

The Village Voice



Vol. 10, No. 6

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

September 12, 2000

INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2000 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, AL 35124 (988-0896), or e-mail: brgoodwyn@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: BamO1126@aol.com.

The Village Voice is published the second Tuesday of each month. Articles for publication in the October 2000 edition should be submitted by Tuesday noon, October 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

NSFD Schedules Election

EDITORIAL

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

Voters in the North Shelby Library District on Sept. 7 soundly rejected a proposed annual dues increase of \$60 per year. The chairman of the library's board of trustees, Ann Tharpe, explained at two public meetings that the increase would provide a level of funding that was no more, even less, than the percentage of funds available each year to public libraries in Hoover, Pelham, and Vestavia through their city governments. A complaint voiced at the meetings was that the library had just not communicated too well with its patrons.

In contrast, the North Shelby Fire and Emergency Medical District, also seeking an increase, but smaller (\$130 to \$160), has mailed to each district resident three communications covering the historical background of the fire district, the services provided, and an explanation of why the \$30 per year increase is necessary to ensure the long-term viability of the district.

The rejection of the library increase is regrettable. Hopefully a service fee increase for NSFD will pass. Fire Chief Michael O'Connor has summarized the information concerning the **special election on Thursday, September 14, to be held at Valleydale Baptist Church on Valleydale Road, from 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. We need your positive vote.**

All residents of the district are eligible to vote except those within the city limits of Hoover, Pelham, and Birmingham, who receive their fire and emergency medical services from those cities. The annual dues of persons residing in these cities will not be affected by the outcome of this election.

Commenting on the election, Jim Wyatt, president of the trustees, stated, "The residents of the district are benefiting from the best residential insurance classification possible, even though dues have remained at the same level of \$130 for the last 13 years. We provide 24-hour coverage, seven days a week, from each of our three stations. We are able to have men and equipment at the location of a fire or medical emergency within **4 minutes** of receiving a call. We have been able to provide this level of service without raising dues since 1987 because the number of homes in the district has grown rapidly. The growth has enabled us to offset the effects of (continued on p.2)

NSFD Schedules Election (con't.)

inflation on our costs, 73% of which are personnel-related. Unfortunately, most of the land in the district is fully developed, meaning that future growth in revenues from new homes is decreasing significantly.

"A second factor in our decision to request this increase is our need to replace our four fire engines during the next decade at a cost of over \$1.2 million. We plan to replace the first one next year at a cost of about \$300,000. This engine is already 22 years old and is unreliable and technologically obsolete.

"Our current debt level is \$370,000. In the absence of this dues increase, we will show a substantial deficit over the next 10 years. Because of our insurance rating, we are confident that each single-family homeowner in the district is saving significantly more in insurance premiums than he is paying in dues.

"While most district residents focus on our fire protection service, **about two-thirds of our 1,200 calls each year relate to emergency medical service.** Our **4-minute response time** enables us to save both lives and property. We are proud of the service level that we provide. **If the dues increase is approved, our residents will still pay less than the neighboring citizens residing in Hoover, Pelham, Birmingham, and the Cahaba Valley Fire District.** We are hopeful that our residents will vote for the proposed service charge and enable us to maintain the service to which they are accustomed."

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

By Gene Weingarten

New citizens to the town of Indian Springs are most welcome. Our newly organized welcoming committee, Mary Hearn, Phelan Webb, and Sandy Luster, prepare a basket of goodies for our newcomers. Also included is a informational letter. If you are a newcomer and have not received our "welcome basket," or you know of a new neighbor, contact Ruth Goodwyn (*Village Voice* editor) at 988-0896. The following is a reprint of our welcoming letter.

Dear New Villager,

Welcome to one of the richest valleys in the United States! We have fertile soil that grows lush grass, green trees and beautiful flowers.

Many of our neighbors have vegetable gardens. We have the serenity of the country life with the conveniences of the city.

We have four new schools. Our elementary school has achieved "Blue Ribbon" status. The Shelby County school system has committed their resources and finest teachers to our neighborhood children. In addition, we have a parochial school and two private schools in Indian Springs.

