

The Village Voice



Volume 16, Number 11 Indian Springs Village, Alabama February 13, 2007

INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday, February 20, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 6, 2007, 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: ISVillage@aol.com

Website: 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.

The Village Voice is published the second Tuesday of each month. Articles for publication in the March edition should be submitted by Friday, February 23, 2007. 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
Herb Robins for proofing

Message from the Mayor

by Steve Zerkis

In 2007, Resolve to Stay Involved

In the past few weeks, it's likely you've made a few personal New Year's resolutions. Now it's time to make a community-minded one. There are a number of actions in 2007 that will affect your community and the surrounding area. Resolve to play an active role in shaping those actions. Everyone can play a part in self-government, especially at the local level. And the role you play -- or opt out of playing -- has consequences.

We've had problems with encroachment into the flood way of Bishop Creek. A committee is being formed of concerned residents to see what options can be taken to improve the condition of this creek, keep it clean and reduce the possibility of flooding. Can you participate?

Our Town's Planning and Zoning Commission and the Zoning Board of Adjustment have been meeting frequently this past year and expect to be busy again in 2007. They are responsible for important decisions about new developments and variances to our subdivision and zoning regulations, and need your input as residents.

Our Town Council would also appreciate your input and comments. All Town Meetings are open to the public and your help and advice is always welcomed.

ISV will also have its several annual events for the residents: the Easter Egg Hunt, the 4th of July Celebration, Founder's Day (which is the Town's birthday) in October and our Christmas Party. All of these are run by our residents and your help is always appreciated. Typically, it will take only be a few hours of work to make these events successful.

There are seven public and private schools within ISV. You know they need your help and involvement in academic and sports activities, and support for educational development programs. I'd run out of paper before I could make a complete list of ways you can participate, so get in touch with one of the principals and get involved.

The North Shelby Library is our library and is always looking for volunteers to help with programs. It is now the biggest library, in terms of circulation, in Shelby County. They offer services to everyone from toddlers to seniors.

The North Shelby Fire Department provides emergency assistance. When you call 911, chances are members of the Fire Department will be the first to respond with life saving skills. We all need to be involved in their needs and programs.

One more thing, resolve to stay informed. You are in a better position to advise your local officials if you have some knowledge of the issues they are facing. Staying on top of developments will enable you to let them, and your neighbors, know when government needs to take action. *The Village Voice* contains the minutes of each Town Council meeting and all of the back issues are on our Town's website. Our meetings are open for resident discussion and input. Our local papers also address a lot of county-wide and metropolitan area issues where your input is important. We'd appreciate your participation.

Town Council Meeting

December 19, 2006

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

The Mayor called the roll and noted the presence of Council Members Mayor Steve Zerkis, Jack Mendel, Brenda Bell Guercio and Brian Stauss. Also present were Planning and Zoning Chairman Wayne Jones, Administrative Assistant Bart Trammell and Town Clerk Kelly Rasco. Councilmen Herb Robins and Stewart Dudley were not present at the meeting.

The Town Council minutes of the December 5, 2006 meeting were approved on a motion by Mendel, seconded by Guercio.

Mayor Zerkis reported for Robins that there was no update on the Highway 119 turn lane project. The Arrowhead Street sign post, damaged in an auto accident, is in the process of being replaced by Atkins Sign Company.

Mendel presented the October 2006 corrected and November 2006 financial reports. Stauss motioned to approve, Guercio seconded. Mendel also reported that 2006 fiscal year documents had been reviewed in preparation of the upcoming audit.

Stauss reported that work was in progress to fill holes in the ground around town hall. However, mechanical problems with the skid loader had delayed the project.

Stauss also reported as Chair of the Zoning Board of Adjustment. It has been determined that the variance requested for the pool on the corner lot of Indian Crest and Valley View is not required if the pool is installed behind the house. A variance request had been received from Charles King of Indian Ridge requesting permission to build an out building in the rear setback of his property. There is a 15 foot easement on the back of the property. The board granted the variance to allow the structure to be built five feet into the setback but not into the easement.

Mayor Zerkis reported on the status of the annexation of Mr. Burr's property. The property is being annexed in series to comply with the equidistant rule, and an ordinance for the fourth series was presented. Guercio motioned to suspend the rules, seconded by Stauss. Stauss motioned to approve the ordinance, seconded by Guercio. The ordinance was adopted unanimously.

Jones reported that Keith Blanton requested to combine two adjacent lots and that this would be the final subdivision. There was also a request for an access permit to the property. Stauss motioned to approve, seconded by Guercio.

