

The Village Voice



Volume 11, Number 1

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

April 10, 2001

INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

**Tuesday, April 17, 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 May 2001 edition should be submitted by Tuesday noon, May 1. 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

Eighth Annual Indian Springs Village EASTER EGG HUNT

**Saturday, April 14, 2001
3:00 p.m.**

(Rain date: Easter Sunday, April 15, at 3:00 p.m)



**Location: Indian Springs Village
Town Hall
2635 Cahaba Valley Road**

All children thru age 12 are invited to participate.

Over 2,000 Easter eggs to be hidden.

Bring your own basket.

\$200 in Cash prizes

plus

hundreds of eggs stuffed with candy and surprises!

Bring a lawn chair and enjoy the festivities!

Town Council Highlights

March 20, 2001

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met on Tuesday, March 20, 2001, at 7:00 p.m. at the ISV Town Hall. Mayor Gene Weingarten presided, with council members Herb Robins and Art Johnson in attendance. In the absence of a quorum, any matter requiring a vote by the town council had to be postponed.

The mayor welcomed Roger P. West, mayor of the newly-incorporated town of Westover (918 residents) and seven others representing the town. Among the visitors were council members Bobby Parduc, Bobbie Bradbury, Lori Gardner, and Susan Wooten; also Charles A. Barnes of Westover's fire district.

Paul Stephens, Town Clerk, gave the financial report. Receipts last month were: \$423 vehicle licenses; \$1,454.97 Penn Mutual Insurance Co. (annual payment); \$654 beer tax; \$175 business licenses; \$228 aluminum can collection; \$182, Alabama Beverage Control tax. The balance in the regular fund is \$97,392; this in addition to two certificates of deposit totalling \$200,000. For the ISV Children's Fund \$500 was received; \$736 for road fund. The balance in the road fund is \$106,514.

Councilwoman Patricia Crapet's report was read, which included a plea for volunteers to stuff eggs for the annual Easter Egg Hunt set for Saturday, April 14, at 3:00 p.m. with a rain date of Easter Sunday, April 15, 3:00 p.m.

Councilman Art Johnson commented that January/February of this year yielded good results in the monthly can collection, filling up the recycling trailer with just below 4,000 cans. He commented that figures just released by the U. S. census for the year 2000 showed the population of Indian Springs Village as 2,225. We were a "town" (population under 2,000--when we incorporated the population was 1215). But now we may have "city" status.

Councilman Herb Robins thanked Bart Trammell for his help in getting the walking track ready for all who resume their walking regimen in warm weather. New trees were planted and existing ones fertilized. Councilman Robins also commented on the beautification of the ISV sign at the Village entrance on 119-S, done by Phelan Webb and members of the ISV Garden Club, with help from "honorary member" Bart Trammell, and others. Also, plantings were mulched around the town hall by the Garden Club.

The mayor announced that work will commence on the installation of street lights on existing power poles at 26 intersections in the village. The installation will take about 5-6 weeks. The yearly cost will be \$5.00/month for each light.

Lindsey Allison, Shelby County Commissioner, announced that Villager Patricia Smith, juvenile court judge, had been named national "Judge of the Year" by the Court-Appointed Special Advocates Association (CASA). (See Villager Profile, p.4)

Just in a Nick of Time

By Brian Stauss, Town Council Place #3

Our plan was to have the new ISV storm siren installed and ready for the 2001 spring season. Only days after the installation was complete, the siren was put to use. On Tuesday afternoon, April 3, it announced a tornado warning for Shelby County. Fortunately there was no tornado and fortunately the siren worked perfectly.

Storm sirens now protect our entire village. In addition to the newest siren on town hall grounds, sirens are located at Davis Plumbing, Oak Mountain High School, Winn-Dixie, and Neil's Pharmacy. All are activated by Shelby County *except* for the siren at Neil's, which is in Hoover and activated by Jefferson County. We plan to discuss with Hoover officials the switching of this siren to the Shelby County system.

