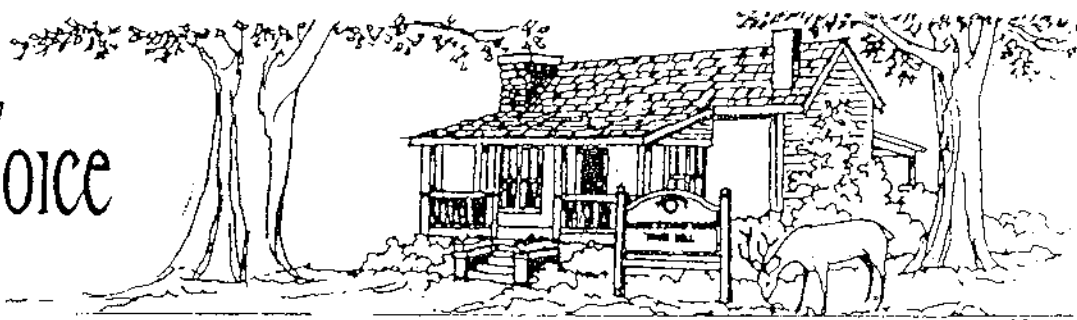


The Village Voice



Volume 10, Number 12

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

March 13, 2001

INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, March 20, 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 Hollow Log 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 April 2001 edition should be submitted by Tuesday noon, April 3. 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

By Gene Weingarten

The definition of **DEDICATION**: Our own Indian Springs Garden Club, out in the pouring-down rain, on a Saturday, landscaping the Indian Springs Village sign, close to I-65. If you have not seen the results, you need to drive by and see what the ladies have so far accomplished. (I believe there were some menfolk there, also.)

Our town is supremely proud of its tradition of beautiful landscaping, well-kept homes and lawns, and natural surroundings. Comments have been made recently regarding that rare Villager who may not be as attentive to his or her home as are the neighbors. One phone call complaint was that a homeowner has been placing old and apparently unusable automobiles at the rear of their property. This just doesn't seem to fit the philosophy of our town. As I travel around the county, folks are constantly remarking to me how "beautiful and tranquil your little town seems to be." My reply is that we are a village of neighbors. Mostly, good neighbors. But occasionally a neighbor may stub his or her toe. Let's keep our reputation spotless by removing an auto that will no longer be used. "Be a good neighbor."

The following letter is one typical of a good neighbor. I know we have all experienced the leaf-burning situation. Thanks to the letter-writer for bringing the matter to our attention.

Letter From a Villager

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a resident of Indian Springs.... I am writing with a grave concern about the air that we are breathing.

Frequently, my husband and I see smoke and smell smoke that is caused by the burning of leaves. I have never understood the concept behind burning leaves. No one ever makes a big bonfire to burn all the leaves on their yards (I don't accept this either) and as a consequence, neighbors build these small ever-burning fires that contaminate our breathing space.

I collect nearly 100-150 wheelbarrows of leaves a season, and I pile them around the edge of my backyard. After one season their height has been reduced by two-thirds. No need to burn.

I guess that I am writing because I am frustrated that my neighbors burn leaves and contaminate my breathing space and the breathing space of other persons. What can I do? Does ISV have a policy about burning leaves? I truly believe, and many environmentally conscious neighbors will agree with me, that burning leaves is polluting our air. Tonight, a mild night, I am unable to open my windows because the air outside is fouled with the smell of burning leaves.

I am appreciative of your time.

(Name signed and address given, but withheld)

Town Council Highlights

February 20, 2001

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met on Tuesday, February 20, 2001, at 7:00 p.m. at the ISV Town Hall. Mayor Gene Weingarten presided, with council members Herb Robins, Art Johnson, Brian Stauss, and Stewart Dudley in attendance.

In the absence of Councilwoman Patricia Crapet, the minutes of the January 16, 2001 town council meeting were approved as published in "Town Council Highlights" in the February *Village Voice*.

The financial report was given by Town Clerk Paul Stephens. Last month's receipts are as follows: Charter Communications, quarterly payment of \$3,307.83; building permits \$488; engineering fees \$1,232; business licenses \$760; auto licenses \$15; real estate, \$8.00; Pelham Water Works, \$9,391; beer tax \$738; Alabama Gas Co. \$14,395.65; Alabama Power \$65,090; road fund \$750.

