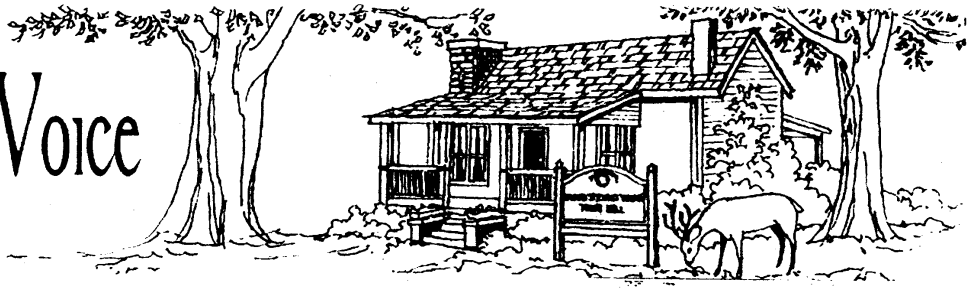


# The Village Voice



Volume 26, Number 10

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

January 13, 2017

## INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday, January 3, 2017 7:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, January 17, 2017 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  
contact Amy Easton.  
Email: [isvtownhallres@charter.net](mailto:isvtownhallres@charter.net)  
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.”

*The Village Voice* is published the second week of each month. Articles for the January edition should be submitted by January 25, 2017. 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:  
Leigh Whatley, Editor  
5301 Mountain Park Drive  
Indian Springs Village, AL 35124  
Tel: 205.238.5924 or  
email: [leighwhatley@gmail.com](mailto:leighwhatley@gmail.com).

### Editor's Appreciation:

Mildred Wyatt for the masthead drawing. Although Mrs. Wyatt has passed away, this acknowledgement will continue in honor of the contributions of Mrs. Wyatt and her family to *The Village Voice* and the town of Indian Springs Village.

## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

I wish you all a very Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year! Our town is doing very well, and we look forward to a great 2017. The first Tuesday of the month meeting will continue to start with dinner at 6:30 followed by the open council meeting at 7. We do plan to start reviewing our Comprehensive Plan to update it as felt needed, and citizen input will be incorporated. This may take a period of months, and the newly formed Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee will be working on this as well. Of course, the final proposed version will require a public hearing. Some things have changed over the past twelve years since the plan was adopted. I mainly see this as an opportunity to add or address issues that will continue to protect our town and valley down the road.

Because of the changes from ADEM that have now required us to do our own Phase II MS4 Storm Water Management Plan rather than pay the County to do this for us necessitated the institution of a Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee. This was established at the end of 2016 and had its first meeting on December 29<sup>th</sup>. The 7 member committee includes Frazier Christy, Don Jones, Chad Scroggins, Chief Buddy Tyler, Van McClurkin, Herb Robins, and myself. These members bring expertise in engineering, botany, landscape architecture, hazardous waste, and county management issues to mention a few categories that we will be dealing with.

At the first meeting we began the process to fulfill the first year's requirements. This will include establishing an “environmental webpage” that can be used for education. We will seek specific education and outreach brochures and pamphlets to place in the Town Hall and scan them or excerpts from them onto our webpage and/or print in the *Village Voice*. Education workshops and school presentations are also part of this plan. We will need to work with Waste Pro to determine recycling participation and encourage our residents to do curbside recycling and/or use the 2 recycling dumpsters available in our town. We will be implementing watershed signage within the

Bishop Creek watershed and detecting and addressing storm water discharge and any illegal dumping. There will be focused areas of inspections and mapping of existing storm water outfalls that discharge directly into State waters. We will be working with Chief Tyler and our fire district to strategize on incorporating storm water pollution prevention into the hazardous material response program. This is not inclusive, but is to give you examples of what is required and what we will be working to complete this first cycle. It is a big undertaking, and I want to thank my volunteer committee in advance for their willingness to participate. As usual, it is the spirit of volunteerism and public service that continues to make our town great!

