

The Village Voice



Volume 25, Number 1

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

April 17, 2015

INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday, April 21, 2015 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 5, 2015 7:00 p.m.

Agenda

I. Mayor/Council/Committee Reports

II. Ordinances and Resolutions

III. Citizen's Forum

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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.”

The Village Voice is published the second week of each month. Articles for the May edition should be submitted by May 8, 2015. 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.

Address letters to the editor and news items to: Michael Harrington, Editor, 291 Valley View Lane, Indian Springs Village, AL 35124; Tel: 205.447.0273 or e-mail: mbh0001@yahoo.com.

Editor's Appreciation to Mildred Wyatt for the masthead drawing

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

April is National Volunteer Month, so I wanted to take this chance to thank each of you that have helped with events in Indian Springs over the past year, as well as those that volunteer their time by serving on the Council and various boards and offices.

However, the “Mr. and Mrs.” or the “King and Queen” of the volunteer world in Indian Springs Village goes to Herb and Margie Robins. For too many years to count, they have volunteered for or chaired every event we have. They set up, they work the event, and they take down and clean up. In addition, Herb is an active member of the Town Council and the Council representative to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Margie has been the force behind the Indian Springs Village Children's Fund, and for years coordinated with the school counselor, even doing the shopping along with her committee of volunteers for many of those years. She graciously took over the Easter Egg Hunt this year, and it was a huge success. We are fortunate to have this couple in our town, and they are an inspiration as to how to participate in a community and make it your own.

Sincerely,
Brenda Bell-Guercio

More about the ISV Easter Egg Hunt inside.



The Easter Bunny with Jake Guercio

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

March 3, 2015

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met Tuesday, March 3, 2015. Mayor Bell-Guercio called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and all council members were present.

The minutes of February 17, 2015 were reviewed and accepted as written.

Councilman Robins explained that an additional camera needed to be added to the previous Reliance Technologies proposal which increased the price by \$399. A purchase order will be issued to Reliance Technologies for \$4,921.00 with a \$2500 down payment. He also presented the bid for a variety of additional add-on's discussed in the previous Council meeting. The \$40 monthly monitoring fee for the add on's was discussed. It was determined that additional quotes from ADS be investigated in order to simplify the monitoring system and possibly reduce the monthly cost.

Robins informed the Council that he and Town Engineer Frazier Christy had attended the Shelby County Planning Commission meeting and the commission approved the Laurel Grove subdivision with only the stipulation that ISV approve the entry sign application and road construction for that portion of the road in ISV. The Corp of Engineers will meet with the interested parties concerning a possible wetlands issue on Friday, March 6th.

Robins also mentioned we are still in need of volunteers for the Easter Egg Hunt on April 4th.

Councilman Mendel reported that the Local Highway Finance Report had been completed, with the exception of the section concerning the financing of highway law enforcement. Deputy Leigh Stockman estimated that patrolling takes up approximately 60% of his duty time. Mendel stated that he would use that estimate to complete the report and file it with ALDOT. Additionally, the credit card statement was reviewed and approved.

Councilperson Harrington gave a quick overview of the March 2nd open meeting with Greg Lein, Director of the Parks Department for the Al. Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources concerning the proposed hotel and convention center at OMSP. Mr. Lein noted that the only way the project can be funded is if Shelby County and the City of Pelham pay for it. The fate of OMSP is in the hands of the Shelby County Commissioners. She will keep everyone updated as things develop.

Bell-Guercio asked that the PAZ continue to pursue an underground utilities ordinance. Additionally, she asked that the Council look at the Greater Shelby County Chamber of Commerce application and discuss at the next Council meeting. Also, she asked everyone to review the ordinance that adopts the National Building Codes for next meeting. The NIMS System was briefly discussed; due to time restraints the matter will be discussed and decided upon later.