In the town's general fund the balance is \$95,406--this remaining after withdrawal of \$100,000 for another certificate of deposit, making our total of CD's for that amount to two. The road fund balance is \$105,485.

In state issues Mayor Weingarten mentioned an article in *The Birmingham News*, Tuesday, Feb. 20, concerning cities in Shelby County raising taxes, reminding all that under state law, cities have home rule while counties do not, which often works to the counties' detriment. In anticipation of a county special one-cent sales tax ending March 31, the cities of Alabaster, Montevallo, Columbiana, Pelham, Calera, and Helena have all made arrangements to raise taxes. (Indian Springs Village has no city tax.)

Councilman Brian Stauss distributed computer-generated business cards to town elected and appointed officials who had requested them. Webmaster Michael Felix, Oak Mountain High School senior who is completing work on the ISV website, gave a visual preview of www.indianspringsvillage.org. The cost for the website is \$35.00 per year, with the hosting service responsible for the security factor and a volunteer (Michael) responsible for maintenance. The Zoning and Planning Commission ordinances are yet to be scanned. Phelan Webb and other Garden Club /Welcome Committee members present expressed interest in having information about this organization's activities put on the website. Michael is writing a user's manual on how to update the website and expects to be finished with the main sections in April.

Councilman Herb Robins reported that all road repaving in the Village scheduled for the year had been done.

Jim Wyatt, Assistant Town Clerk, asked what governmental entity maintained Indian Trail, and was informed that the county did. Councilman Robins will call the county about the trees blown down on Friday, Feb. 16, around the bridge crossing Bishop Creek. At that time the area experienced heavy wind damage from nearby tornadoes.

The \$12,775 storm warning system being paid for from ISV funds was discussed, especially the siren's proposed location at a corner of the town hall pavilion. One Cahaba Oaks Trail resident voiced objection to the noise to be generated. Testing of the siren will be done on Wednesdays of each month on good weather days; otherwise the test might be construed to be a storm warning.

Other locations for the siren were discussed, but a survey that had been done showed that the town hall pavilion location was the

most logical site, the mayor said. Discussion will continue, he said, and it is hoped the site location will be settled by the March town council meeting.

Gerald Templeton, chairman, Zoning and Planning Commission, presented a petition for annexation from Farley Moody. Mr. Moody is seeking annexation on the condition that his property, rated E-1 (residential) could be re-zoned to B-2 (business). The council voted to accept the annexation conditionally. Mr. Farley must then petition the Zoning and Planning Commission to request the zoning change.

Hal Taylor, Shelby County agent for the Alabama Beverage Control Board Enforcement Division, was present to answer questions pertaining to beverage licenses and establishments.

ISV Recycling - March 21

By Ari Johnson, Town Council Place #4

Aluminum recycling is Wednesday evening, March 21, at 7:00 p.m. To help identify your recycling, please use white, blue recycling, or clear plastic bags and place them on the other side of your driveway from your trash. Spilled cans can be very time-consuming for our volunteers to pick up and re-bag, so it is important to tie each bag with a knot. Also, some recyclers have been using the plastic that covers dry cleaning for recycling bags. Please do not overfill these bags, as they will split and spill when being transferred from curbside to truck bed, and then to recycling trailer. Watch for ISV recycling reminders along Highway 119, Indian Crest Drive, and entrances to Homewood.

In February the recycling volunteers were Councilman Brian Stauss, Trudy and Paul Skocel, Mary and Russ Favorite, Margie and Herb Robins, and Art Johnson. Welcome to Brian and thank you for joining the recycling team. Recycling in 2001 started strong, averaging 380 pounds per month for the first two months.

If your family is not currently recycling, please join the growing number of ISV recyclers. Recycling aluminum is so cash--just rinse and store until the next monthly pickup. Returning your beverage containers, newspapers, and other recyclable products is the first step in the recycling process. You can take the next step by shopping for the products made with recycled materials. When you buy recycled, you "close the loop" or complete the recycling process. Buying products that contain recycled materials helps conserve natural resources and protects the environment.

The ISV aluminum can recycling program is a volunteer community project, and we express our sincere thanks to you all for the support received during the past. For more information on recycling, or if you feel you should be giving something back to the community and would like to help, please call 988-3217.

Mothers, Don't Let Your Sons (or Daughters) Ride on the Walking Track!

Children are still attempting to ride bikes on the walking track behind the town hall pavilion. This ruins the track, recently re-graveled. Again, this is a WALKING track for the benefit of walkers and joggers.