The North Shelby Library is a new addition to our community. It contains the very latest in print and electronic services. Our police protection is provided by the Shelby County Sheriff's Department. North Shelby Fire District leads the state in quality of emergency medical attention and fire protection.

The town of Indian Springs does not have any paid employees. We are staffed by volunteers, including the Mayor, Town Council, Town Clerk, and various permanent committees. Volunteers run our Easter Egg Hunt, Fourth of July barbecue, Founders' Day (in October), Aluminum Can Recycling, ISV Garden Club, and all functions relating to maintaining our town hall and grounds, including our state-of-the-art walking track.

A monthly newsletter, *The Village Voice*, will be placed next to your mailbox each month, several days before our monthly town council meeting. This meeting falls on the third Tuesday, at 7:00 p.m. You are encouraged to attend and see first hand the workings of your new town. We solicit your participation.

Welcome to Indian Springs Village!

Gene Weingarten
Mayor

New Couriers

The Village Voice has new couriers: Julie & Rusty Schenk will deliver the newsletter in the Highway 14 area, Red Stick Road, and Copena Drive. Linda Cencula will deliver to the area around Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church. Welcome and thanks for volunteering!

Town Council Highlights

August 15, 2000

By Patricia Crapet, Town Council, Place # 2

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met on Tuesday, August 15, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. at the Indian Springs Town Hall. In the absence of Mayor Gene Weingarten, Councilman Herb Robins called the meeting to order and presided. Councilpersons Patricia Crapet, Gary Dennis, and Art Johnson were present. The reading of the minutes for July were waived.

Town Clerk Paul Stephens gave the financial report as follows: Charter Cable franchise fees, \$3,271.41; building permits, \$530; license tags, \$458; beer taxes, \$977; aluminum cans, \$228; and road fund, \$840.25. The balance in the general fund was \$102,000 and the balance in the road fund was \$98,796. The town has a certificate of deposit for \$100,000 from monies moved from the general fund.

Gerald Templeton, Chairman of ISV Zoning and Planning, presented the council with the commission's recommendation regarding an application by Tritell Communications to construct a wireless telecommunications tower on property located at 2649 Valleydale Road. The recommendation of the board was for denial based on several pages of written reasons given to the council. After review, the council voted unanimously to deny the application.

The board also presented an application from Southern Linc for an application for a wireless communications tower on an existing light pole at the Oak Mountain High School baseball field. The commission recommended the approval of the application, which the council approved unanimously.

In other business, the council approved unanimously getting a second estimate on air conditioning repairs at the town hall. Councilman Robins also reported that Adkins Sign company had completed re-finishing the street signs. Councilman Robins also announced that the town's roads which were placed up for bid would be resurfaced in the next few weeks.

Councilwoman Crapet announced the next town function will be ISV's Tenth Annual Founders' Day Celebration, to be held at the ISV pavilion on Tuesday, October 17th. The announcement will be in the October issue of *The Village Voice*. The swearing-in ceremony for elected officials will be done during this meeting.

Aluminum Recycling - Sept. 20

By Art Johnson, Town Council Place No. 4

Aluminum recycling is Wednesday evening, September 20, at 7:00 p.m. To help the recycling team identify and collect your recycling, please use white, blue recycling, or clear plastic bags with the top of each securely tied with a knot. Place your bags on the other side of your driveway from your normal trash pickup. Also, please do not mix glass or steel cans with your recycled aluminum. Watch for recycling reminders along Highway 119, Indian Crest Drive, and entrances to Homestead.

Last month the recycling volunteers were Margie and Herb Robins, Trudy and Paul Scokel, and two father and son teams, Wayne and Allie, and Warren and Benjamin Jones, and Bob Durbin and Art Johnson. Special thanks to Bob Durbin for picking up the recycling trailer.

There just doesn't seem to be any downside to recycling. Recycling protects the environment; it also helps to pay the printing costs for *The Village Voice*. Call 988-3217 for information on recycling or to volunteer.