Sincerely,  
Brenda Bell-Guercio

## FROM THE DESK OF THE TOWN CLERK

Wow, the holidays are over already. It is time to get back into the swing of things. Business license renewals have gone out and the revenue stream is coming in nicely. The Mayor is getting everyone organized. We have a lot of work to do on our Storm Water Management Plan for Phase II MS4, along with adjusting our ISV Comprehensive Plan which will carry us out into the future.

The ISV Children's Fund reached the highest money raised in the history of the Town. We wrote checks for a total of \$6000. Oak Mountain Elementary received \$5,000. They had 43 children on their Christmas list this year. Oak Mountain Intermediate School received \$500. Just this year OMM, started a Christmas outreach program, hopefully this helped jump start their pilot program. Oak Mountain Middle received \$500. They were just shy of their \$20,000 Toys for Tots goal and this pushed them over their goal. I am so proud to be part of this Town and the Children's Fund Program. Thank you everyone for your continued generosity. With the bar being set at an all-time high, we have a big goal to obtain for 2017, but no doubt we will make it happen.

Last month, I tried to thank the volunteers that I personally work with and as usual, I left someone out. Therefore, I would like to say a belated thank

you to Amber Ross, the volunteer manager of the newly founded ISV Farmer's Market. Amber did a terrific job of organizing and working in the heat every Saturday morning during the summer. She was able to provide our citizens with a fresh and convenient option of enjoying the summer bounty of fruits and vegetables from our local farms and vendors that we so enjoyed. She also needs our help. Anyone interested in assisting Amber this summer so we can maintain and continue our Farmer's Market experience, please give her a call at 563-4587 or myself, Joan Downs at 982-1755.

As of today, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, we have 267 names on our Zip Code petition. We have had a good response, but obviously we need more. In case folks did not have time to read *The Village Voice* in December, included in the January issue is another insert for your convenience. If you have not done so, please return at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,  
Joan Downs, Town Clerk

## TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Nov. 15, 2016

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met Tuesday, November 15, 2016. Mayor Bell-Guercio called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Town Clerk called the roll and all council members were present except Councilperson Harrington.

The minutes of November 7, 2016 were approved as written.

Deputy Shane Plyer reported that there have been several attempted break-in's in our area. He advised to be on the lookout for an older white Volvo with Jefferson county tag, the driver is a black male. The attempted house break-ins have been between 9:00-2:00 while people were at work. He asked if anyone sees anything to please call 911.

Chief Tyler reported calls are up due to brush fires along with false calls from reports of smelling smoke. The fire department is being frugal due to water shortage. He also reported the smoke alarm blitz in Wine Ridge was very successful.

Bell-Guercio recognized Todd Thompson of Gonzalez, Strength & Associates representing the Valleydale property owner, purchaser and broker. He presented maps of the Valleydale property and explained possible uses of proposed land deal. The property is located in Shelby County and the group wanted to know if Indian

Springs Village would be interested in annexing the property into the Town as a B2 commercial business district property. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Council that they would positively entertain the application process.

Councilman Robins gave an update on the multi-purpose building. Change orders are being written for approval and most all decisions have been made with respect to hardware, paint, light fixtures, cabinets, water fountains, etc., except for the ramp. This will be addressed shortly.

Robins also addressed the issue of a recent complaint concerning firearms/hunting in ISV. He pointed out that making more laws when there are already state laws on the books is not effective. He will write an article for *The Village Voice* addressing current laws, safety and resident responsibility. He noted that residents who feel threatened or are aware of unlawful activity should call the Sheriff at 669-4181, the Oak Mountain State Park, 620-6200 and/or Game Wardens, 800-272-4263.

Councilman Elliott approached the Council concerning his interest in starting a "health clinic" in which basic CPR will be taught, disease education, and basic wellness awareness presented to all ISV residents, but in particular the population which is over 65. He pointed out that 65% of people over 65 have heart attacks, 50 % of victims will die at home and only 5% are saved after medical assistance arrives. Given these statistics it would be extremely helpful to have CPR training in order to help victims prior to the arrival of medical help. He hopes to kick off this project in January. The Council feels this would be a very worthwhile endeavor.

Councilman Stauss asked Robins to check on getting the yield sign back up at Caldwell and Hwy. 119.