Mayor Zerkis reported that Stauss and Trammell were working on the 2007 business license renewal project, including those businesses currently in arrears. There was a discussion relative to a proposed ordinance to establish fines for businesses that fail to procure business licenses

and the procedures to apply the fines. Guercio motioned to suspend the rules, seconded by Mendel. Guercio made a motion, seconded by Mendel, to adopt the proposed ordinance. The ordinance was adopted unanimously.

Mayor Zerkis opened the meeting for public comment. Attending the meeting were members of Boy Scout Troop 555 Andrew Ripley, Brandon Burkhardt, Kensey Prosch and Matt Prosch who are working on a Citizenship Merit Badge.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Stauss.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Rasco, Town Clerk

Town Council Meeting

January 2, 2007

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met at 7:00 p.m at the Town Hall.

The Town Clerk called the roll and noted the presence of Council Members Mayor Steve Zerkis, Herb Robins, Jack Mendel, Brenda Bell Guercio and Brian Stauss. Also present was Administrative Assistant Bart Trammell. Councilman Stewart Dudley did not attend the meeting.

The Town Council minutes of the December 19, 2006 meeting were reviewed and approved on a motion by Stauss, seconded by Robins. The minutes of the November 7, 2006 meeting were also reviewed. They were approved on a motion by Stauss, seconded by Mendel.

Robins reported on the ISV Children's Fund. This Christmas, gifts were purchased for twenty-two children, representing ten families. Gift certificates for groceries were also purchased for each family. The Town Council thanks those who shopped for gifts this year: Alison Stigers, Pat Zerkis, Kristi Wade (counselor at Oak Mountain Intermediate) and her family members and Margie Robins.

Robins also reported that Gary Ray, the State District Engineer, had been contacted regarding the flooding at the Petro Station on Highway 119. Stauss added that the Highway Department had recently cleaned out the grate over the drainpipe. They will return to clean out the pipe that goes under the road.

Additionally, Robins reported that the sign at Arrowhead had not yet been replaced. Arrangements will be made to retrieve the sign from the resident who currently has it and then put it back on the signpost.

Robins has contacted the State regarding the next bid process for the Highway 119 turn lane project. Trammell reported that the next bid letting will be at the end of February.

Robins reported that there are two houses in ISV that appear to be operating businesses. There was discussion

about the town's definition of family as it pertains to rental properties. There was additional discussion regarding the process for determining if there are businesses being operated. Mayor Zerkis will contact the property owners.

Mendel has compiled a list of contractors who should receive a 1099. There was discussion about obtaining the TIN or SSN before issuing a check to future vendors. The Town's financial procedures have been revised and issued to the council members. There has been no progress on obtaining the CD information.

Mendel stated there is a need to consolidate data from various computers. Stauss suggested renting space on a server accessible via the internet. There was discussion about record keeping standards.

Mendel recommended a resolution: a letter of condolence to Betty Ford and family thanking them for the contributions of Gerald R. Ford.

Guercio discussed work to be done to prevent flooding of Bishop Creek.

Mayor Zerkis reported that representatives of the county and the city engineer had been out to the property at Highway 119 and Caldwell Mill to determine if the construction activities were in compliance.

Stauss reported that the skid loader is being picked up and taken in for repairs. At that time, the vendor will be asked to give a quote to sell the equipment.

All business license invoices have been mailed. No report for ZBA.

Mayor Zerkis reported that Santa's visit to Town Hall on December 9, 2006 was successful. The Crapet family has been thanked for their good work and has offered to continue to perform this event.

The Mayor is also discussing with Waste Management the details and cost of a recycling program.

There was discussion about audits, specifically the difference between an audit and a financial review. State code requires that an audit comply with GAAP.

Trammell presented an annexation ordinance for the fifth stage of Stag Run. Stauss motioned to accept, seconded by Robins. Stauss made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Mendel. The annexation ordinance was adopted unanimously.

Stauss motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Rasco, Town Clerk

Building Permits

submitted by Frazier Christy, Town Engineer

Applicant: Robert S. Grant Construction
Owner: Same
Address: 80 Foxfire Circle
Proposed Use: Interior Remodel

Phone Tax Refund

by Steve Zerkis, Mayor

Remember that Federal excise tax we used to pay on our long-distance telephone bill each month, the one that was originally enacted to fund the Spanish-American War in 1898? The war ended over a century ago but the tax remained. This was a 3 percent tax. That tax was ended recently and the good news is that we can get some of our money back. You can claim the refund on your 2006 Federal income tax form either by taking a standard refund of \$30 for a filer with one exemption (more if you have more exemptions), or you can claim actual charges from your phone bills from March 2003 through last July. Businesses can also claim refunds. For more information, you can contact the Internal Revenue Service or go to their website at www.irs.gov.

