

The Village Voice



Volume 14, Number 6

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

September 14, 2004

INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday, September 21, 2004, 7:00 p.m.

Monday, October 4, 2004, 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 or E-Mail: ISVillage@aol.com

Website: www.indianspringsvillage.org

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 (988-0896), FAX: 988-0896, or e-mail: Ruthgoodwyn@aol.com. Questions about circulation should be addressed to Patricia Crapet, 370 Valley View Road, 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), e-mail byzr4@charter.net

The *Village Voice* is published the second Tuesday of each month. Articles for publication in the Oct. 2004 edition should be submitted by Tuesday noon, Oct. 5. All materials submitted for publication may be edited, 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

On October 4, Judge Hub Harrington will be swearing in our new mayor and our city council members. It seems fitting that Indian Springs Village's very first mayor will be an important player in the continuing municipal applications of our town. The basic philosophy that began 14 years ago is still in place and appears to be in good hands for the future.

During the past eight years our town has seen more than its share of challenges. Several hills had to be climbed that could not have been foreseen in 1990. For such a young member in the world of towns, we could have used a lot more experience in addressing the issues. Fortunately, ISV has a wealth of citizens who are willing to give of their time and talents. Thousands of hours were devoted to solving problems.

Many folks deserve a special thanks. The town council: Tricia Crapet, Stewart Dudley, Art Johnson, Brian Stauss, Herb Robins. Financial Officer, Paul Stephens. Clerk, Shirley Church. Assistant Clerk, Jim Wyatt. Administrative Assistant, Bart Trammell. *Village Voice* Editor, Ruth Goodwyn. City Engineer, Marty Martin. City Attorney, Russ Allison. Zoning & Planning: Chairman, Wayne Jones (& former chair, Gerald Templeton), Nelda Kelly, Brian Stauss, Foster Matthews, Kevin Miller, Alison Stigers, Steve Zerkis, Stewart Dudley, Bart Trammell, Harry Little, (former members, Warren Jones, Jane Martin, Ruth Goodwyn). Zoning Board of Adjustments: Chairman, Russ Allison, Bruce Monical, Benton Baker, Ralph Bodie, Gerald Templeton. The Indian Springs Garden Club. Bea Little and all the Easter Egg Hunt volunteers. All the 4th of July volunteers. Chief Mike O'Connor. Chief Winston Boutwell. Sheriff Chris Curry. The list could go on for pages. Please forgive me if I have omitted someone.

The spirit of volunteerism is still strong in Indian Springs Village. Our new mayor will immediately be calling for interested people to fill open positions on our committees. Our town council meets every 1st and 3rd Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. at the town hall. Come and offer Steve Zerkis your ideas. He is a Villager, through and through. Good luck and best wishes!

Town Council Highlights

August 17, 2004

By Patricia Crapet, Town Council Place # 2

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met on Tuesday, August 17, 2004, at 7:00 p.m. at the Indian Springs Village Town Hall. Mayor Gene Weingarten presided, with council members Herb Robins, Patricia Crapet, Art Johnson, Stewart Dudley, and Brian Stauss present.

Town Clerk Shirley Church presented the financial report as follows: beer taxes, \$1,164; Charter Communications license fee, \$4,254; aluminum can recycling, \$104; building permits, \$1,163; and Cingular Wireless application fee, \$150. The balance in the general fund was \$61,528. The road fund received \$1,002, resulting in a balance of \$82,412 in the road fund account. The ISV Children's Fund had a balance of approximately \$4,300. Non-routine expenses included approximately \$550 for structural maintenance to the base of one of the equipment sheds.

Councilwoman Patricia Crapet reported that *The Village Voice* will have a new editor beginning with the October, 2004 edition. Alison Stigers, a computer-savvy resident of the Homestead neighborhood, has volunteered to take the position.

Councilman Brian Stauss presented drafts of procedural ordinances for the new town council. Councilman Stauss also volunteered to assist with *The Village Voice* if needed. Councilman Stauss also made a suggestion that the 2004-2005 budget process be started early, so as to involve the incoming mayor and council and get them familiar with how the process works.

Councilman Herb Robins stated that the ISV Garden Club had presented a budget for the 2005 fiscal year, which will be considered when the newly-elected council takes office. Councilman Robins reported that the walking track is in bad condition due to torrential rains this year. The council gave Robins the authority to solicit bids for paving the track.

Councilman Robins stated that the updated ISV Comprehensive Plan would now be sent back to the ISV Planning and Zoning Commission for final review and a second public hearing. Notices were ordered to be posted for the announcement of the hearing, which was scheduled for September 14, 2004. The plan, if recommended, will be sent back to the council for a first presentation on September 21, 2004. The council tentatively scheduled a public hearing on November 16, 2004 during the regular council meeting.

Councilman Stauss presented several ordinances to establish procedures relative to the municipal election and for the new council. Also presented were six resolutions for the election of mayoral and council candidates who were elected without opposition. All passed unanimously.

