



# The Village Voice

Vol 1, No. 9

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

December 3, 1991

**INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
Indian Springs School Town Hall  
Tuesday, Dec. 10, 1991, 7 p.m.

### Agenda

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

(Council meetings are scheduled for the second Tuesday each month)

### Editor's Notes

*The Village Voice* is the official organ of Indian Springs Village, AL, established October 16, 1990. The primary purpose of this newsletter is to report the monthly deliberations of the mayor and the council in town council meetings as well as to give the mayor and council members the opportunity to communicate with the electorate. In addition, your editor's hope is to foster a spirit of community and cooperation along with fun and fairness. Good neighbors need less legislation. Expenses are covered by the efforts and donations of ISV volunteers. Deliveries are also made at no charge by volunteer couriers.

Address letters to the editor and appropriate news articles to: LaVern Ramsey, 530 Indian Crest Drive, Indian Springs, AL 35124. Newcomer information should be reported to Patricia Crapet (985-9205).

*The Village Voice* is published the first Tuesday of the month. Articles for publication in the January, 1992, edition should be submitted by Saturday noon, December 28. The editor reserves the right to edit all materials submitted for publication. All opinions are those of the author, unless otherwise indicated. All articles not attributed to other writers are written by the editor.

### Editor's Appreciation to:

The donors who subsidize printing expenses  
Patricia Crapet for circulation (985-9205)  
Dr. Ruth Goodwyn for editorial consultation  
Indian Springs couriers for hand delivery  
Mildred Wyatt for the masthead drawing

## INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE CELEBRATES THE SEASON WITH A CHRISTMAS VILLAGE THEME

Certain elves, whose identities shall remain a mystery, are excited about the approaching holiday season and are eager to encourage everyone to get in the spirit. These are very special elves who give much of their time all year long to making the Village a beautiful and uncluttered community. They visualize the Village at Christmas and Hanukkah as a celebration of personal beliefs, home, hearth, and neighborhood.

Your editor has promised to publish the elves' list of especially spirited Villagers who deserve recognition. These sophisticated elves have eclectic tastes and hope to see many different expressions of talent. These are also very sensitive elves and they wish to remind all Villagers that they value participation rather than competition. However, they have challenged each other to pick for recognition what they consider to be the:

- \*Best use of traditional themes
- \*Most original theme
- \*Best use of lights
- \*Best mailbox decoration
- \*Best driveway entrance decoration (for people whose homes are not visible from the street)
- \*Best other special feature

Drive through the Village during the season and judge for yourselves so that you can critique the elves' preferences. Their choices will be published in the January issue of *The Village Voice*. Do take the drive once by day and once by night; the elves will. Who knows, you may spot an elf.

## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

At the last council meeting Charles Colvert, administrator of Shelby Medical Center, presented the hospital's short-term and long-range plans for Shelby County's medical care. SMC has asked for our support as individuals and as a community. I urge each of you to familiarize yourself with SMC's plans, goals and objectives, and make your thoughts known to the council.\* (See Editor's Thoughts,

Page 4.)

The report from the committee that has been collating information and preparing the proposed ordinance for our zoning rules and regulations was made available to the council members and the ISV citizens present at the November council meeting. The committee has been charged with the difficult responsibility of reviewing the many variations of zoning ordinances which are presently in effect in Shelby County and in the greater Birmingham area. Many zoning ordinances were reviewed, and portions of these various ordinances have been extrapolated and compiled into one document so that we might discuss all of the issues pertaining to the zoning and pass one comprehensive zoning ordinance. Many of the sections presented have no current application to our town. However, some of these should be included in our initial zoning ordinance as they might be needed in the future as a result of annexation or other growth.

Other sections of the ordinance deal with commercial signs, portable signs, and the like. It is my personal opinion that our ordinance should include an absolute ban on portable signs and severe restrictions on any future commercial signs. Consequently, the inclusion of these types of ordinances in the compilation which has been distributed should not be interpreted as the position of the mayor, the city council, or the committee members. The committee's charge was to compile all types of zoning ordinances so that these issues might be brought before the council and the population a whole.