Garden Club News

by Lynn Hendricks, President, Indian Springs Garden Club

The "Eagle Watch" outing on January 19th and 20th was both enlightening and educational. For those who missed the trip, a discussion will be given at our February meeting at the home of Eleanor Bennett on the 22nd.

Ginny Lusk's daughter, Susan Kelley, has recently returned from China where she collected plant specimens to be dried and stored as official plant records for the Harvard Herbaria. Susan's Seminar: "ShangriLa - At the Heart of the Hengduan Mountain of Western China" will be given at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Fern Society on February 21st, 12:30-2:00 p.m. This presentation will also be repeated at Aldridge Gardens on Saturday, February 24th, from 2:00-3:30 p.m. Both programs are open to the public. There is no charge at The Fern Society, however, Aldridge Gardens will charge \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members.

Arbor Day is celebrated in Alabama in the month of February. PLEASE PLANT A TREE!!

Tip of the month: The best fertilizer for your bulbs is compost. If you do not have a compost bin, use bagged mushroom or cow manure compost to provide a source of slow-release nitrogen.

Applicant: Len B. Shannon
Address: 230 Swann Drive
Proposed Use: Power Service - Remodel

Applicant: Joey Stamba
Owner: Building Resources
Address: The View at Indian Crest Lot 5, Lot 12, Lot 14
Proposed Use: New Construction

Volunteers for Easter Egg Hunt

by Brenda Bell-Guercio, Council Member

It is that time of year to begin plans for the Annual Indian Springs Easter Egg Hunt. We are hunting ourselves for people to organize this event and head committees such as ordering prizes and goodies, purchasing and hiding the eggs, setting up the roped-off areas for the different age groups on the Saturday morning before Easter and overall help with the hunt and passing out prizes. Its a fun event for all ages Please call Brenda Bell-Guercio at 987-2581.

Bishop Creek Committee

by Brenda Bell-Guercio, Council Member

Anyone living along Bishop Creek or affected by flooding from the creek who is interested in forming a committee to evaluate options or resources to help maintain the integrity of the creek in a healthy, clean and non-obstructed fashion, call Brenda Bell-Guercio at 987-2581.

Alabama's Native Wildlife Needs Your Help

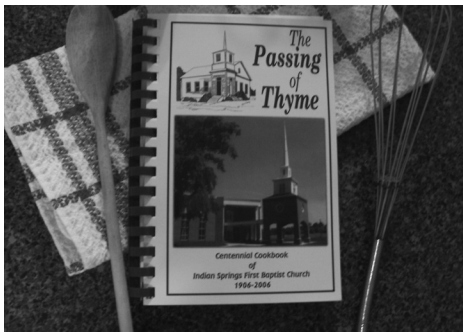
Submitted by Anne Miller, Director, Alabama Wildlife Center

Alabama's native wildlife needs our help! Volunteers are urgently needed at the Alabama Wildlife Center to provide care for this year's orphaned and injured wildlife so they can return to the wild. Call 663-7930 or log on to www.awrc.org for more information about the next raining session to be held at the Alabama Wildlife Center located in Oak Mountain State Park.

The Passing of Thyme

by Donna Swofford, ISV Resident

Indian Springs First Baptist Church has put together a centennial cookbook, "The Passing of Thyme". This book contains over 300 easy family favorites, mouthwatering desserts and convenient large quantity recipes. For only \$10.00



this cookbook is the perfect gift for beginners, wedding gifts or graduation. Stop by our church office at 3375 Cahaba Valley Road or call us

at 988-3662 to pick up your copy. Remember our motto: Life is short, eat dessert first.

Congratulations!

by Tricia Crapet

Congratulations are in order for ISV's former mayor and first lady, Gene and Olivia Weingarten, whose latest grandchild, Samuel Clark Weingarten, was born on Friday, January 19, 2007. Parents Walter and Susan Weingarten, along with big sister Julia, live in Huntingdon, Tennessee, a farming community close to Jackson. Samuel, who weighed in at a whopping ten pounds and one ounce, with a length of 20 inches, already looks like he will be a future linebacker for the family's alma mater, Auburn University! Best wishes to the Weingarten family on this happy occasion!