Villager Profile

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

Brian Stauss is the new member of the ISV Town Council in Place No. 3, having run unopposed with four incumbents and Mayor Gene Weingarten. Since all qualified and ran unopposed, they are declared elected by the Shelby County Probate Judge Patricia Fuhrmeister, thus saving the town the expense of holding an election. The formal swearing in will be done at the October town council meeting. Brian is replacing Gary Dennis, who has served since our first election after incorporation on October 16, 1990. Gary is retiring from village politics to spend more time with his family and business, Mantissa Corporation, on Valleydale Road.

Getting involved in the community is one of Brian's characteristics. Villagers may have noticed that he is a member of the town hall's grass-cutting crew and is always on hand at Fourth of July celebrations to assist with parking of cars. He has served on the ISV Zoning and Planning Commission the last two years.

The Stauss family moved here from Louisville, KY in 1995. Brian's wife, Cathy, is a teacher's assistant at Our Lady of the Valley Parochial School. Two children, Emily, age 11, and Erin, age 9, go to school at OLV with mom each day. (continued on p. 6)

Around the Village

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

Building Permit Request for August

Marty Martin, Town Engineer, reports that the following building permit request was approved:

146 Willow Ridge Drive; Applicant: Phillips; Request: power.

Civic Pride

Now that the walking track behind the town hall has been repaired and is in tip-top condition, we would remind all to keep it that way. Children should not ride bikes or other vehicles on the track, as some have been seen doing. Please remember that it is a WALKING track.

Telephone Listing

A reminder also that Indian Springs Village residents with a zip code of 35124 have until late November or early December to call the telephone company and get your listing changed from Pelham to Indian Springs. We share a zip code with Pelham, and the Pelham Post Office delivers the mail, but Indian Springs Village has permission from the U. S. Postmaster General to use Indian Springs, AL 35124 as our address. "Indian Springs" is all the postal computers will read on the "city" line. (Addresses in Indian Springs are confusing because some residents, as well as the Oak Mountain schools, have Birmingham addresses. Their mail comes from the Meadowbrook branch of the Birmingham Post Office. A similar situation exists in the Morris/Kimberly, AL, area.)

To change your phone book listing, dial 557-6500. Stay on the line and speak with a customer representative and tell him or her, "Change my listed address to Indian Springs." If you need additional information about getting this done, call Villager Bart Trammell at 988-0094.

Auto Tags

Paul Stephens likes to tell about the time he and Lola were in their van (with its ISV tag) winding down the rugged Pacific Coast from Seattle where one of their daughters and her family lives. Going around a curve they met a car with an ISV tag. "I didn't try to stop, of course; the terrain was dangerous," said Paul. "But meeting somebody from Indian Springs that far away from home was really something."

The tags, designed by Julie Wyatt Schenk, are available for \$8.00 from Neil's Pharmacy on Cahaba Valley Road or from Paul Stephens, 988-4672. All proceeds from tag sales go into the town's general fund.

Flag Retirement Ceremony

The Children of the American Revolution (CAR) will hold a flag retirement ceremony on Sunday, September 17, 2:00 p.m. at the Indian Springs Village Town Hall Pavilion. Lt. Col. Jim Langley, Field Artillery, U.S. Army Reserve (Ret.) will be assisted by soldiers from the 87th Division (Training).

All Villagers are invited to attend and are encouraged to bring worn or soiled flags no longer suitable for display to be destroyed in a dignified manner in a patriotic ceremony, according to Public Law 829, enacted by the 77th Congress. For those who cannot attend but have flags for inclusion, collection boxes will be located at North Shelby Fire Stations located on Caldwell Mill Road near Cahaba Valley Road, 4617 Valleydale Road, and on Cahaba Valley Road near the Meadowbrook Post Office.

In celebration of Constitution Week (Sept. 17-23), Princess Sehoy Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), will sponsor participation in **Bells Across America**. The ringing of bells at 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time in all time zones is encouraged so that **we may hear the sound of freedom ring simultaneously from coast to coast**. Mrs. T. Robert Thomas (Jo) urges all to bring a bell to join in.

