

The Village Voice



Vol. 10, No. 10

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

January 9, 2001

INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, January 16, 2001, 7:00 p.m.
Indian Springs Village Town Hall

Agenda

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

Indian Springs Village Telephone Directory Number
is 982-1755

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

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 the 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: Dr. Ruth Goodwyn, Editor, 151 Choctaw Lane, Indian Springs, Alabama, 35124 phone number (988-0896), or e-mail Ruthgoodwyn@aol.com. Questions about circulation should be addressed to Phelan Webb, 213 Cahaba Oaks Trail, Indian Springs, AL 35124 (987-8665). Reporter for the Homestead neighborhood is Bonnie Murphy, 5164 Hollowlog Lane, Birmingham 35244 (991-2535) e-mail: Bam01126@aol.com.

The *Village Voice* is published the second Tuesday of each month. Articles for publication in the February 2001 edition should be submitted by Tuesday noon, Feb. 6. The editor reserves the right to edit all materials submitted for publication, including signed letters to the editor, which will be published if space permits. 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:

ISV aluminum can recyclers for their support
Indian Springs Village couriers for hand delivery
Mildred Wyatt for the masthead drawing
Tricia Crapet, RealtySouth, for production

A Message From the Mayor State of the Town

By Gene Weingarten

On October 16, 1990, residents of our valley voted to form the town of Indian Springs Village. Now that we have passed our tenth birthday, the original philosophy of having a minimum amount of government with local control over neighborhoods has remained intact. With no town taxes then, and no town taxes now, we have weathered the expected bumps in the road and continued to preserve a tranquil area for folks to build their homes and raise their families.

Now that we are going through a period of very cold temperatures, it brings to mind the great snow blizzard of March 1993. Learning from that experience, we are prepared within our area for emergencies of downed power lines and icy roads. Of course, it remains important that your home should have an alternate source of heating, extra foodstuffs that do not require cooking, kerosene or Coleman lamps, battery powered radios and flashlights, and several weeks' supply of prescription drugs. In certain cases a cellular phone is very important.

The recent spate of tornadoes underlined that need of being ready for nature's worst. We have added additional warning sirens and are in the process of adding one more. This will give us blanket coverage so that everyone will hear the sirens very clearly. Along with the weather alert on your radio and TV, we will be forewarned as threatening weather approaches. Remember to designate a safe area in your home in which to take cover.

Our town is totally run by volunteers. All elected officers, clerks, commissions and boards and *Village Voice* staff & couriers serve without pay. These folks give freely of their personal time in order to improve and preserve ISV. Operating on a Spartan budget, we have paid off the mortgage on the town hall, allowed for our normal expenditures and made many improvements. Budget plans are discussed in October, reviewed and finalized in November, and published in December. During February 2001 we will have CD's of \$200,000 in the bank, drawing interest of 7%. Our "rainy day" funds are ready, hoping that we never will have to use them.

Our monthly *Village Voice* keeps you informed of ISV happenings, past, present, and future. The town telephone number is 982-1755. A call to this number will give the various functions that are available, with the persons to contact. Remember, a quick call will get you on the track for various activities; building permits, zoning questions, etc. And soon we will have a web site!

We always need more volunteers for ISV events. Don't wait to be asked. Come to the town council meetings every third Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Coming up: our annual Easter Egg hunt, Fourth of July event, Garden Club and Welcoming Committee activities, Founders' Day, et al. **Happy New Year to you and yours. Have a healthy and prosperous 2001.**

Editor's Note: My apologies to all for inadvertently leaving out of the December Village Voice, "Town Council Highlights," the following portion of the budget for fiscal year 2001.

BUDGET

Town of Indian Springs Village

Projected revenues for fiscal year 2001 - General Fund

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Charter Communications | \$ 14,000 |
| Alabama Power Co. | 58,000 |
| Alabama Gas Co. | 13,000 |
| Pelham Water | 9,000 |
| Aluminum Cans | 1,000 |
| Alcohol Taxes | 9,000 |
| Permits | 6,000 |
| 4th of July | 1,500 |
| Miscellaneous Taxes | 2,500 |
| Zoning Fees | 1,000 |
| TOTAL | \$115,000 |

Projected revenue for fiscal year 2001 - Road Fund
9,000

Town Council Highlights December 19, 2000

By Patricia Crapet, Town Council Place # 2

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met on Tuesday, December 19, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. at the ISV Town Hall. Mayor Gene Weingarten presided, with council members Herb Robins, Patricia Crapet, Art Johnson, and Brian Stauss present.