Bell-Guercio reminded everyone the State Ethics Information form is due. She also passed out a flyer with information concerning a breakfast with Gary Palmer, U.S. Representative from Alabama, March 31st for anyone interested in attending.

Bell-Guercio adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Downs, Town Clerk

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

March 17, 2015

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met Tuesday, March 17, 2015. Mayor Bell-Guercio called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and all council members were present.

The minutes of March 3, 2015 were reviewed and accepted as written.

PAZ Chairman, Wayne Jones, gave a summary of the PAZ meeting held February 24, 2015. Questions presented by the Kizziah's were answered, Zoning Ordinance typo issue discussed and discussion concerning the need of a lighting and utility ordinance.

A deputy from the Sheriff's Office was present but did not have an official report; however he reiterated that the recent car burglaries have only been to "unlocked" cars and all cars should be locked at all times.

Councilman Robins reported that he had met with two foundation specialist that inspected the Town Hall foundation and crawl space for general condition and potential moisture issues. The report was very good particularly for the age of the structure.

Robins advised that the video security system has been installed and being fine tuned to get clearest images. Also, he advised that a monitor to be used only for the security system should be purchased. Councilman Mendel made a motion that a monitor be purchased with a price not to exceed \$300. Councilperson Harrington seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. Training on the security system will be set-up as soon as the Council gives a date and time. Pricing concerning the monthly monitoring fee was discussed and additional information will be investigated.

Robins informed the Council that he has been working on the proposed Eagle Scout project to construct driveway entrances to the Town Hall and installing a new mailbox. Robins said he would continue to work with the Eagle Scouts on the design of this project.

Additionally, the new outside facility was discussed. Robins informed the Council that the sweet gum tree near the end of the pavilion must come down in order to build the new storage facility. Robins made a motion to suspend the rules and Harrington seconded. A roll call vote was held and all of the Council voted yea. Councilman Trammell made a

motion that the sweet gum tree be cut down and removed for a price not to exceed \$1000. Mendel seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Mendel presented the February financial statements. He recommended the financials be endorsed as presented. Mendel made a motion to expand the budget for community grants by \$10,000 due to the commitment to help with expense of pipe removal at OMSP. Robins seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Councilperson Harrington asked the Council for approval to draft a proclamation acknowledging State Representative Mary Sue McClurkin's service to ISV, Shelby County and the State of Alabama. She will invite Ms. McClurkin to a Council meeting and present the proclamation to her.

The Council discussed a recently enacted law, Act 2013-283, pertaining to possession of firearms which states that a person may not knowingly possess or carry a firearm inside a building in which the city council is conducting a regularly scheduled or specially called meeting without the express permission of the authority over the premises (Section 6((a)(4)). If the municipality has not granted such express permission, the municipality shall post signs at the public entrances of the municipal buildings and premises alerting those entering that firearms are prohibited (Section 6 (c). This law pertains to the Town Hall, Pavilion or any ISV structure. The Town Clerk will check on price of the required signs. Additionally, with the installation of the new video security system, signs will be posted to notify of security surveillance.

Membership with Greater Shelby Co. Chamber of Commerce was discussed and \$200 membership dues were approved with the provision that ISV can terminate membership at any time without cause.

Also discussed was that during the past 2014 Legislative session, the Alabama Legislature passed Act 2012-491 which amends Alabama's Immigration law, otherwise known as the Beason-Hammon Alabama Taxpayer and Citizen Protection Act, which is codified at Sections 31-13-

1 et seq., Code of Alabama 1975. This amendatory Act made several significant changes to the law. ISV is affected by this amendment as follows; applicants for a municipal business license will still be required to prove either citizenship or lawful presence in the United States for all initial applications for a business license, but citizens and permanent residents will be exempt from proving lawful status for subsequent renewals after the initial verification is made.

Bell-Guercio advised the Council that Frazier Christy, Town Engineer will be attending an all-day MS4 conference being held in Gadsden at a cost of approximately \$600.