Commission Comments

By Lindsey Allison, Shelby County Commissioner

The past several months have been an interesting time for me as county commissioner. I've had to fully evaluate many of my thoughts, positions and approaches to issues as a county commissioner. My intent is not to sound sentimental but perhaps to help Indian Springs residents, my constituents and my neighbors, understand the growing process I've experienced over the past eight years.

I remember my entry into the commission in November 1993. The county treasury was about \$44 million dollars in debt, no reserve or money in the bank, and my first action as a new commissioner was to borrow \$165,000.00 to make payroll the following Friday. The county's legal counsel presented a bankruptcy petition and explanation of the issues for a county filing bankruptcy. Though I still consider myself young, I was only 33 at the time and new to the realities of life, but I was absolutely petrified at the severity of the problems. Fortunately, the commissioners put individual differences aside and adopted a game plan.

In April 1993 all nine commissioners voted for a one-cent sales tax. The special legislative act allowed for a commission vote and not a vote of the residents of Shelby County. This was principally done due to time. The \$22.5 million dollar debt on the sewer was seriously delinquent; Birmingham Water Works was trying to purchase the system for ten cents on the dollar, and the commission just needed to make a hard fast decision. Everyone understood the gravity of the situation.

Slowly the commission adopted sound financial policies to retrieve the county from this fiscal nightmare. An annual budget was adopted in September which included all capital projects for the year. It was understood not to add employees in the middle of the year or purchase large equipment without planning. In fact, the second step involved substantial planning, outlining, projecting, anticipating money needs, equipment, capital, operational, growth, roads, buildings, etc. On record today there is a plan, an outline or projection for almost every aspect of our county operations. With a blueprint in hand, the commission slowly dug the county out of a financial mess. By 1997 the commission was able to look forward and with open wounds of the past five years, the question was often asked, "How do we prevent this from happening, again?"

The commission organized a countywide effort to plan for the future. First was the Cooperative Development Program, where every governmental entity within Shelby County was asked to respond to a capital prioritization within the county. The response was overwhelming, and cities, school boards, and special service boards alike responded.

With a needs assessment in hand, the commission created the Committee of 19, with appointments from cities, school boards, fire districts and the commission--19 citizens who had no vested financial interest in the outcome except to see Shelby County prosper as it should.

In May 2000, after 11 months of study, the committee released its recommendations; some of the recommendations I liked and some I did not agree with. However, as a commissioner, I feel an obligation to present their recommendations to the appropriate entities that can "make change." County departments have been given administrative directives to review and pursue some of their recommendations. In turn a transitional committee called C-7 was organized to review the

legislative recommendations. Between September and February the C-7 Committee, which included the school superintendent, a school board member, two members of Committee of 19, a mayor and two county commissioners, including myself, met with legislators, Alabama constitutional law experts, mayors, city councils, the Association of Fire Chiefs, Home Builders Association, and leadership organizations in Shelby County to discuss legislative options. After several proposals, the Committee recommended a countywide referendum on the following three issues:

1. Consolidate tax assessor and collector into one elected position.

2. Limited home rule allowing the county commission to formulate their own regulations and ordinances similar to cities. It does not allow the county commission to assess taxes. Such will continue to need a vote of the citizens.

3. One-cent sales tax to be placed in a capital trust fund with 45 percent going to schools, 45 percent to the county commission, and ten percent equally divided between incorporated and unincorporated fire and emergency providers. Such funds can only be spent on capital improvements within the county and not on any operational expense such as salaries.

The legislation is currently being advertised and introduced in Montgomery. The Shelby County school board and county commission have passed resolutions requesting that the issue be placed before the citizens of Shelby County.

Personally, I dislike taxes, but they are a reality. The questions for you and me are: Do the above-stated proposals assist Shelby County in handling the future? Will the ability to regulate by limited home rule and fund capital projects prevent another crisis like the one in 1992/93? Though I may have personal opinions on each, I feel stronger that you have the right to decide. If the legislation is approved, please exercise your right to vote. Whatever comes of the election, this commission will continue to govern within its legal and financial means.

Around the Village

Building Permits Approved

In February these building permit requests were approved by Marty Martin, Town Engineer:

34 Bent Tree Acres, Choice Builders, new SF home;
8003 Wood Fern, Aaron's Construction, exterior modifications.

Correction Concerning Meeting Time

In the February *Village Voice*, in the "Governmental Directory" section, it was reported that the Board of Trustees of the North Shelby County Fire and Emergency Medical District meets the 4th Tuesday of each month, NSFD Station No. 3, at 7:30 p.m. **The correct time is 7:00 p.m.** We apologize for the error.

