

The Village Voice



Volume 13, Number 12

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

March 9, 2004

INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, March 16, 2004, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 6, 2004, 7:00 p.m.

Indian Springs Village Town Hall

Agenda

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

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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 Patricia Crapet, 370 Valley View Rd., Indian Springs, AL 35124 (802-2753) or e-mail ISVillage@aol.com. Reporter for the Homestead neighborhood is Jana Hagan, 5121 Hollow Log Lane, Birmingham 35244 (980-9419) or e-mail: byzx4charter.net.

The Village Voice is published the second Tuesday of each month. Articles for publication in the April 2004 edition should be submitted by Tuesday noon, April 6. The editor reserves the right to edit all materials submitted for publication, including letters to the editor, which must be signed & give writer's address and phone number. 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 following article by Alicia Whitfield appeared in the *Sentry* in November 2002. It has been over a year now since the new laws relating to teenagers went into effect.

TEENS FACE NEW DRIVING LAWS

By Alicia Whitfield

"The 1999 Legislature passed laws to strengthen license requirements and improve driver training because teens are twice as likely as other drivers to be involved in fatal and injurious crashes," says Lorna Youngs (Manager of the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles).

How will this influence Alabama's driving laws? Alabama's new Graduated Driver's license law for teens will affect sixteen- and seventeen-year-olds in two ways:

1. Teens can't drive during the hours of 12:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. without a parent (or someone 21 years of age or older) unless they are going to or from work, school, or church.
2. Teens can't drive with more than four passengers in the car.

Rob Foss, a research scientist, says that it is inefficient to start Alabama's night driving time at midnight: "Starting the night driving restrictions at midnight is a weakness because we know that the crash risk goes up well before 12:00 midnight." North Carolina won't allow their teen drivers to be out driving after 9:00 p.m. Six other states won't allow them to have more than one passenger with them in the car, and some won't allow any.

Alabama is still looking for new ways to implement the law, such as easy identification of the license itself. The Department of Public Safety has been considering making the graduated licenses vertical instead of horizontal like the current licenses. Licenses issued to 16-year-olds will be stamped with a "Y" to indicate that the license is restricted, much like the permits are done now.

With all of this in mind, Alabama's law does not give policemen the authority to stop someone if they think that the driver may be violating the new law. The only way that they can issue a ticket or warning for a violation is in someone is driving recklessly or over the speed limit. Then the officer has the authority to check to see if there are any violations regarding the graduated licensing program.

Town Council Highlights

February 17, 2004

By Patricia Crapet, Town Council Place #2

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met on Tuesday, February 17, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. at the Indian Springs Village Town Hall. Mayor Gene Weingarten presided, with council members Herb Robin, Patricia Crapet, Art Johnson, and Brian Stauss present. The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted as corrected.

Town Clerk Shirley Church reported the following revenues were received: building permits, \$1,098; beer taxes, \$1,407; insurance licenses, \$2,691; Alabama Beverage Control, \$940; Vehicle licenses, \$113; business licenses, \$500; and real estate, \$4. Yearly license taxes from the following entities were received: Pelham Water Works, \$9,236; Birmingham Water Works, \$4,135; Alabama Power Company, \$67,253; and Alabama Gas, \$19,472. Quarterly revenues were received from Charter Cable totalling \$3,726. The balance in the general fund totalled \$156,574. Road funds were not received, as the State of Alabama has gone to an electronic funds transfer method to save money. The road funds received will be announced monthly after bank statements arrive.

Committee reports were as follows: Councilwoman Patricia Crapet reported that the Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 10, 2004 at the ISV Town Hall. Volunteers are desperately needed. Also discussed was the Annual Fourth of July celebration, which will be held on Saturday, July 3rd instead of on Sunday, July 4th.

Councilman Art Johnson announced that the Birmingham News was coming out to do a story on the ISV aluminum can recycling program. The article was to appear in the paper on February 25, 2004. Councilman Johnson stated that volunteers are always needed for the worthwhile project, which funds the printing of *The Village Voice*.