The CAR is a youth service organization sponsored by DAR that teaches patriotism, leadership, and American history. John Wiley Boone is the society president. Laura Langley serves as the flag chairman. Mrs. Thomas, 1975 Cahaba Valley Road, is the senior president who provides senior leadership and is responsible for planning activities. For more information about the flag ceremony or **Bells Across America** you may call her at 988-5925.

Other Types of Recycling

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

To raise money for the school, Oak Mountain Elementary is collecting inkjet printer cartridges, Campbell's labels, and cereal box tops. Old printer cartridges should be placed in a plastic Ziploc bag and returned to the **white** collection container in front of the school office. Campbell's labels may be from a variety of products, including soups, V8 & tomato juice, V8 Splash, Swanson broths & poultry, Prego sauces, Pepperidge Farm bread, cookies, and Goldfish. The box tops are for General Mills products--clip the box top logo. Send soup labels and box tops to school with your children or place them in collection containers outside the office.

Village Personals

By Frances Williamson, Bonnie Murphy, Tricia Crapet, Gertie Jones & Ruth Goodwyn

Newcomers

Villagers welcome the **Alan and Chris Kitchens** family at 173 Skyline Dr. Children are **Benjamin**, age 5, **Charlie**, age 3, and **Mary Rose**, 10 months. They have lived in the Birmingham area for about 12 years and chose Indian Springs because of the school system and its location, central to his work. A doctor, Alan is on emergency call from both Shelby and Princeton Baptist medical centers.

Jeff and Liz Burkhardt and their children, **Kyle**, age 19, **Ryan**, age 12, and **Brandon**, age 8, now make their home at 107 Skyline Drive. Jeff is professor of health care finance, University of Alabama at Birmingham; oldest son Kyle is attending UAB. Liz has a part-time job as a teacher of study skills, part of the "Learn How to Learn" program, and is a leader with the Cub Scouts affiliated with the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints, Cahaba Valley Road. Jeff works with Boy Scouts in the 14-18 age group.

Paul and Lisa Trodd are now calling 2234 Indian Crest Drive home. Paul is employed with Stairmaster Fitness Equipment, while Lisa works at the Montessori School, Hilltop. The Trodds have two children, **Adam**, age 10 and a student at Oak Mountain Intermediate School, and **Nicholas**, age 2. The Trodd family come to the Village from nearby Wagon Trace, just off Cahaba Valley Road.

ISV welcomes **Ron and Cathy Harris**, who have built a beautiful new home at 2131 Indian Crest Drive. Ron is an attorney, while Cathy takes care of the more important duties of wife and homemaker. Ron and Cathy have one grown child and have come to us from Pell City, Alabama.

Joseph and Karen Sowder are just settling into their new nest at 2200 Indian Crest Drive. The Sowders have four beautiful children: **Megan**, age 15; **Kelsey**, age 10; **Samantha**, age 10; and **Sara**, age 8. All of the children attend the Oak Mountain Schools. Joseph is a resident at Princeton Medical Center in the Southern Medical Group and is currently an emergency room physician. Karen spends her valuable time taking care of the homefront. The Sowder family comes to our Village from Jasper, Alabama. Welcome to your new home!

Condolences

The Homestead neighborhood offers sincere condolences to **Pat Nesmith** and her family. Pat lost her brother, **Fred Merrill Browning, Jr.**, August 22 after a long illness. Mr. Browning was a resident of Ft. Walton Beach, Florida. A memorial service was held Aug. 26 in Ft. Walton.

Arly Hedrick Stigers, the father of **Alison Stigers** of 5110 Split Rail Trail, died May 2 in Birmingham. He had lived with Alison since 1997 after the death of his wife. The graveside service was held June 5 at Andover, Vermont, where he had married in 1956 and operated a dairy farm for many years. A veteran of World War II, Mr. Stigers completed his college education after the war, graduating from the University of Vermont Agricultural College in 1950. Civic projects included serving as chairman of the school board and as a selectman in Andover and later in Drewsville, New Hampshire. In lieu of flowers, the family had requested donations to the Springfield Humane Society, P. O. Box 398, Springfield, VT 05156 or to the Simonsville Cemetery Association, HC62, Box 30, Londonderry, VT 05148, c/o Jacqueline Griswold.