Councilman Whatley presented the year end September financials and also the October financials which represent the first month of the 2017 year. Financials were reviewed and Whatley made a motion that September and October financials be accepted as presented. Elliott seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Bell-Guercio reported that Councilperson Harrington had checked on the disposition of the "Amazon tax" and she found it is not location specific. The tax will be distributed with 50% going to the State, 25% to County and 25% to Municipalities. The Town Clerk is checking with the Revenue Department to make sure we are on the Municipality list since we do not collect sales tax, but will be entitled to the tax.

Bell-Guercio also reported that she has been in touch with Waste Pro and they said limb and debris cannot be on an individual basis. She is checking with the County to find out what their policy is on this service. Waste Pro will be submitting a description of options and price

quotes for the Town.

The Zip Code petition was discussed and the idea to put an insert into *The Village Voice* that can be mailed in would support the success of the project.

Bell-Guercio adjourned the meeting at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted:  
Joan Downs, Town Clerk

## **BUILDING PERMITS**

*submitted by Frazier Christy, Town Engineer*

Applicant: Apex Roofing  
Owner: Allen Trucks  
Address: 5172 Hollow Log Lane  
Proposed Use: New roof

## **GARDEN CLUB NEWS: JUNE MAYS TO PRESENT "THE GARDENS OF DOWNTON ABBAY" IN JANUARY**

*by Mickey Farmer*

Members of the Garden Club gathered at the home of Laura Jones for the annual Christmas luncheon on Sunday afternoon December 4th.

On January 26<sup>th</sup>, June Mays will present The Gardens of Downton Abbey, A visit to the Gardens of Highclere Castle. This is the filming location of Downton Abbey. She will offer tips about which of the plants grown there will thrive here.

June is a Graduate of the English Gardening School in London and a member of the Garden Writers Association. She has consulted or designed over 100 gardens, has written for many garden magazines, and spoken all over the country. Visit her website at [junemays.com](http://junemays.com) or like her on Facebook.

Visitors are welcome to attend this event on Thursday, January 26, 2017, at the Town Hall. Refreshments will be served at 6:30 with the program beginning at 7:00.

# TALES FROM THE HALL...

## STANDING TALL

by BJ Scharath

Ed is one of the newest members of the town council, having been sworn in at Town Hall ceremonies just this past November. Ed brings many talents to the Board, including the fact that he is a Registered Professional Engineer and while working for Brasfield & Gorrie managed several water and waste water treatment plant projects. He is currently enrolled at Samford University and about to complete an MBA next May. Ed didn't grow up in Indian Springs, but rather like many of us, choose to move here, about three years ago. He grew up in neighboring Vestavia Hills, where he attended high school, graduating in 1996. Following High School, he received an appointment to West Point, graduating with a degree in Civil Engineering, and stayed in military service until 2007 when he and his wife decided they didn't want to keep moving their family from one assignment to another every 18 months. He took a job with Brasfield & Gorrie, and as luck would have it, promptly got assigned to work in Pensacola, FL. He chose to not relocate his family on that assignment, but following Pensacola, he was assigned to work in Baton Rouge LA, where he and his wife DID relocate for a period of time (remember the Village collecting donations for flood victims in Baton Rouge back in the summer? It was Ed that drove a U-Haul truck from ISV to Baton Rouge). After that stint in Baton Rouge, Ed came back to the Birmingham area to live. He knew he didn't want to go back to Vestavia; he was looking for "elbow room" and Indian Springs Village was a natural fit for he and his family. From the beginning, he and his wife loved the Village; it was a place of people who wanted to be here, where people cared about their neighbors. When asked what one word would best describe ISV, he thought for a moment and replied, "community". Currently Ed has a full time job working for Hoar Program Management, commuting daily to University of Alabama, overseeing the construction and building boom going on at the University. Despite the daily commute, he loves the university campus environment.