Councilman Brian Stauss reported that Adobe Illustrator software had been purchased for the town so that we could perform updates to our own maps. Other software purchased was Home Page, which is used for the official ISV website. Councilman Stauss also noted that a few towns now have a specific person, sometimes called a City Critic, who makes sure that all available sources of revenue are researched received.

Councilman Herb Robins announced that the owner of the property at the corner of Cahaba Valley Road and Caldwell Mill Road has been notified to cease and desist from any further dumping or filling-in of dirt on the lot, which lies at the north-east corner of this intersection. Concern from town officials is that adding fill dirt in this particular area could affect flooding, as it is a flood plain/ floodway area through which Bishop Creek flows.

Also discussed was the upcoming proposed change to the ISV Zoning Ordinance to re-define the term "family". The ISV Planning and Zoning Committee has posted the recommended change, which will be voted on by the council at the March 2, 2004 meeting.

In other business it was noted that elections will be held for all ISV town offices on Tuesday, August 24, 2004. The first day to qualify to run for an elected position is July 6, 2004, with the last day to qualify being July 20, 2004.

March 2, 2004

By Patricia Crapet, Town Council Place #2

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met on Tuesday, March 2, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. at the Indian Springs Village Town Hall. Mayor Gene Weingarten presided, with council members Herb Robin, Patricia Crapet, Art Johnson, Stewart Dudley, and Brian Stauss present. The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted as corrected.

Councilman Brian Stauss is working on posting all past ordinances on the ISV website by compiling a list and obtaining copies of all ordinances previously adopted.

Councilman Herb Robins reported that the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) has notified the owner of the property located on the north-east corner of Cahaba Valley Road and Caldwell Mill Road to cease work on the property as there has been no application for a construction permit obtained from ADEM. The Army Corp of Engineers has been given photos of the site by ADEM, who is expected to take action if the work continues at the site.

Councilwoman Crapet reported having had calls from residents of Star Trek Drive concerning speeding vehicles on the street. A house is being constructed at the end of the street, and neighbors have noticed sub contractors speeding excessively. Mayor Weingarten will contact the builder to make him aware of the problem.

Assistant Town Clerk Jim Wyatt presented an application for annexation by Danny Bowers. Bowers has an option to purchase the property, which is located on Cahaba Valley Road across from the trailer park. The petition to annex the commercially zoned property is contingent upon obtaining approval to change O & I zoning to B-2, in order to build a convenience store/gas station. There was no action, as the plan has not yet been acted on by the ISV Zoning Committee. The Committee is expected to act at the April meeting.

The council held a hearing to further discuss a proposed change in the definition of "family" in the ISV zoning regulations. After discussion, the change was unanimously adopted by the council. The change will be published and signed at the next meeting.

Jerry Templeton, former chairman of the ISV Planning and Zoning Committee, suggested to the council that it either adopt a resolution or add a statement to the proposed Comprehensive Plan which states that the town wished to be "notified and heard" by the State of Alabama Department of Transportation should the state decide at any time in the future to widen Cahaba Valley Road within the town's corporate limits. Templeton stated that officially going "on the record" would give the town the right to have dialogue with the state to make its position known should changes in the state highway be proposed.

Library Book Sale Nets \$1254.40

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

The first book sale held in four years by the North Shelby Library on Saturday, February 28, resulted in a profit of \$1254.40, according to Acting Director Carol Farr, who had high praise for the Key Club of Oak Mountain High School, which planned, organized, and directed the sale.



Key Club members Allison Schauwecker, Jacob Hardin, Katie Hardin, and Mubina Syed

A few buyers were still browsing through the books, located in the downstairs meeting room, when the sale ended at 4:00 p.m. Prices ranged from \$1 to \$5 for hardbound books, with history, literary classics, and children's books being the big sellers. The children's book prices began at 50 cents. The books on sale were an accumulation of weeded books from the library's collection or donations from citizens which were not needed.