Bell-Guercio adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Downs, Town Clerk



Left: The Easter Bunny and friends. Below: Warren Jones and rabbit Charlie and the Burnwell family visiting from Atlanta. Page 5 – Top left: Warren and Charlie are a hit. Left Center: Jill, Jana, Rebekah and Luke Blocher. Bottom left: Joan Downs, Mayor Brenda Bell Guercio and Paige Phillips with Keep Oak Mountain Wild information. Top right: Joan Downs and granddaughter Ellis Marquez. Bottom right: Belle & Brenna Casey, Anais & Sadie Arnold.



THE 21ST ANNUAL ISV EASTER EGG HUNT

By Margie Robins, Villager

The 21st Annual ISV Easter Egg Hunt was officially a big success. The weather cooperated and Saturday, April 4th was a beautiful and sunny day which brought out record crowds for the festivities. The Easter Bunny (a.k.a. Linley Jones) was there to welcome all the children, and Warren Jones brought Charley, his pet bunny, for the children to pet. Rinugroho Dewangkoro, an Indonesian exchange student at Oak Mountain High School, and Ben Jones volunteered to take pictures during the event for us.

Preparations began months in advance with ordering prizes and goodies.

Our egg stuffers spent long hours stuffing over 2200 eggs; so thank you to Caitlyn White, Rachel White, Joanna Bean, Margie Robins, McKenna Kitchens, Rebekah Blocher, Jill Blocher and Jana Blocher. The day before the hunt, Herb Robins took care of staking off the area for each of the five age groups to hunt.

All the volunteers convened at 9:00 a.m. Saturday morning to hide the eggs. Thank you again to Herb & Margie Robins, Brenda & Jake Guercio, the Jones Family (Wayne, Luke, Ben, Emilee, Allie, Sierra, Maggie, Winn & Linley), Paula Lynch, the Jaudon Family (Randy, Rita, Mark & Sara), the Combs family (Meredith, Will, Ward & Koro) and Marge Dunn.

The actual hunt began at 3:00 p.m. and was over within a matter of minutes. All the children hurried about and gathered all the eggs, then returned to redeem over 100 prizes and select a variety of toys and gifts supplied by Indian Springs Village. Supervising the gift distribution were volunteers Meredith Combs, the Jaudon Family (Randy, Rita, Mark & Sara), Alison Stigers and Marge Dunn.

Many thanks to our local vendors for their support and donations of gift cards and/or goodies. These included local dentist Dr. Lisa Wilson, Jeremy Crook who manages our new Walmart Neighborhood Market, Kirk Parker

from Brusters and Ben Butler from Shanes Rib Shack.

All in all, the Easter Egg Hunt was a big success and thanks to all who volunteered and helped in a variety of ways to make it happen. This event is another way we keep our town traditions intact and Indian Springs Village a very special place to live.





Sydney Slaughter, a Top 10 Finalist in the recent Miss Alabama Outstanding Teen Pageant, and "Rising Star" Belle Casey.

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PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, service to others is a hallmark of the American character and central to how we meet our challenges; and

WHEREAS, the nation's mayors are increasingly turning to national service and volunteerism as a cost-effective strategy to meet city needs; and

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps and Senior Corps address the most pressing challenges facing our cities and nation, from educating students for the jobs of the 21st century and supporting veterans and military families to preserving the environment and helping communities recover from natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, national service expands economic opportunity by creating more sustainable, resilient communities, and providing education, career skills, and leadership abilities for those who serve; and

WHEREAS, national service participants serve in more than 70,000 locations across the country, bolstering the civic, neighborhood, and faith-based organizations that are so vital to our economic and social well-being; and

WHEREAS, national service participants increase the impact of the organizations they serve with, both through their direct service and by recruiting and managing millions of additional volunteers; and

WHEREAS, national service represents a unique public-private partnership that invests in community solutions and leverages non-federal resources to strengthen community impact and increase the return on taxpayer dollars; and