When asked why he decided to run for a council seat, Ed laughed and said he was actually at the Town Hall shortly after moving to ISV, asking about a permit when he encountered a town clerk (who shall remain nameless), but during that process, was

asked if he would ever consider running for a council seat. Well, the rest is history, because he did eventually decide to run and replaced retiring council member Jack Mendel, who was and still is, his coach and mentor. He stated that he decided to run because he loved this community, and it was a way for him to give back. He wanted to help maintain and preserve "the Norman Rockwell-like ambiance of the Village". Ed was down to earth and practical in his answers about issues facing ISV in the future. He saw mostly outside influences affecting the future of ISV, rather than any self created, internal issues. He mentioned adjoining cities wishing to grow and annex and pressuring ISV as well as issues from the state revolving around possible expansion of Highway 119 due to increasing traffic. When asked about the flooding issues of Bishops Creek, his response was classic engineer; he needed to study the reports carefully before rendering an opinion. He saw one of the strengths of the council was that no one was a professional politician; everyone on the Board had the best interests of the Village truly at heart and liked being a part of that.

He believes people should do things bigger than themselves, and doesn't have much use for complainers. His work record certainly supports those beliefs. Some people stand tall because they are physically tall. That is certainly true of Ed Whatley, who towers over most folks at 6'5". Other people stand tall because of moral character and work ethic. The council is lucky to have Ed, because he stands tall on both counts.

### eVillage Voice

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# Indian Springs Village Christmas Party

December 20, 2017



On December 20<sup>th</sup>, Indian Springs Town Hall was alive with the holiday spirit. The Town Council along with many others from around the town came together to enjoy food, fun and fellowship.

A table of hot apple cider by the front door was a welcoming invitation to join in the festivities. Inside, the food was plentiful and delicious and the company lively and merry. What an exciting night to visit with our old friends and neighbors and to welcome all of the new faces that stopped by to celebrate! We hope everyone had a Merry Christmas in 2016, and we wish everyone the best in 2017!



Celebrate Take Your Child to the Library Day at the North Shelby Library with a FREE performance from Birmingham Children's Theater! Join us for their Wee Folks production entitled "Wake Up Brother Bear."





## NORTH SHELBY FIRE DISTRICT

4617 Valleydale Road, Birmingham Alabama, 35242

Office 205-991-6439 Fax 205-991-7331

**“Turn Your Attention to Fire Prevention”**

### PRESS RELEASE

Januray 5, 2017

North Shelby Fire District is very proud to announce that they have been awarded a grant by the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation for a new set of vehicle extrication equipment. Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation is dedicated to improving the life-saving capabilities and the lives of local heroes and their communities. This new equipment will replace current equipment which has exceeded its life span. The current equipment is 25 years old and is not designed to spread or cut the newer, stronger metals that are used in today’s modern vehicles. The new equipment will consist of a new hydraulic spreader, cutter, ram with support set, power plant and hydraulic hoses. The grant is valued at \$22,995.00. The new equipment should be in-service within the next few months.



## NORTH SHELBY WAL-MART RAFFLE WINNER

Ms. Lorrie Shadwick is the winner of the Wal-Mart raffle drawing. Thanks again to Chief Tyler (NSFD) for making this a wonderful fund raising tool for our children. Also, thanks to Wal-Mart for contributing the gift cards.

## Audubon Teaches Nature Program Series

Co-sponsored by the *Birmingham Audubon Society*, Alabama Wildlife Center, *Oak Mountain Interpretive Center*, and Friends of Oak Mountain State Park

During this twenty-sixth year of Audubon Teaches Nature we will explore and celebrate the diversity of Alabama’s natural history. These seminars will provide you with the knowledge and skills to allow you to more fully enjoy your time in the field, whether birding, botanizing, hiking, or biking. Audubon Teaches Nature will give you the unique opportunity to meet and learn from some of Alabama’s leading naturalists—authorities who are willing to share their years of experience and special knowledge to make your outdoor experiences more enjoyable. Our programs are designed to showcase the beauty and natural history of Oak Mountain State Park and the central Alabama region.

Programs are held at the Alabama Wildlife Center and the **Oak Mountain Interpretive Center**, featuring...