As a reminder to all citizens, especially those who live in the coverage area of the new siren (Valley View, Cahaba Oaks, Indian Highlands, central stretch of Cahaba Valley Road, and Indian Crest Drive) be aware that Shelby County tests the sirens on the first Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. for about 30 seconds--but *only* during good weather. The sirens are NOT tested that day if there is the possibility of severe weather. Any citizen who believes a siren is not working properly should contact any member of the town council immediately.

Please contact me if you have any suggestions or ideas for community services in our village.

ISV Recycling - April 18

By Art Johnson, Town Council Place #4

Aluminum can recycling is Wednesday evening, April 18, 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. Watch for ISV recycling reminders along Highway 119, Indian Crest Drive, and entrances to Homestead.

In March the recycling volunteers were Trudy and Paul Skokol, Wayne and Laura Jones and daughter Allie (short for Alexandria), Margie and Herb Robins, and Art Johnson. Accolades to Councilman Herb Robins, who collected two separate collection routes, and Bob Durbin, who brought the recycling trailer to the town hall from the recycling center.

If your family is not currently recycling, please join the growing number of ISV recyclers. This is a volunteer community project, and we need your help. 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.

Why Aren't You Proud?

By Bart Trammell

Why aren't you proud to be a citizen of Indian Springs Village? Apparently several of you Villagers had rather live in Pelham than in Indian Springs Village. If you will take the time to look in the phone book at your and your neighbors' listings, you will find quite a few of our residents still have their addresses listed as Pelham, or even Helena, instead of Indian Springs. As a matter of fact, Brookstone Estates, one of our largest subdivisions, has 47 homes, but less than half list Indian Springs Village as their address. This is after two or three articles in *The Village Voice*, pleading with Villagers to "call the Bell South Customer Representative and instruct him/her to change your **address listing** from Pelham (or Helena) to Indian Springs Village." We have town officials, elected and appointed, who have a Pelham listing. Remember, this has no effect on your **mailing address**. Although we have seven months to make changes to the March 2002 white pages, please call 557-6500 **now** and speak with a customer representative about changing your **listed address**. **We are fortunate to live where we do and should even advertise the fact.**

Garage Sale April 21 at Town Hall; Other Garden Club News

Dear Villagers,

The Indian Springs Village Garden Club's annual garage sale will be Saturday, April 21. If you have items to donate, please contact Mary Hearn at 995-2166. She will be at the town hall on Friday, April 20, ready to take all items. If you need something picked up from your house, please call Laura Jones at 991-0902. Even though Laura is expecting a child soon, she is still able to help out, and what a great support she has been!

We successfully finished the town sign on 119 near I-65, thanks to Frances Dudley, Marge Dunn, myself, and Bart Trammell. Brian Stauss and his children saved the day by bringing us donuts. We worked in the rain, but completed what Myers Plants and Pottery delivered to us that day. When the crepe myrtles came in later, Mack Jenkins dug the holes and planted them for us. Thanks, Mack! I want especially to thank my husband, Mike Webb, who loaded up the mulch and helped me put it out and who gave up our "together time" for me to do this little bit of gardening. It is the great men of Indian Springs like these who help make our community what it is. I am proud of what our Garden Club is accomplishing for the town and also for the support from the town council and others.

On Friday, May 4th, we have a scheduled tour to see Petals From the Past at Jemison, which advertizes that they specialize in antique roses, heirloom shrubs, and hard-to-find perennial flowers and herbs. Anyone who wants to go can go along. Call Marge Dunn at 987-4765 for more information

Our March meeting was at Ginny Lusk's house. She is a Master Gardener and has many different types of plants and trees in her garden. What a fun meeting! We are all learning so much. Thanks, Ginny.

Our next Garden Club meeting is Thursday, April 26, 7:00 p.m. at the town hall. If you need more information or want to come, please call Phelan Webb at 987-8665.

We hope everyone in Indian Springs has noticed the town sign plantings and hope we have gained approval for our work. All critiquing is welcomed. Being the imperfect people we are, we could have missed something. Let me know!

Sincerely,

Phelan Webb, President

Building Permits Issued

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

5514 Double Oak Lane, Gary Wyatt Contractor, additions; 206 Valley View Lane, Sunnyland Pools, pool; 441 Valley View Road, Allison, house addition; Lot 6 GBS Development, McWhorter Const., office building.