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps members and Senior Corps volunteers demonstrate commitment, dedication, and patriotism by making an intensive commitment to service, a commitment that remains with them in their future endeavors; and

WHEREAS, the Corporation for National and Community Service shares a priority with mayors nationwide to engage citizens, improve lives, and strengthen communities; and is joining with the National League of Cities, City of Service, and mayors across the country to recognize the impact of service on the Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service on April 7, 2015.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, *Brenda Bell-Guercio, Mayor, Town of Indian Springs Village*, do hereby proclaim April 7, 2015, as National Service Recognition Day, and encourage residents to recognize the positive impact of national service in our city and thank those who serve; and to find ways to give back to their communities.

Signed on this the 7th, day of April, 2015



Brenda Bell-Guercio,
Mayor, Town of Indian Springs Village

IN SYMPATHY



Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Millie Elia.

Millie Elia, an Oak Mountain eighth-grader died in a tragic accident over Easter weekend while on a family outing at Mt. Cheaha State Park.

Millie was a cheerleader, an advanced symphonic band member, an honor's student in the National Junior Honor Society and Science Club and an active member of Meadow Brook Baptist Youth Group. She was recently voted Most Dependable in Who's Who among her peers at Oak Mountain Middle School. Millie enjoyed photography and had a passion for summer mission.

"Millie was a very involved and well-liked student," said Principal Larry Haynes. The students made cards and passed out ribbons at a gathering held in Millie's honor at Veteran's Park.

Along with her parents, Millie leaves behind her older brother, Rob and her younger sister, Molly; grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. James (Sue) Peterson, Birmingham, Alabama, Mr. and Mrs. Jim (Martha) Elia, Mobile, Alabama, Mr. and Mrs. Robert (Nellie) Elia, Ozark, Alabama. Among Millie's favorite people were her aunts, uncles and a host of cousins. She leaves us with many precious memories that we will treasure forever. All who knew Millie will miss her sweet spirit and contagious smile. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Meadow Brook Baptist Church Missions, 4984 Meadow Brook Road, Birmingham, Alabama 35242.

Her Name Sings my Soul

*The mention of my child's name
May bring tears to my eyes,
But it never fails to bring
Music to my ears.*

*If you are really my friend,
Let me hear the beautiful music of her name.
It soothes my broken heart
And sings to my soul.*

Author unknown

AN INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE FARMERS MARKET?

By Councilperson Kathryn Harrington

Fresh arugula, iceberg and romaine lettuce; heirloom tomatoes right off the vine; local honey; homemade pickles; pies; fresh eggs from free range backyard chickens; these are many of the items that we often see at well-organized local farmers markets. Add children, dogs, magicians and handmade crafts, and you have an outstanding, exciting and healthy fun-filled event.

At the most recent Town Council meeting, Village residents, Brooke and C.J. Guercio, presented such a scenario as a possibility for Indian Springs Village. When spring arrives, the weather turns warm and the fresh produce begins to appear, Brooke and CJ like to take their three young daughters and visit the various farmers markets in the region. On one of their recent outings, it occurred to the Guercios that Indian Springs Village could benefit from such a market. A well-organized farmers market is not just a place to buy produce, but can serve as a community focal point bringing the residents together during market day for conversation, food ideas and just plain fun.

CJ has researched the requirements to establish a market and gave an excellent presentation at the most recent Indian Springs Village council meeting. As a result of the presentation, the Town Council agreed that this is an idea worth serious exploration. Of course, public interest is the first question to be answered. If there is sufficient public interest in going forward with such an endeavor, then the questions of when, where and how often to have the market will be examined.

If you would like to see Indian Springs Village establish a farmers market or are merely interested in discussing the idea, please attend the next Town Council meeting, Tuesday, April 21st. A representative from the Alabama Farmers Market Authority will be available to provide more information and to answer questions.