Town Clerk Paul Stephens reported the following revenues: beer taxes, \$820; building permits, \$733; aluminum cans, \$203; vehicle licenses, \$78; real estate licenses, \$8; and road funds, \$829. The balance in the general fund was \$102,173, and the road fund balance was \$103,280.

Committee reports were as follows: Councilman Herb Robins reported that paving had been completed on McGuire, Wildwood, Pawnee, and Indian Forest. Councilman Brian Stauss reported that the ISV website is progressing, but had slowed down due to school exams and Christmas holidays. He also cited the need for the council to have business cards and was working on a design. Councilman Art Johnson reported on the aluminum can recycling and its need for volunteers with pickup trucks. Councilwoman Patricia Crapet reported on the ISV Children's Fund. Mayor Weingarten reported that a quote was expected soon for the storm siren to be installed on town hall property.

The council acted on a request from Rite-Aid in the Valleydale Winn-Dixie Marketplace to add a wine license to its existing beer license. The council voted unanimously to approve the application.

Following the meeting, delicious holiday refreshments were served. A special thank you to those who brought home-made goodies to share with friends and neighbors.

Town Hall Reservation Procedure

By Patricia Crapet, Town Council Place # 2

The Indian Springs Village Town Hall is a wonderful resource for our citizens. The 100+ year -old house and outdoor pavilion has hosted many events including baby and bridal showers, garage sales, bunko games, engagement and birthday parties, Sunday school and scout meetings, and even corporate seminars, just to name a few. This unique facility, which is used primarily for town meetings and functions, is now being used by ISV residents more and more often as word spreads.

There is no charge to ISV residents for use of the town hall facilities. We do not "rent" the facility to anyone who does not live in the Village. However, there are certain procedures for reserving the town hall that need to be followed.

Reservations are on a first-come basis. The town hall is being used frequently, and several groups have standing reservations for certain days of the month every month. Please try to reserve well in advance so an alternate date can be picked should your first choice already be taken.

All reservations are to be made by calling 802-2753, which is my voice mail number. Please call on weekdays, Monday through Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Please leave your name, home and work phone numbers, and date that you are planning to make a reservation for, as well as what type of function you are planning to have at the town hall. Your call will be returned in plenty of time for your reservation plans to be finalized.

Upon confirmation of your requested date and time of use, instructions for picking up the key will be given. A copy of the rules for use of our town facilities will be faxed to you or sent via e-mail.

ISV Children's Fund

By Patricia Crapet, Town Council Place # 2

This year's ISV Children's Fund provided holiday gifts to eight children from three different families. Not only were these families helped with gifts, but grocery certificates were also included. The certificates were purchased with Scrips coupons, which help our Oak Mountain schools. One child was provided with badly needed eyeglasses, which her family had not been able to afford. The fund also provided monies for the children's school snacks, which are now paid for until the end of this school year.

Of course none of this would have been possible without the generosity of ISV's citizens. Those donating to the fund this year were: James and Barbara Wood, Alabama Pool Services, Duane and Rebecca Cornelius, Carolyn Cashion, Chuck Vann, Charles and Judy Vatella, John and Erika Lyman, Bart and Connie Trammell, Madeline Johnson, James and Jan Austin, Shirley Knight, Crawford and Betty Jinks, Jack and Vera Dean, Mitchell Martin, Ed and Ginny Lusk, Kathy Lane, Louis and Norma Hase, John and Marge Dunn, Clyde and Fay Wood, William and Peggy Gaines, Robert and Judith Konecny, Roger and Elizabeth Eastman, Gene and Olivia Weingarten, and Stephen and Terri Pustilnik.

Our sincere thanks to those who helped make this year's holiday season a happy one for those children and their families.

NS Library Pleased by Donations; New Survey Being Mailed

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

Director Michael Jones, North Shelby Library, says the library is pleased with the number of donations received since the district voters turned down an annual fee increase from \$15.00 to \$75.00 on September 7.

Sen. Bill Armistead, R-Columbiana, presented the library with a \$5,000 state grant at the library's advisory board meeting Dec. 19. After reading in the newspapers of the library's financial problems he set about to try to get help, he said, when making the presentation.

In addition, the library recently received a \$5,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham to buy large-print, audio, and nonfiction books for an outreach project at the Mary Ellen Estes Senior Community Center, Heardmont Park.

Library district members responded by contributing \$30,000 after letters were sent to them in October, reminding them of their yearly fee of \$15 and asking for a contribution. In addition, many have sent year-end contributions for operating expenses and to help retire the \$2 million debt. It is hoped that the total amount of contributions will reach at least \$50,000.