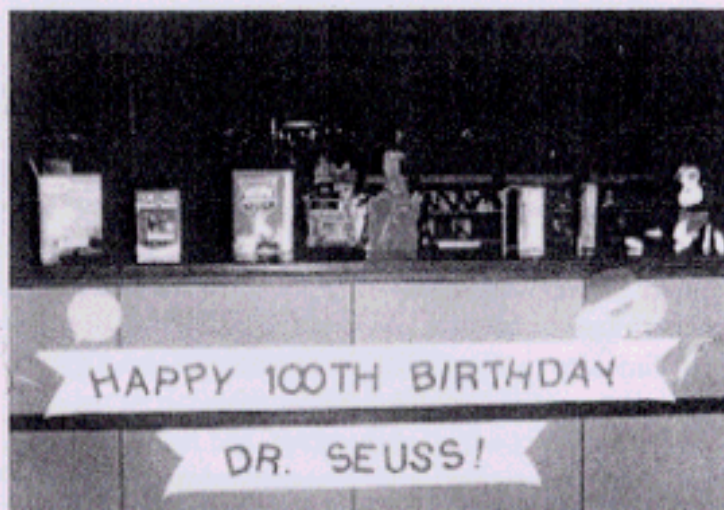


**Indian Springs Village logo vehicle tags
are now available at Neil's Pharmacy
1573 Cahaba Valley Road
Prices: 1 tag/\$5.00; 3 tags/\$10.00**

Children's Programs Continue

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

Toddler Tales, Mr. Mac, and P. J. Storytime continue to be very popular with children, with Dr. Seuss's birthday being celebrated recently and Dr. Seuss book bags distributed.



The limit is 15 toddlers for Toddler Tales, with parents signing in at the door, on Mondays of each week at 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. "Green Is Great!" and "Who Lives in a Jungle?" are the topics for March 15 and March 22. On Wednesdays all ages are invited to hear Mr. Mac at 10:30 a.m.

P. J. Storytime takes place at 7:00 p.m. and is for all ages. "Leprechauns, Luck and Magic, Oh My!" is the topic for March 18, the day after St. Patrick's Day, and "Jungle Tales" will be featured March 25.

Petals of the Past Owner to Speak

By Gladys Price, ISV Garden Club Secretary/ Ruth Goodwyn

The Indian Springs Garden Club will hear Jason Powell from "Petals of the Past" at the next meeting Thursday, March 25, at 7:00 p.m.

"Plants You Need to Know" is his topic. Powell graduated from Auburn University with a degree in horticulture and landscape design and received a masters degree in horticulture from Texas A&M. He and his wife are the owners of the nursery, located at Jemison.

Friday, March 5 and Saturday, March 6 were clean-up and weeding days at the ISV Town Hall, with many members putting on gardening gloves and gathering up tools to tidy up the gardens around the town hall. If you missed those days and would like to contribute, members will be working again on the town hall gardens from 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. on April 2 and April 3.

If you missed the last plant dig, there will be another one on March 28, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. at the Turkey Creek Landfill. This site has an abundance of desirable native plants for the landscape. We are in touch with the Wildflower Society in regard to other plant digs.

Tip of the Month: Plant your young plants on a cloudy day when rain is forecast.

This is a good time to dig and divide some blooming perennials when they first emerge. Share or swap with a friend.

Eleventh Annual
Indian Springs Village
Easter Egg Hunt

Date: Saturday, April 10, 2004

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Rain Date: Sunday, April 11, at 3:00 p.m.

Place: Indian Springs Village Town Hall

All children thru age 12
are invited to participate.
Bring your own basket!
Over 3,000 eggs filled with
candy and prizes.
\$250 in CASH PRIZES



Citizens' Forum:

Reaction to February 10 *Village Voice*

NO to speed bumps! They don't slow a lot of people down; they are dangerous, especially on ISV's curvy roads; they are extremely noisy; and I don't intend to listen to cars and trucks thumping over one of them all day and night adjacent to my home.