ISV Garden Club Garage Sale

April 21 is the date of the annual garage sale, to be held at the ISV town hall. Please donate items for this worthy cause--clothing (with hangers) furniture, plants, whatever! Call Phelan Webb, 987-8665 or Laura Jones at 991-0902. The Garden Club/Welcome Committee meets this month on March 22, 7:00 p.m. at the town hall.

Welcome Newcomers

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

Our thanks to Del Levesque and Mary Hearn of the Garden Club/Welcome Committee for alerting us to these ISV newcomers.

Glen and Kathy Kimmorley of 114 Willow Ridge Lane relocated to Indian Springs last November from Memphis for Glen's work as a territory manager for Fort Dodge Animal Health. The couple has been back in the USA for two years after having lived in Australia for eight years, Glen's native country. Kathy is originally from San Diego, California. She worked for Frito-Lay in Memphis as a route sales representative. The Kimmorleys enjoy gardening and spending time outdoors with their two golden retrievers that emigrated from Australia with them.

Tom and Anna Stansell now make their home at 5530 Timber Hill Road with their daughter, Sierra, age 9, who attends Oak Mountain Intermediate School. Tom is President of Rock Wool Manufacturing in Leeds, and Anna is a freelance writer. She currently is working on a novel, which she describes as her first "creepy, scary book." The Stansells came to our area from Crestline in Mountain Brook, and like our quiet and spacious environment.

Heardmont Happenings

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

Senior citizens may get their cholesterol checked on March 20, 9:00 - 11:00 a. m. and their hearing tested on March 29, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. free of charge at the Mary Ellen Estes Senior Community Center, where each Tuesday free blood pressure checks may be done.

Rita Seales has announced that computer classes are being held Monday-Friday from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. with Friday at 10:00 a.m. designated as "make-up time" for those who missed a class during the week. The computers are all online and work is now being done on the Internet as well as with Microsoft Works. Karen Earl is teacher to about 60 now enrolled.

A forthcoming big event is a trip to Branson, Missouri, scheduled for September 9-15, a seven-day, six-night trip which is the Center's first venture with trip-sponsoring through Diamond Tours, Inc. Space is available for 40 on the tour; 20 persons have already signed up. Call Rita Seales at 991-5742, ext. 25. Cost for the trip is \$539 per person, which includes transportation, admission to six shows, six nights hotel accommodations, 10 meals.

Lunches are served at the Center M-F at 12:00, with monthly menus posted in advance. The only requirement is calling a day in advance to make a reservation. Volunteers are still needed for the "meals-on-wheels" program which operates from the Center. In other news, a shuffle board court is now under construction near the small playground, and plans are underway for a senior prom May 4.

Library Programs Scheduled

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TAX-AIDE) is offered on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. by the American Association of Retired Persons for those 60 years and older who need assistance. Please call the library at 439-5555 for an appointment.

The Basic Copper Foil Workshop has been re-scheduled from March to May, meeting from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. instead of in the daytime. Meeting dates are May 10, 17, 24, and 31 for those who wish to learn the "Tiffany" method of building stained glass windows.

On Tuesday, March 27, 10:30-11:30 a.m., demonstrations in kite making will include making a kite "sun catcher," and on Thursday, March 29, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m., the Southern Museum of Flight will feature kite making for those age 6 & up. Registration is required; call 439-5500 to register.

Easter Egg Hunt Update

By Patricia Crape, Town Council Place #2

If the Easter bunny could talk, I am sure that he would say "HELP." The ISV Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 14, 2001, at 2:00 p.m. in the field behind the pavilion at the Indian Springs Village Town Hall. A few Villagers have called to volunteer their time and energy for one of ISV's favorite events, but not nearly the number of people who are needed.

There are so many things to be done --from stuffing the eggs, staking and roping off the field, hiding the eggs, and distributing the prizes to the children. Not easy tasks, but fun ones. We plan to have more eggs to hide this year if the volunteers don't become weary from putting candy and prizes inside the brightly-colored plastic eggs.

Please call my voice mail (802-2753), leave your name and phone number(s), to volunteer. The Easter bunny only visits us once a year, so make sure to be there!



Children wait anxiously as Mayor Gene Weingarten announces a winner!