- apple cider, punch & cookies. The cider will be ready by 1:30 so come early to enjoy the refreshments & the birds!
- your questions answered.
- wildlife report from the Education Director of the Alabama Wildlife Center.
- news and updates from Oak Mountain Interpretive Center and Friends of Oak Mountain.
- fabulous door prizes!
- our program featuring one of Alabama’s foremost authorities on birds & nature.
- informal nature walks after each program; be sure to bring your binoculars, cameras and field guides.

**Sunday, January 22, 2017, 1:00 and 3:00 p.m.**  
**Birds of Prey, Masters of the Skies – Featuring the Alabama Wildlife Center Raptor Team**  
**Location: Alabama Wildlife Center**

**Sunday, February 19, 2017, 2:00 p.m.**  
**Geology and Paleontology in Alabama: a Treasure Underfoot – Featuring Dana Ehret**  
**Location: Oak Mountain Interpretive Center**

**Sunday, March 19, 2017, 2:00 p.m.**  
**Mysteries of Bird Migration – Featuring Anne G. Miller**  
**Location: Alabama Wildlife Center**

# INDIAN SPRINGS SCHOOL SENIOR TO REPRESENT ALABAMA AT 2017 UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM

Indian Springs School senior Emma Turner '17 has been selected as one of two students to represent the state of Alabama as a delegate to the United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) March 4-11, 2017, in Washington, D.C.

Founded in 1962 through Senate resolution, the



USSYP each year selects two high-achieving students from each state, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense Education system overseas through a competitive, merit-based selection process that includes a personal interview, essay, and test on U.S. history and government.

Transportation, hotel, and meals will be provided by The Hearst Foundations. Each delegate will also be awarded a \$10,000 college scholarship for undergraduate studies, with encouragement to pursue coursework in history and political science.

"I am incredibly honored to represent the state of Alabama," says Turner. "Politics and public service are often seen negatively, especially in our current political climate. I am so excited to spend the week with a group of future leaders who see public service as a way to help people and better our country. By participating in USSYP, I will be able to bring back what I learn to help change Alabama for the better."

During Washington Week, Turner and fellow delegates will hear major policy addresses by Senators, Cabinet members, officials of the Departments of State and Defense, and directors of federal agencies. They will also participate in a meeting with a U.S. Supreme Court Justice and the President of the United States. The sessions with elected officials will include question-and-answer periods.

"Emma is a truly extraordinary young woman, and we know she will represent the youth of this state brilliantly," says Dr. Sharon Howell, Head of School of Indian Springs School. "She understands that to make a difference in the world, we must participate actively in it—through community service, meaningful discourse, and engaged citizenship."

Currently the national programs director for High School Democrats of America (HSDA), Turner planned and implemented the national voter registration drive, planned the HSDA National Summit in Washington, D.C., and represented HSDA at the Democratic National Convention last summer. She also served as state chair for Alabama High School Democrats in 2015-16. In that role, she increased the number of chapters in Alabama and planned an issue advocacy event for sex education laws for the Alabama Legislature.

She is a member of YouthServe's Youth Philanthropy Council and a member of the Indian Springs School student-run Judiciary. She plans to major in political science and economics and hopes to work in Washington and later return to Birmingham to pursue a political career.

## IN SYMPATHY

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Ron Weingarten. Mr. Weingarten passed away in Trafford, AL on December 30, 2016. Mr. Weingarten was a member of The Locust Fork Baptist Church and he served as Chairman of the Deacons for 15 years. He was a loving husband and father of 42 years.



Preceding him in death were his mother and father-in-law Doris and Bob Pfeiffer and father-in-law Wayne McNaron. Survivors include his wife Donna Weingarten of Trafford; sons Steven Weingarten (Misty) of Clay and Doug Weingarten (Lauren) of Pinson; grandchildren Alexis Brusaw, Trey Brusaw, Jordan Rutledge, Brooke Weingarten, Christopher Weingarten and Maliya Weingarten; parents Gene and Olivia Dailey Weingarten; brothers Dan Weingarten, Mark Weingarten and Walter Weingarten (Susan); brother and sister-in-law Bobby McNaron (Toni); nephews Gil Weingarten, Grant Weingarten, Shawn McNaron and Sam Weingarten; niece Julie Weingarten; and a host of other family and friends.