We've built highways through and around Indian Springs and now expect people to drive 25mph. It's not going to happen. Segments of Indian Crest Drive would pass design criteria for a state highway. I've spent the past week tracking vehicle speeds down Indian Crest. Speeds range from 35 mph to 60mph with most at 40mph. This includes SUVs, soccer moms, construction workers, older folks and teenagers. Time after time neighborhood complaints about speeding and/or teenage speeders have found that those ticketed were the local residents themselves, and not all of them teenagers. Education to this concern and respect for the safety of fellow neighbors is a better solution. However, many drivers on Highway 119 are not ISV residents. I think 25 mph is too slow for Indian Crest Drive and I know of only one neighbor who routinely drives that speed. It's not uncommon to see other drivers (ISV residents) cross the double yellow line to pass this individual.

NO to COPS! My work involves me with neighborhood architectural review committees. Many times this causes serious and long-lasting problems when one neighbor wants to do something which is not approved by other neighbors. We do not need to pit neighbor against neighbor, especially with untrained people acting in policing actions. This has the potential to cause a serious incident to arise. I expect I will not be stopped by someone I don't know, nor had they better try.

A little space around my home and freedom from unnecessary restrictive covenants was an important consideration in my move to ISV many years ago. This is still an element of prime importance to me. We all have cell phones, and the police are only a short 911 call away. This is what they are paid and trained for. Shelby County police officers are excellent in performing their duties. That doesn't mean we all shouldn't keep our eyes open and report suspicious activities. I suggest we leave investigation and enforcement of perceived problems to our professional law enforcement men and women.

A call to the police to report a speeder's tag number can result in a letter to the licensed owner of that vehicle saying that a complaint has been received on the speed, or whatever, of that auto. There is no other enforcement associated with this. Parents of teenage drivers might like to know this and might take action. Any effect such a letter might have on adult drivers depends strictly on the adult, according to the Shelby County police department.

ISV is a wonderful place to live; we have many fine citizens and many wonderful activities. The *Voice's* articles informing us of concerns such as burning leaves and roaming pets should be enough for responsible citizens. Nearly all troublesome activities are covered by existing county, state, or federal laws. --James Loper

Village Personals

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

Newcomers to the Village

We welcome **George and Reba Howard**, who moved in October from Chelsea to 7002 Indian Ridge Drive. The Howards had moved to Chelsea from Pelham, but decided Chelsea was a little too far away from the metropolitan area. Their two children, Mashone, 28, and Brandy Howard, 24, are now "out on their own." George owns two race tracks, or drag strips, located in Sumiton and Huntsville. Reba is with SouthTrust Mortgage.

McClurkins Are Now Grandparents

Van and Mary Sue McClurkin (State Representative, District 43) of Indian Forest Trail are proud grandparents of their second grandson, Luke, who was born on Saturday, February 21, and weighed 6 pounds, 9 ounces. Luke is the son of Ben and Andi McClurkin who reside in Dothan, AL.

Thank-You Notes

Carl Mudd of Willow Ridge Drive would like to thank friends and neighbors for their support in the March of Dimes Drive.

Ruth and Ed Goodwyn would like to thank Villagers for many acts of kindness while Ed was in the hospital for lung cancer surgery February 23 and upon his return home.

Concert at Indian Springs School

The Alabama Symphony Orchestra will present at Indian Springs School on Saturday March 20 "The French Connection," Alastair Willis, conductor. Bizet's *L'arlesienne Suite* heralds a visit to France. Enjoy Debussy's *Clair de lune*, Ravel's *Le tombeau de Couperin*, and selections from Lerner & Loewe's *Gigi*.

The concert, part of the "Gateway" series, is informal and relaxed, ninety minutes long with no intermission. The performance will begin at 8:00 p.m. at the Indian Springs School Concert Hall. For information and tickets, please call 251-7727.