Accolades

A hearty "thank you" to Paul James, Mountain Heating and Cooling, Inc., for repairing an air conditioning unit at the town hall--at no charge. Paul, wife Gina, and family live in Cahaba Oaks in ISV.

Shelby County Art Association

By Betty Grady, Association Member

The Shelby County Art Association invites you to come to The Ninth Annual Art Show. The show will be held on Saturday, September 30, 2000 at Inverness Corners. The show hours are from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Come and shop with us for all your art needs.

REWARD

\$1,000

To be paid to any individual providing information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for, or engaged in, any acts of vandalism in the Town limits of Indian Springs Village.

Any and all information will be held in the strictest of confidence.

Genealogical Society Seminar

The Alabama Genealogical Society, Inc., will hold its all-day fall seminar at Alabama Department of Archives and History in Montgomery on Saturday, Oct. 21, 2000. Featured speaker will be Jimmy B. Parker, currently Senior Research Associate for Genealogy Research Associates in Salt Lake City; formerly Manager of Main Library Operations for the Family History Library, Salt Lake City.

North Shelby Library Workshops

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

Promised yourself a college degree? More than 15 million adults are enrolled in post-secondary programs, with adult students fast becoming the new "traditional student" on campus.

A workshop conducted at the North Shelby Library on September 25, 6:30-8:00 p.m. by a representative from the University of Alabama at Birmingham will show you how. You will learn how you can receive credit for work or military experience; information on the admissions process, financial aid information; career options, and non-traditional credit. For more information e-mail undergradadmit@uab.edu or call 975-0795.

Computer Training

Computer education for preschoolers ages 3-5 is available at North Shelby Library. Computer Time is holding 45-minute small group instruction classes, which began on Thursday, Sept. 7 and continue until Oct. 12.

Session II is from Oct. 19 - Dec. 7.

Parents have the opportunity to enjoy the library while their pre-schoolers learn the basics of computer technology, keyboard familiarization, mouse maneuvering, interactive activities and games, and educational programs for this age group. The registration fee is \$10, and the session fee (6 classes) is \$60. Call 907-1979 for more information.

A Letter to Villagers

Dear Villagers,

The Indian Springs Garden Club had a great August meeting. Several of the garden club officers and members met Larry Quick at the entrance sign to Indian Springs.

Page 6

Larry is affiliated with the Botanical Gardens. He gave us some interesting suggestions for sprucing up the town sign, which we will take to the next council meeting Sept. 19th.

Getting organized was foremost on our agenda. We hope to have everything completely organized by the end of the year. Besides our organizing and beautification efforts, we will be holding a raffle for the Founders' Day event Oct. 17. It is a big event for Indian Springs. We hope everyone in Indian Springs attends.

Our next ISGC meeting will be Sept. 28 at 7:00 p.m. Sybil Ingram, past president of the 3rd District of the National Council of Federated Garden Clubs, will be here to speak to us about being a federated garden club. We are excited about her speaking and hope she can enlighten us about the ins and outs of being federated.

Our Christmas project is getting off the ground. We will be making beautiful large wooden bells that are very attractive for a Christmas decoration. Every family can display its bell in their yard for the holiday season. We want everyone in Indian Springs to have one. They will cost each family \$30.00. They are very attractive and you will see what they look like very soon. You can order them by calling me or Jean Jenkins (987-2050). What a great way to show some continuity in Indian Springs for the holiday season!

If you have any questions, please call me - 987-8665.

Sincerely,

Phelan Webb, president

Villager Profile (con't.)

Married 16 years, the Stausses met when he was working in Louisville, which is Cathy's hometown. Brian grew up in South Central Kentucky. His bachelor's degree from Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, is in computer science. He earned a master's in business administration from Bellarmine College, Louisville. He is manager of Applications Development and Support for the chemicals division of Vulcan Materials Company.

The council person for Place #3 is responsible for community projects. Some of Brian's first projects include the installation of a storm warning siren on the town hall pavilion and completion of the ISV web site. While some of us muddle our way along on our personal computers, Brian does complicated "computer stuff" for a living.