The bulk of the zoning ordinance that has been presented merely fine tunes the existing Shelby County ordinance. There is absolutely no plan to alter in any way any of the existing zoning districts, and the current Shelby County zoning map should remain unchanged in substance. Some new designations may be assigned for purposes of clarity and consistency not exhibited by the current county zoning ordinance.

Councilman Ron Luster and I have recently had a lengthy meeting in Montgomery with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management concerning the municipal applications for storm water permits. This project instituted by ADEM at the direction of the EPA is one which should greatly benefit our community. It entails testing and monitoring of storm water throughout the Cahaba River Basin and is designed to reinforce strictly the environmental rules

and regulations and to promote the long term health of the Cahaba River. Councilman Luster and I related to the ADEM officer our whole-hearted support of the spirit of the law and of their efforts. We assured them that Indian Springs Village was dedicated to sound environmental policy and that we would do our best to cooperate. Our only concern was, and still is, the cost of compliance and the funding of this expense. It appears that the most economical way to comply with the Clean Water Act will be to join forces with the county and surrounding municipalities to defray this cost. The county has presently undertaken these studies, and by pro-rating the cost based on population throughout the Cahaba River Basin, it is estimated that the cost to ISV would be about \$5,000. It appears that from five to ten times that amount could be expended if the town were to provide its own testing and permit application. We will continue to study this matter and keep you apprised of our progress.

You may be interested to know that we have received word from the Voting Rights Section of the Justice Department that there will be no objection to the establishment of our town, the related elections, and the subsequent annexations. At present, we are not required to take any further action in this area.

I look forward to seeing each of you at the December meeting, which will be primarily dedicated to a discussion of the proposed zoning ordinance. I urge your attendance at this meeting and participation in this most important decision-making process.

*-Hub Harrington, Mayor*

## **BEST BARGAIN IN TOWN**

Where else can you collect such a return on an investment of one hour? Two miles of clean and uncluttered highway, a strong sense of community togetherness, and personal pride in a civic duty well performed are guaranteed rewards for an hour spent with the Adopt-A-Mile crew. Testimonials are available from the good neighbors who invested their time on November 16: Nora and Jim Boyett, Patricia Crapet, Deloris Gilbert, Jackie and Art Johnson, Frances Lewis, Emily McAdory, Virginia Rancont, Margaret and Jim Roy, Julie and Rusty Schenk, Paul Stephens, Anne Wilson and Jim Wyatt.

The next opportunity will be December 21 at 9:00

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a.m. Meet in the parking lot of the Mormon Church on Cahaba Valley Road. What's that? Too close to Christmas? Nobody will show up? Don't bet on it. Lots of good citizens will want to spruce up our roadsides for the holidays. I will bet the whole Town Council turns out!  
-Virginia Rancont

## **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, SHELBY COUNTY UNIT**

**January 11 Legislative Breakfast (Continental)**

**Meet the Shelby County legislators: Senator Frank Ellis, Jr., and Representative Mike Hill.**

9:30 to 11:00 a.m., Saturday

The home of Homer and Kathryn Coleman  
89 Pawnee Drive, Indian Springs Village  
Kathryn Coleman and Village LWV members, hostesses

Representative Al Knight will be in Washington, D.C., on that date, but he has promised to respond ahead of time in writing to any questions on his positions on state issues. Meeting with state legislators informally is a tradition of the League in other counties. Please remember that men are not only welcome to this meeting but also welcome to the privileges and responsibilities of membership.

**January 16--Shelby County Unit LWV Meeting**

Healthcare consensus

Collette Scott, discussion leader

7:00 p.m., Thursday evening

Hostess needed

## **NOVEMBER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met in the Town Hall of Indian Springs School on Tuesday, November 12, 1991, at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Hub Harrington presided with council members Ron Luster, Patricia Crapet, Peter Peacock, and Stewart Dudley present.

Mayor Harrington welcomed the government class from Pelham High School, giving the students a quick lesson on grass roots government and the history of the founding of ISV. The attentive students seemed to enjoy the town meeting and were invited to visit again.