The positive response to the library's fundraising efforts is a boost to the morale of all associated with the library, especially as we start 2001, Michael Jones said. Because North Shelby is not attached to any municipality, its funding has always come primarily from the annual \$15 fee (not increased since its inception when the district was formed July 28, 1988) and from donations to the building fund. The annual fee is designated for operational expenses, not construction. All other libraries in the county are supported by municipalities. Shelby County supports the Mildred B. Harrison Regional Library, Columbiana, the headquarters for Shelby County's system of libraries, which provides support services to the ten in the system.

The tax dollars used to support the municipal library in each of the following cities, when averaged per household, equal the following per year:

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Pelham | \$134.72 |
| Vestavia Hills | 121.24 |
| Leeds | 81.56 |
| Alabaster | 72.48 |

The above figures were calculated by George Stewart, Interim Director June-August 2000, based on information obtained from the Alabama Public Library Service, the state's library agency in Montgomery. A resident of North Shelby, Mr. Stewart is retired director of the Birmingham Public Library. The level of tax support for city libraries in the area was made available to those who attended the informational meetings prior to the September voting.

A survey is being mailed during the first two weeks of January to district residents to ask how much they would be willing to pay in library dues. The cost of holding an election is \$5,000 to \$7,000. "We don't want to have another one without knowing how much people are willing to pay to support the library," the Director said. The cost of mailing the survey is estimated at more than \$2,000.

Informational meetings will be held at the North Shelby Library the following dates and times:

Thursday, Feb. 8 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, Feb. 15 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 18 2:00 p.m.

At these times members of the Board of Trustees and others will be prepared to answer your questions concerning the operation of the library and why the annual dues assessment of \$15.00 needs to be increased.

Steve Zerkis Named New Trustee

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

Steve Zerkis of Indian Springs has been appointed to the Board of Trustees of the North Shelby Library to fill the position vacated by Hub Harrington in December. The first mayor of Indian Springs Village, Mr. Harrington serves on the Shelby County Board of Education. He cited civic overcommitments as the reason for his resignation, but he will remain as a member of the advisory council.

Trustees are normally elected for four years in staggered terms; the election taking place the second Tuesday of September every even year. Those elected take office the following October 1. To qualify as a trustee one must be a registered voter living within the boundaries of the North Shelby Library District. When a trustee resigns, the Board appoints someone to fill that person's term. Harrington's term ends September 2002.

Mr. Zerkis is no stranger to the North Shelby Library, having attended previous meetings of interested citizens, including one of the two held prior to the Sept. 7 voting. Believing that schools and libraries anchor a community, he asked questions and became involved. His conclusion is that North Shelby is an excellent library with qualified personnel and an asset to all in northern Shelby County. "I'm happy to have the opportunity to be of service," he said.

Steve and his wife, Patricia, moved to 5300 Mountain Park Drive about five years ago from Northbrook, IL., outside Chicago. Their two children are a son, with Motorola in Chicago, and a daughter, a new chef at the Bayona Restaurant in the French Quarter, New Orleans.

A businessman, Zerkis has been the general manager of several companies; his specialty is distribution and productivity improvement. As COO of Walsh Health Care, a pharmaceutical distributor, one of his roles was to start a new division in this area. Former Alabama associations include assisting in the development of a Greenville, AL, plant and U.S. Air Force duty at Selma.

Cahaba Coal Field to be Topic

The Shelby County Historical Society will meet Sunday, Feb. 4, at 2:30 p.m. at Columbiana, upstairs in the Shelby County Museum & Archives (1854 Old Courthouse).

A display from the Aldrich Coal Mine Museum, Montevallo, will be on exhibit, and the museum will be discussed by Henry and Rose Emfinger. The guest speaker is Jim Day, Montevallo, whose topic is "The Cahaba Coal Field in Shelby County."

Special Thanks

A very special "thank you" goes to Nora and Jim Boycott for their time and effort in decorating the ISV Town Hall for the Christmas holidays. Nora and Jim are always ready, willing, and able to volunteer their services to the town. The Boyetts also serve as couriers for *The Village Voice*.

Village Personals

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

Welcome Newcomers

Wanda and Donald Williams, 140 Skyline Circle, were introduced as newcomers at the December council meeting and made the acquaintance of the many Villagers in attendance. The couple and their two children moved to the Village from Bush Hills.

Daughter **Lauren** is in the 11th grade at John Carroll High School; their son, **Kyle**, is a freshman at Jefferson State Community College, now attending the Scrushy campus on Valleydale Road.

Donald works in the office of the Birmingham Post Office. Wanda has retired as Chairman of the Communications Dept., Main Campus, Jefferson State. In April she will begin to teach language arts, grades 6-8, at Advent Episcopal Day School, Birmingham.