Free Days at Landfill

April 21 and May 19 are the two Saturdays set aside at the Shelby County Landfill on Highway 70, Columbiana, when no charge will be made for household refuse. Trucks must pull up to the scales and be weighed for necessary record-keeping. A spokesman said that last year on free days 700 pickup trucks per day were recorded. Hours are 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Village Personals

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

Bill and Mary Capp have gone from "empty nesters" at 515 Valley View Road to a family of five, beginning last October. That month **Jennifer Dolcelli** and her seven-year-old son, **Raymond**, from Boonton, NJ, joined the Capp household. Ray attends first grade at Oak Mountain Elementary School, is a Cub Scout, takes gymnastics, and will be playing baseball with Oak Mountain Youth Ball League. Jennifer is working on a volunteer/as needed basis at Valleydale Baptist, plus running two family businesses that function from the home.

In November there was the addition of a 10-year-old granddaughter, **Jackie Ivey** from Pensacola, FL. Jackie will be playing softball through Oak Mountain Youth Ball League and is active at her home church, Dawson Memorial Baptist.

Accolades

Gratitude is extended to **Paul James, Mountain Heating and Cooling, Inc.** for the prompt and efficient repairs to the town hall heating system.

Library Vote Delayed for Hearing

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

The North Shelby Library, which had hoped to have a vote by now on a dues increase, is instead preparing for a May 16 hearing ordered by the Probate Court to determine the validity of the petition and to obtain information.

After a vote in September was soundly defeated to increase annual dues from \$15 to \$70 per household, the library petitioned Probate Judge Patricia Fuhrmeister February 2 to set an election date to increase annual dues from \$15 per household to \$40 and the commercial rate from 1.75 to 2 mills. (The library has not raised dues in its 13-year history.) Six weeks later Judge Fuhrmeister ordered the hearing, which is open to the public. It is scheduled for 9:00 a.m., Shelby County Courthouse, May 16.

Director of the Library, Michael Jones, is currently working toward providing documents required. Maps of the district boundaries, voter lists, certification (with supporting financial documentation) that the proposed dues increase will "provide for the interest and maturities on all outstanding debt of the district," and proof that the library can pay for any election ordered are specified.

"These are all valid requests," Jones said. He speculated that if at the hearing all requirements are met, possibly a date would be set for the election 30-60 days later--maybe at the end of June or first of July. More than one polling place has been requested; hence the need for more information about the district's boundaries.

Library Programs Successful

Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TAX-AIDE) offered on Mondays & Wednesdays at the library by the American Association of Retired Persons has resulted so far in help for over 60 people, whose tax returns have been filed electronically, the method preferred by the Internal Revenue Service. Every appointment slot was filled after the first day or so the service was offered.

Mr. Mac's Story Hour on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. continues to be popular with children and adults alike.

Villager Profile: "Judge Patti"

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

"Patricia Smith is a judge who doesn't want to make an impression; she wants to make a difference." So began the letter which resulted in the Village's own "Judge Patti" being named National CASA Association 2001 Judge of the Year. More than 800 nominations were submitted by chapters throughout the country.

Beth Chapman of Hoover, executive director of the Shelby County CASA chapter, nominated Judge Smith, who will receive the award at the national CASA conference May 19-22 in Minneapolis, MN. Ms. Chapman is press secretary for Lt. Gov. Steve Windom.

CASA stands for "Court-Appointed Special Advocates" and is an organization dedicated to helping children through the court process. The organization was formed in Shelby County six years ago by Judge Smith, with help from Cindy Sirmon, current CASA Guardian Ad Litem, of Cahaba Valley Road, and officials from Jefferson County.

One of the reasons the program was started was that there are not enough Department of Human Resources social workers to adequately handle all the cases of abused and neglected children in fast-growing Shelby County. Judge Patti is the only Family Court Judge and has only one Guardian Ad Litem (a court-appointed official who oversees child abuse and neglect cases), in a county with over 150,000 people.