Community Bulletin

Submitted by Dawn Thornton

Girl Scout Troop #159 of the Oak Mountain Service Area-Cahaba Council is learning the proper procedures and ceremonies for retiring flags permanently. Please call if your business is planning on retiring a flag. Girl Scout Troop #159 would like to perform the ceremony and the proper disposal for your flag.

We are also in need of a new flag donation for learning the proper ceremonies for raising and honoring the U.S. and State flag. Any support will be appreciated. You may contact us at thethorntonhouse@charter.net or call 205-527-2765; you can contact Troop Leader Robin Walker at RW9700@bellshouth.net.

They're Back!

by Steve Zerkis, Mayor

I recently received a call from a concerned resident to report that she saw a family of three coyotes crossing her yard. She lives in the vicinity of Arrowhead Lane. I also heard about another coyote seen in the vicinity of Indian Crest Drive, east of Miller Circle. Coyotes are predators and are looking for something to eat. They are hungry and they don't discriminate. They will go into open barns and sheds looking for animals to attack. Please take basic precautions. Please don't leave any pet food outside. Please keep an eye on your pets.

They are not just harmless fuzzy creatures. Chances are you will never come into contact with a coyote because they don't want to be in contact with you either. But if one gets close, pick up your pet or small child and make a lot of noise to scare the animal away. Make them feel unwelcome. They should be scared of us.

February Happenings

by Tess Bouvier, North Shelby Library Children's Librarian

Special Programming

February is African American Heritage month! Come and check out our extensive collection of books about African American leaders and heroes and learn about their important contribution to our history.

February is also American History month. We have many books on the history of our nation for you to check out!

Monday, February 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th: "Sit, Stay, Read!" A non-profit organization through Hand-in-Paw dedicated to providing volunteer services to children. "Sit, Stay, Read!" brings children together with specially trained therapy animals to help them gain more confidence in their reading abilities in an individual setting at the North Shelby library that is supportive, relaxed and furry! All ages. Registration required. Call or email Tess at 439-5504 or nsyouth@shelbycounty-al.org for more information.

Thursday, February 8th- 4 p.m.: "Valentines Craft" Decorate a beary special valentine for the holiday! Join us to design a foam magnet bear valentine and personalize it with your own unique message for someone you love! All Ages. Registration required. Call or email Tess at 439-5504 or nsyouth@shelbycounty-al.org for more information.

Wednesday, February 14th-10:45 a.m.: "Mr. Mac's Valentines Party" Enjoy an hour of stories, sweets and songs with story-teller Mr. Mac! All ages.

Thursday, February 15th- 4 p.m.: "Chinese New Year Program" New Years in February?! Come to North Shelby to learn about this exciting holiday, enjoy delicious snacks and decorate your own Chinese lantern or dragon! All ages. Registration required. Call or email Katie at 439-5504 or nsyouth@shelbycounty-al.org for more information.

Saturday, February 17th- 2 p.m.: "Family Movie Day" Zoom on in to the Library and watch the fast paced Disney movie "Cars". Refreshments served.

February 19th-23rd: "Presidents Day Memory Game" Visit the Children's Department and test your knowledge of our American presidents by writing down the names of as many as you can remember. How many Presidents can you name? Everybody wins a prize!

Story-Time Programming

Toddler Tales

Monday, February 5th, 12th and 19th- 10:30 & 11:30 a.m.:

You can call the Library at 439-5504 to sign-up. You may begin registration the last Monday of the month for the following month of programs. Ages 24-36 months.

Registration required – call the Children's Department at 439-5504 to sign-up.

Mr. Mac (Storyteller Extraordinaire!)

Wednesdays, February 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th at 10:45 a.m. All ages welcome.

P. J. Story time

Thursdays, February 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd at 7 p.m. All ages welcome.

Teen Scene

Teen Book Pick of the Month - "Forever in Blue: The Fourth Summer of the Sisterhood"

Visit the teen department and grab a copy of the fourth and final book in the "Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants" series. Let us know what you think about the book and what our next selection should be!

The Month of February – Online Book Club

Want to find another teen book to read? Join our Online Book Club and receive portions of a teen book each week through your email! Sign up on our website to get started!

North Shelby Library Book Club

by Michelyn Reid, North Shelby Library Reference Librarian

The North Shelby Library Book Club meets every 3rd Thursday of the month from 10:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m..