## OAK MOUNTAIN MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS DONATE \$21,000 IN TOYS TO TOYS for TOTS

by ERICA TECHO, 280Living  
December 6, 2016

Oak Mountain Middle School students helped make Christmas a little brighter for kids in Jefferson and Shelby Counties. As a whole, the school raised \$21,054 to go toward Toys for Tots, and the OMMS National Junior Honor Society presented the toys to the U.S. Marine Corps during an assembly on Dec. 5.

"I cannot say enough, how proud each of us are, when I look out at all of our students and teachers who worked and encouraged and did so much to be able to make this day possible," said Principal Larry Haynes, "because once again, Oak Mountain Middle School students have surpassed the \$20,000 goal for Toys for Tots."

Students raised the more than \$21,000 over the course of 12 school days, said NJHS sponsor Lauren Gingras, and she was proud to see the school once again surpass its goal of \$20,000. The morning of Dec. 5, around 120 student representatives of NJHS went shopping at the Hoover Toys R Us, purchasing toys for the donation. Each student was given \$175 to spend, and asked to spend between \$15 and \$20 per toy.

"Students, this year, your generosity helped us raise \$21,054 for Toys for Tots. Thanks to everyone's hard work and willingness to give, hundreds of children in our area will wake up to a gift on Christmas morning," said NJHS president Victoria Simpson. "It is our sincerest wish that each toy will not merely be a material thing, but it will bring joy and hope to children who need it."

Staff Sgt. Michael Tucker with the U.S. Marine Corps thanked all of the students for their time and donations. "As we give our service, the service that we provide would not be possible without the support of every single citizen, man, woman and child of the United States," Tucker said. "This is proven by what we have here today. The Toys for Tots program services children all over the United States of America."

Following the presentation of toys, members of NJHS helped bag all of the toys and load them onto a moving truck outside. Once all of the toys were loaded, Tucker and a Toys for Tots volunteer closed the truck while holding in a wall of toys.

The students worked hard to make posters for the school, reminding everyone of the fundraiser, and teachers worked to remind students how important the fundraiser is, Gingras said. Students who are part of NJHS know the Toys for Tots shopping and toy presentation are part of the experience, Gingras said, and it is something many students look forward to.

# what's cooking

*I love to have a go-to soup recipe that's healthy, filling and easy to make! This soup is delicious!  
Recipe featured on [www.laurenlatest.com](http://www.laurenlatest.com).*

## EASY AND HEALTHY CHICKEN TORTILLA SOUP

### Ingredients

3 Tbsp. olive oil  
1 ½ cups diced yellow onion  
1 large clove garlic, grated  
1 cup diced carrot  
1 small zucchini, diced  
2 ears sweet corn, cut off the cob  
(or 1 ½ cups frozen corn)  
1 – 15 oz. can black beans, drained and rinsed  
1 – 15 oz. can cannellini beans, drained and rinsed  
1 – 15 oz. can tomato sauce  
Salt & Pepper, to taste  
1 Tbsp. cumin  
2 tsp. smoked paprika  
1 tsp. oregano  
6 cups chicken stock  
2 chicken breasts  
5 corn tortillas, cut into strips  
Toppings, if desired: fresh cilantro, chips, sour cream, avocado, etc.



### Instructions

1. Place large pot over medium heat. Sauté onion, garlic, carrot, zucchini and corn in olive oil to soften slightly, 5 minutes.
2. Stir in beans, tomato sauce, spices, chicken stock and bring to a boil.
3. Reduce to simmer and place whole chicken breast into soup. Cover and simmer 10-15 minutes or until chicken is cooked completely.
4. Remove from pot, shred and return to soup.
5. Stir in tortilla strips and cook another 10 minutes.
6. Ladle into bowls and serve with any desired toppings.

*Send us your favorite recipe; we would love to share it with everyone. Please send recipes to [leighwhatley@gmail.com](mailto:leighwhatley@gmail.com) and include Village Voice Recipe in the subject line.*