The program recruits and trains volunteers to serve as advocates for children in abuse and neglect cases. Assigned by the judge to aid a child, the CASA volunteer interviews the child, schedules counseling, meeting with parents and school officials, writes reports, and monitors the child's overall progress.

Currently Shelby County has 30 trained volunteers handling ongoing court cases. The volunteers may be retired school teachers or stay-at-home moms. They serve at least one year and work from 5-20 hours per week, depending on the child's needs.

"With proper monitoring, we can prevent abuse," Ms. Chapman said. "We work on cases that are not severe enough for the Department of Human Resources, by acting as the family court judge's eyes and ears in the homes, schools, and neighborhoods of youngsters under court supervision."

Judge Smith had no promise of any funding when she recruited a core of volunteers and funded the program through small donations, Ms. Chapman said in her letter. The organization's budget has grown over the years from a \$5,000 to more than a \$100,000 yearly budget. It has United Way funding and a "Who's Who of Shelby County" yearly fundraising "roast," which last year took in more than \$40,000 for the CASA program. The organization's first \$1,000 came anonymously from Judge Smith.

Ms. Chapman listed Judge Patti's other significant contributions, which she described as "overwhelming." She created the Developing Alabama Youth Program (DAY), a non-profit alternative school for children prone to drop out of school. She was instrumental in organizing a 34-bed, \$3.2 million state-of-the-art Juvenile Detention Center. She serves on the advisory board of directors for Family Connections, a nonprofit residential service for children in crisis, which works for reunification of adolescents with their families. With the Board of Education she created the Early Warning Program, which addresses early complaints of a child

having five or more days unexcused absences and/or behavior problems.

"She has exemplified exceptional leadership in furthering consistent quality representation of children through all these organizations," Ms. Chapman wrote. "She epitomizes the true spirit of child advocacy."

Judge Patti's abilities were recognized early. She was selected "Outstanding Female Graduate" by the Troy Chamber of Commerce the year of her graduation from Troy State University. She received the doctor of jurisprudence degree from Jones Law School, Montgomery, three years later. She was appointed to the district court bench at age 27, one of the youngest judges appointed in state history. She has served for 23 years, turning down various higher appointments. Three governors and two Alabama Supreme Court justices have appointed her to boards, committees, and commissions dealing with child welfare.

Residents of Indian Springs since 1983 (Brookstone Estates), Judge Patti and her husband, Jerry, a lumber broker, have two children, Jarrett, a junior at John Carroll High School, and Shelley, a junior at the University of Montevallo. Jerry is from Montgomery; Judge Patti was a "military brat." Her father was Colonel Andrew J. Mungenast, who served in the U. S. Air Force 31 years, and to whom the Indian Springs Village flagpole memorial is dedicated.

Announcements

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

Historical Society Meets May 6

The quarterly meeting of the Shelby County Historical Society will be held Sunday, May 6, 2:30 p.m. upstairs in the Shelby County Museum & Archives, 1854 Old Courthouse, Columbiana.

Guest speaker will be John Brasher of the Historic Shelby Association who will speak on the Historic Shelby Iron Park.

Genealogical Research Seminar

Friday, April 27, is the cutoff date for registration for a seminar on genealogical research scheduled for Saturday, May 5, at Samford University, sponsored by the Alabama Genealogical Society. Registrants may register later, but the surname booklet will not include names of later registrants and the information on their ancestors. Early registration facilitates contact with others researching your lines. For further information contact Jyl Hardy, president, jylhardy@bellsouth.net or Sara Lindsey, publicity chairman, saralindsey@juno.com.

Basic Copper Foil Workshop

Registration deadline is May 4th to learn the "Tiffany" method of building stained glass windows at the North Shelby Library. Please call Nicki Masterson at 665-5522 to register for classes, which will meet May 10, 17, 24, and 31, from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Cost is \$110; registration limit is 15 students, ages 18 & up.

Heardmont Happenings

On April 24, instead of the usual noontime meal, senior citizens are invited to bring food for a "potluck" lunch.

April 27 is the date of the Birmingham Botanical Gardens trip. Transportation will leave Heardmont at 10:00 a.m.