Charles Colvert, Hospital Administrator for Shelby Medical Center, was the guest speaker. Colvert spoke about the medical center's **Vision 21** program, which calls for expansion and revitalization of health care for the people of Shelby County and surrounding areas. SMC will apply for a certificate of need from the state of Alabama to build a new acute care hospital to replace the old medical center. Quoting from the Vision 21 Fact Sheet made available, "It [the new hospital] is expected to sit on 25 to 40 acres, and the facility itself will initially require eight to twelve acres. Approval also will be sought for converting the current hospital facility in Alabaster into a statewide, and even regional geriatric facility....Approval will be sought for the construction of an Ambulatory Care Center on the current campus. The proposed facility can be converted easily to a geriatric assessment center adult day care building after a new acute care facility is built....Immediate plans for SMC call for conversion of its facility on Highway 280 across from Hugh Daniel Drive in north Shelby County to a multi-specialty clinic. Plans call for this facility to contain physicians' offices, to have emergency and diagnostic treatment ability and to provide minor surgical services....Following successful recruitment efforts for physicians, SMC will reinstate its obstetrical services....Immediately, Shelby's main [hospital] facility will begin a renovation project, concentrated especially in the patient care areas...."

All of these plans were discussed by Colvert as he asked for our support in continuing until 2009 the ad valorem tax that the hospital collects from our total ad valorem levy each year.

Councilman Ron Luster reported that Shelby County is still in the process of deciding whether to replace the bridge on Indian Trail with a concrete culvert bridge or with a historical covered bridge. Luster also reported that because ISV is in the Cahaba River Drainage Basin, any storm water runoff is required to be monitored for possible pollution of the tributaries of the Cahaba River. This program is part of the federal Clean Water Act. Other areas involved are the unincorporated areas of the county, Alabaster, Helena, Hoover, and Pelham. Luster is consulting the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) to get a recommendation on whether it will be less expensive for ISV to join the efforts of these other areas or to monitor its own runoff. This

program usually applies only to municipalities of over 100,000 people, but the EPA and ADEM have added every area of Shelby County because the Cahaba River has been placed on the endangered waterways list.

Councilwoman Patricia Crapet reported beer tax receipts for October of \$551, lower than earlier months. Building permit fees were higher, at \$275 for the month. Ms. Crapet also reported the first revenue from the state of Alabama, \$583. This revenue, earmarked for road maintenance, has been placed in a special interest-bearing account. By law road maintenance revenue derived from the state cannot be commingled with any other monies or spent for anything other than roads. These funds are from gasoline taxes, petroleum inspection fees, and license taxes. ISV also has reduced its debt through a \$500 repayment of principal on the original loan. The loan balance is now \$6500. Next year, ISV will start receiving ABC revenue distributions semi-annually each February and August. Ms. Crapet reported that the new printing format of *The Village Voice* was actually less expensive than the previous copy-and-staple process.

Councilman Peter Peacock reported that Adopt-A-Mile was still going strong, with increased participation and enthusiasm. The cat called "Hub" or "Hub Cat" is now in residence at the Luster house after having formed an attachment to Shasta, the Luster's dog. The cat, a stray, had been saved by Mayor Harrington during the Litter Walk September 21 and first became a member of the Peacock household.

Mayor Harrington presented the council with copies of the proposed ISV Zoning Ordinance package, which will be presented at the next meeting. These proposed ordinances will regulate land use in Indian Springs Village. The utility and license tax ordinance is not yet ready for presentation to the council. Once completed and passed, the ordinance will provide additional revenue from the utility companies for the ISV general fund.

Nick Glenos, Chairman of the Annexation Committee, reported the possibility of some annexations on Indian Crest Drive being introduced at the December meeting.

Sandy Luster, Social Committee Chair, announced that Indian Springs School has requested that all persons attending council meetings park **ONLY** in designated parking areas and not on the street or on the grass. The three designated areas are next to the school cafeteria, in front of the library, and at the office.