Condolences

Shirley Knight of Auburn Road would like to express her appreciation to all Villagers for their concern and support after the sudden death of her husband, **Richard P. "Dick" Knight**.

Mr. Knight passed away around 2:00 a.m. December 14 in Camden, Wilcox County, where he and Shirley had gone on a genealogical research trip. He had had heart by-pass surgery 20 years ago, walked three miles every day--rain or shine--and was recently pronounced in good health. The Knights have lived in Indian Springs for many years.

Mr. Knight was a member of the Alabama Genealogical Society and on the Board of Directors of the Birmingham Genealogical Society. He and Shirley had recently completed the "Loose Papers" Project, preparing loose Shelby County records of permanent historical and genealogical value for microfilming. Mr. Knight was coordinator of the project. He and Shirley trained over 44 volunteers in record preparation procedures.

A 1950 graduate of Birmingham-Southern College, Mr. Knight worked briefly at Southern Research Institute before enlisting in the U. S. Air Force. At Kirkland A.F.B. in Albuquerque, NM, he was a radar crew chief on the bombers that carried and dropped atomic bombs at test sites in Nevada. He transferred to the Army to attend Officers' Candidate School, graduating third in his class of 300. Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, he attended the Army Chemical Corps School at Ft. McClellan, graduating first in his class; he became a member of the staff and faculty of the school. Later he was transferred to Dugway Proving Grounds, Utah, where he was a staff officer. He was honorably discharged in September 1953.

Mr. Knight was employed in 1954 as a chemist for Stockham Valves and Fittings and retired as chief chemist in October 1991. He was a member of many professional societies and organizations.

Besides his wife he is survived by a son in Huntsville and a daughter and two grandchildren of Canal-Winchester, Ohio. He was preceded in death by a son, Richard Chadwell Knight. Funeral services were Monday, Dec. 18 at All-Saints' Episcopal Church, Homewood, with burial in Elmwood Cemetery.

Clara Lucas Jordon, age 84, a resident of Indian Springs until about eight years ago, passed away Dec. 12, 2000. Rev. Donny Acton of New Hope Presbyterian Church officiated at graveside services December 17 at Forest Crest Cemetery. Survivors include her husband, Joseph B. Jordan, Sr., who is in a nursing home, and a daughter of Milledgeville, Ga.

Condolences, con't.

Jim Wyatt of Indian Trail suffered the loss in 1999 of his father and then his youngest sister, Jackie Glass, wife of Hugh Glass of Huntsville. His "middle" sister had died the week before Christmas two years ago. Thus Jim, the oldest of the children in his family, is now the sole survivor of his branch of the Wyatt family. Villagers extend sympathy in his loss.

Fire Safety Reminders

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

Fire Chief Michael O'Connor reminds all North Shelby County Fire & Emergency District residents that 20% of all house fires during the cold winter months are caused by fireplace ashes being put in paper sacks or some other combustible container. Fireplace ashes are hot 72 hours after the fire has died and capable of starting another fire, he warns. Please use a metal bucket or other container made of non-combustible material to hold fireplace ashes until you can properly dispose of them.

The Chief also cautioned about the use of space heaters and following directions in having them vented and used properly; also the need for safety precautions when the heaters are on.

Tornadoes occurred in Alabama the middle of December. O'Connor commented on the new siren now in use behind Oak Mountain Intermediate School. Siren technology works well to alert those out-of-doors of violent weather, but sirens cannot always be heard by those indoors. Weather alert radios are the most reliable warning system for those confined to the indoors.

In wishing all a happy, healthy, and safe 2001, Chief O'Connor reminds us that safety is everyone's business.

December Building Permits

Permits approved by Marty Martin, Town Engineer, are the following: 398 Indian Crest Dr., Thompson, detached garage; 455 McGuire Road, Trio Electrical, inside wiring.

Next Recycling - Jan. 17

By Art Johnson, Town Council Place #4

Due to the Christmas holidays there was no aluminum can recycling in December. Many of our volunteers were traveling to be with their families, and we didn't have all the volunteers we needed to do the curb-side pickup.

In November your recycling volunteers were Margie and Herb Robins, Wayne Jones and daughter Allie (short for Alexandria), Warren Jones and son Benjamin, Trudy and Paul Skokol, and Jackie & Art Johnson. Bob Durbin transported the aluminum recycling trailer to the town hall. In October/November your recycling team collected 690 pounds of recycled aluminum. If you have not started recycling, please join your fellow citizens and help protect the environment.

The primary reason for our recycling success is the support of our town's citizens and the recycling volunteers. This team effort helps protect the environment and helps support the publishing costs of our community newsletter, *The Village Voice*. Thank you for your support in 2000.