We are inviting the public to a special book discussion on Thursday, March 15th at 10:30 a.m. for our March book, "The No.1 Ladies Detective Agency" by Alexander McCall Smith. This novel concerns Botswana's one and only lady private detective, Mma Ramotswa. In addition to the book discussion, we will have a special guest and member of the Peace Corps, Kathy Angus, who spent time in Botswana, the setting of the book. She will present an inside view of Botswana that she refers to as "The World of Mma Ramotswa" in which she discusses the history of Botswana and explains why Mma Ramotswa is so proud of her country and of its first President, Sir Seretse Khmam.

Ms. Angus will read bits from the first four books in the series by Alexander McCall Smith and show some pictures of what the area looks like, typical villages, the small downtown of Gaborone, the view of Mochudi from the kopje (hill) outside town, etc. She will be able to help people hear the pronunciation of names and help translate some of the setswana words and expressions used in the books. This will be a great asset to our book discussion. Refreshments will be served including a native drink, Red Bush Tea. For any questions please contact Michelyn Reid at 439-5510 or nsref@shelbycounty-al.org.

FEBRUARY 2007

HEARDMONT PARK SENIOR CENTER
(205) 991-5742

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
AARP WILL BE DOING TAXES EACH TUESDAY AND THURSDAY BEGINNING ON THE SIXTH OF FEBRUARY FROM 10:00 TO 2:00. PLEASE SEE LILLIAN FOR APPOINTMENT TIMES.				
5 10-2 pm Mexican Dominoes/Cards 10 am Mah Jongg Game 12 noon Lunch 12:30-4 Canasta	6 10-11 Exercise Class 10-2 pm Taxes 10-2 pm Card Games 10-2 pm Mexican Dominoes 12 noon Lunch 12:30-2 pm Line Dancing w/Charlotte Kessler	7 9:30-12 noon Bridge Club 12:00 noon Lunch 12:30-4 Phase 10 cards 1:30-3:00 Bingo	1 10-11am Exercise Class 10-2 pm Mexican Dominoes 10-2 pm Card Games 12 noon Lunch 12:30-2 pm Line Dancing w/Wanda Fulton	2 10-2 pm Mexican Dominoes 9-10 Intermediate Line Dancing w/Chris 10-11 Beginner Line Dancing w/Chris 12 noon Lunch !-4 Movies and popcorn
12 10-2 pm Mexican Dominoes/Cards 10 am Mah Jongg Game 12 noon Lunch 12:30-4 Canasta	13 10-11 Exercise Class 10-2 pm Taxes 10-2 pm Card Games 10-2 pm Mexican Dominoes 12 noon Lunch 12:30-2 pm Line Dancing w/Charlotte Kessler	14 9:30-12 noon Bridge Club 12:00 noon Lunch 12:30-4 Phase 10 cards 1:30-3:00 Bingo	15 Day Trip to Ross Bridge for Lunch 10-11am Exercise Class 10-2 pm Taxes 10-2 pm Mexican Dominoes 10-2 pm Card Games 12 noon Lunch 12:30-2 pm Line Dancing w/Wanda Fulton	16 10-2 pm Mexican Dominoes 9-10 Intermediate Line Dancing w/Chris 10-11 Beginner Line Dancing w/Chris 12 noon Lunch !-4 Movies and popcorn
19 10-2 pm Mexican Dominoes/Cards 10 am Mah Jongg Game 12 noon Lunch 12:30-4 Canasta	20 10-11 Exercise Class 10-2 pm Taxes 10-2 pm Card Games 10-2 pm Mexican Dominoes 12 noon Lunch 12:30-2 pm Line Dancing w/Charlotte Kessler	21 9:30-12 noon Bridge Club 12:00 noon Lunch 12:30-4 Phase 10 cards 1:30-3:00 Bingo	22 10-11am Exercise Class 10-2 pm Taxes 10-2 pm Mexican Dominoes 10-2 pm Card Games 12 noon Lunch 1:00 Day Trip to Blue Bell Ice Cream 12:30-2 pm Line Dancing w/Wanda Fulton	23 10-2 pm Mexican Dominoes 9-10 Intermediate Line Dancing w/Chris 10-11 Beginner Line Dancing w/Chris 12 noon Lunch !-4 Movies and popcorn 7-9:30 pm Dance & Social with Ray Newman
26 10-2 pm Mexican Dominoes/Cards 10 am Mah Jongg Game 12 noon Lunch 12:30-4 Canasta	27 10-11 Exercise Class 10-2 pm Taxes 10-2 pm Card Games 10-2 pm Mexican Dominoes 12 noon Lunch 12:30-2 pm Line Dancing w/Charlotte Kessler	28 9:30-12 noon Bridge Club 12:00 noon Lunch 12:30-4 Phase 10 cards 1:30-3:00 Bingo		jh