-Patricia Crapet

## **Editor's Thoughts:**

The appeal by Charles Colvert of Shelby County Medical Center to Villagers to send prepared cards to support the hospital's expansion by continuing the 4 mill ad valorem tax until 2009 gave me pause. A couple of calls to Tax Assessor Bobbie Reynolds helped me understand the history of this tax. Mrs. Reynolds says it began when the hospital was first constructed. Since SMC's thirtieth anniversary was 1989, **this tax has been collected from Shelby County taxpayers for 32 years. Under the original legislation, it has continued and will be continued as long as the hospital has any indebtedness.** The Shelby County Commission decides each year how many mills to assess. In 1989, the hospital had a surplus and rebated to the county, which had a deficit one of the four mills. The newly proposed expenditures, without including the changes to the Highway 280 facility, add up to **61.3 million dollars.**

**How is our property tax pie divided among the hospital and other entities?** I started with my ad valorem tax bill for 1991 and assumed the percentages are the same for every residential owner in ISV. When I round off the numbers, it breaks out to 9.4% for the hospital, 12.6% to the state, 17.6% to the county, and 60.4% to school and school district taxes. SMC's percentage seems high as compared to the county and state percentage, especially since only a few counties have a hospital tax. If SMC gets 9.4% of my 1991 ad valorem taxes, how much will it get from all of us? Debbie Smith, the Administrative Assistant to Tax Assessor Bobbie Reynolds, says that the assessed ad valorem tax for 1991 is \$2,384,058, a 98% increase from 1983, the earliest year for which the figures were readily available.

Shelby County residents who use doctors who practice in Shelby County may very well need part or all of SMC Vision 21 facilities, and I am pursuing all the

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information publicly available that will aid an informed decision. Colvert has agreed to send me SMC's financial statement. Any additional information from Villagers involved as health care users or providers will be welcomed by those of us who wish to monitor and/or to justify our tax bills. We should remember that state schools are in proration with no relief in sight except higher taxes. Shelby County is broke and technically in default on 20 million dollars of sewer revenue bonds. Even though revenue bonds are not normally a general obligation of the county, Shelby County's credit worthiness is at stake. As busy as we all are with the details of our own lives, we need to evaluate the necessity of every public service for which we are taxed.

### **ACCOLADES FROM THE EDITOR**

Recently, additional contributions to fund the printing of *The Village Voice* were given by Homer and Kathryn Coleman and Graeme and Anne Wilson. Your editor is grateful not only for the convenience of professional printing, but also for the warm expressions of appreciation for the efforts that go into the composition, publication and delivery of the Voice.

Triple accolades to Kathryn Coleman! In addition to contributing to the newsletter fund, she hosted a very stimulating League of Women Voters meeting for the Shelby County Unit on November 21. In the most generous gesture of all, Mrs. Coleman has volunteered to host a continental breakfast in her home to allow the League members and guest Villagers to meet our Shelby County legislators in January.

At this writing, 52 Villagers had responded to the editor's request for names, addresses and phone numbers for an ISV Directory. Now we know 52 people who are not procrastinators! Thank you. For the rest of you, it is not too late; we can't start without a much larger core list. Please mail the needed information (family names, addresses, and phone numbers, unless non-published) to the editor's listed address or put it in the paper tube at 530 Indian Crest Drive.

### **IN MEMORIAM**

Belatedly, we send our condolences to one of our most caring Villagers, Olivia Weingarten, on the loss of her mother. Mrs. Curtis Dailey died October 29 in Douglasville, Georgia.

### **ANOTHER REMINDER**

On December 10, 1882, a young Englishman named William Maw Egley, Jr., created a greeting card with Christmas scenes on it and space for the sender to write a Yuletide message. For many people, this practice creates an additional stress because of the time and expense involved. However, this year Indian Springs Villagers who do not normally participate might want to make the extra effort. It will serve two purposes--as a holiday greeting and as a way to let distant friends know that we have new addresses. The US Postal Service will forward mail for one year only. At some date early next year, any mail sent to the old Helena addresses will be returned as undeliverable. At best, our correspondents will know that we did not receive the mail. The worst happens when a correspondent does not include his return address. The distant friends are sometimes those of long standing. Don't break the chain of communication.

A positive note in this address change is that some of our junk mail purveyors will lose us!

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*The three stages of a man's life:*

*He believes in Santa Claus*

*He doesn't believe in Santa Claus*

*He is Santa Claus*

*Unknown*

*Heap on more wood!--the wind is chill;*

*But let it whistle as it will,*

*We'll keep our Christmas merry still.*

*Sir Walter Scott*

*Christmas is a time when kids tell Santa what they want and adults pay for it. Deficits are when adults tell government what they want-- and their kids pay for it!*

*Richard Lamm*

## *Happy Holidays!*