet the beloved mouse from the books by Lucy Cousins!

Visit our website [www.northshelbylibrary.org](http://www.northshelbylibrary.org) for more details or call 439-5504!

# Town Council Meeting

December 07, 2004

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met on Tuesday, December 07, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. at the Indian Springs Village Town Hall.

Town Clerk Shirley Church called the roll and noted the presence of Mayor Steve Zerkis and Council Members Herb Robins, Brian Stauss, Brenda Guercio and Jack Mendel.

Town Clerk Shirley Church presented the minutes of the November 02, 2004 meeting. Council Member Brenda Guercio made a motion to adopt the minutes. Council Member Jack Mendel seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously adopted. The minutes of November 26, 2004 meeting were presented. Council Member Jack Mendel made a motion to adopt the minutes. Council Member Brenda Guercio seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously adopted. No financial report was given.

Council Member Jack Mendel reported he had created an Excel Spreadsheet to report monthly and annual reporting of financial information. A draft was given to the Mayor and Council and this spreadsheet was discussed in detail. The financial reporting will continue to be given the second town meeting of each month for the previous calendar month. The October and November financial reports will be given in the new format at the December 21 meeting.

Council Member Brenda Guercio reminded everyone that Christmas will be here shortly and asked everyone to consider making a donation to the ISV Children's Fund. She had received several checks that were given to Town Clerk Shirley Church. She said the ISV Garden Club's greenery sale was a great success and a portion of the monies will be donated to the ISV Children's Fund. She announced there will be a Christmas party at the December 21 council meeting and invited all in the town to attend and requested everyone to feel free to bring a dessert.

Council Member Herb Robins reported there was no additional news on the turn lane project.

Council Member Herb Robins reported that Alison Stigers, Margie Robins and he had shopped for five children from the Oak Mountain Elementary School last Sunday and they plan to shop for an additional twelve children this Sunday from Oak Mountain Intermediate, Middle and High School. Wrapping paper, ribbon, etc. will be bought and given to the children's parents for wrapping the gifts to enable them to participate in this project.

Mayor Steve Zerkis announced that Frazier Christy is the recommended successor to our current and long-time City Engineer Marty Martin. A motion was made by Council Member Brenda Guercio to hire Frazier Christy for this position. Council Member Herb Robins seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously adopted.

Mayor Steve Zerkis reported that Administrative Assistant Bart Trammell and Town Clerk Shirley Church would be working in December to send out invoices for 2005 business licenses.

Chairman of Planning & Zoning Wayne Jones reported on the suit against the town by Gabrielle Cook. A proposal was presented to the Council that mitigates the town's position and is acceptable to Mrs. Cook. A motion was made by Council Member Brenda Guercio to accept proposal as presented. Council Member Herb Robins seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously adopted.

Council Member Herb Robins suggested that our new City Engineer Frazier Christy review the section of our Zoning Ordinance pertaining to building permits to insure compliance. It was suggested that Mr. Christy write an article for a future issue of *The Village Voice* with examples of when building permits are needed or not. It was also suggested that Mr. Christy expedite inspection of cellular towers so that inspection fees can be collected.

Mayor Steve Zerkis presented a resolution from the Alabama Department of Transportation to be signed by the Mayor and City Clerk for Project Amendment 666 Funds allowing the town to receive approximately \$14,000. Council Member Herb Robins made a motion to accept this resolution as presented. Council Member Brian Stauss second the motion. The motion was unanimously adopted.

Mayor Steve Zerkis is discussing with Charter Communications the franchise tax being received from ISV residents. It has been changed without notification and needs to be changed.

Council Member Brian Stauss proposed the Town approve the purchase of software for Council Members and the Planning and Zoning Committee who are in need of upgrade. Council Member Brenda Guercio made a motion to accept this proposal. Mayor Steve Zerkis seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously adopted.

Congratulations were given to the Indian Springs School, which placed eighth in the nation in the SAT Test scoring.

The Mayor asked if there was any other business. Council Member Brian Stauss made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shirley Church, Town Clerk