Mayor Gene Weingarten announced the resignations of Jerry Templeton and Russ Allison from the ISV Zoning Board of Adjustments. Both resignations will become effective after the pending variance request is finalized.

Variance Denied

By Patricia Crapet, Town Council Place # 2

The ISV Zoning Board of Adjustments met on August 31, 2004, to hear a request by Mrs. Gabrielle Cook for a variance to sub-divide a parcel on Foxfire Circle so that two individual, nonconforming lots could be sold and/or developed as independent lots. This was the third meeting of the ZBA to discuss the request. After much discussion, the variance request failed by a vote of 3 to 2. A variance must receive four votes to be accepted. Mrs. Cook has filed an appeal of the decision with the ISV Zoning Board of Adjustments.

NOTICE

Section 11-43-44, Code of Alabama, 1975, requires that the town council have an organizational meeting the first Monday in October following the quadrennial municipal election. This meeting, to be held at 7:00 p.m., **Monday, October 4, 2004**, at the town hall, is in conjunction with the first regular meeting of the month. At this meeting, the new mayor, Steve Zerkis, and our new councilpersons, Dr. Brenda Bell Guercio and Jack Mendell, will join incumbent council members Stewart Dudley, Herb Robins, and Brian Stauss in the swearing-in ceremonies. The council will be forming various committees, selecting statutory and appointive officials, reviewing rules of procedure and making appointments to fill vacancies on some commissions. In addition to these organizational functions which are necessary for the incoming administration, the newly-formed council will conduct regular town council business. The next regular town council meeting will be Tuesday, October 19, 2004, and will be held at the town pavilion in celebration of our Founders' Day. At that meeting we will have our traditional hamburgers, hot dogs and home-made goodies. Mark your calendar now for these events. Attend the meetings to keep abreast of the town's activities and to enjoy the fellowship with your neighbors and friends.

My Farewell to *The Village Voice*

Alison Stigers Is New Editor

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

This is my last issue as editor of *The Village Voice*, an appointment I have held for the past eight years. Previous to that I was Consulting Editor to the fledging publication which made its debut on April 2, 1991, just a few months after our incorporation as a town on October 16, 1990.

Many things have changed since those summer days in 1990 when my husband Ed would come in from work and then go out and garner signatures on a petition to vote on becoming a town. It has been said that he gathered half the necessary signatures. At any rate, we both worked hard for the town and have always had its interests at heart. We still do, but it is time for new blood, and for someone as editor who is keeping up with the latest in technology.

We have such a volunteer in Alison Stigers, a native of Vermont who moved here when her company re-located to this area. Her name has appeared frequently in the columns of this newsletter as a volunteer for town functions, for service to the Zoning and Planning Commission, with the town's comprehensive plan, and other civic activities.

I have home duties as Ed continues his battle with lung cancer, and the most important person in my life comes first. So many have done so many acts of kindness for us. As Gary Dennis, one of our first councilmen, once summed up the goodness and uniqueness of our Villagers: "Only in Indian Springs..." (do such kind things happen).

I know that I leave this publication in good hands, and look forward to Alison's editorship. As Village Historian I still have lots of newspaper clippings and pictures concerning Indian Springs Village to get in order and put in scrapbooks and other archival matters to take care of.

August Building Permits

By Marty Martin, Town Engineer

Requests granted are listed by address, applicant, request:

2470 Highway 119, Newcastle Const., attached carport

1617 Indian Crest Drive, Champion, patio room

2382 Indian Crest Drive, Primeworks, interior renovation,

deck

75 McGuire Lane, Aultman, pool

Alabama 119, Carter, pool

Rite Aid, Rite Aid, site grading and drainage.

Genealogical Society Seminar

The Alabama Genealogical Society, Inc., will hold its all-day Fall Seminar Saturday, October 16, at the Alabama Department of Archives and History, 624 Washington Avenue, Montgomery. The subject of the seminar lectures is "Writing Your Own History--the Secret System that Makes It Easy." For information contact Charlie Harris, President, 205/682-6073 or E-mail: charris4@att.net.

Swearing-In Ceremony Is Oct. 4th

Please join us for the swearing-in ceremony of the newly-elected mayor and town council of Indian Springs Village. The Honorable Judge Hub Harrington, a founding father and the first mayor of ISV, will perform the ceremony on Monday, October 4, 2004, at 7:00 p.m. at the Indian Springs Village Town Hall. Refreshments will be served afterward.

Farewell

By Art Johnson, Town Council Place #4

After a lot of soul searching, I made the decision not to seek a fourth term on the Indian Springs Village Town Council. But I want you to know this decision was difficult to make, and I believe it is the right decision for me to make.

Although I will leave the office of city council, I resume the much more honorable title of citizen: citizen of Indian Springs Village, citizen of Alabama, and citizen of the United States. You can be a council member, mayor, or representative for short periods of time, but you'll always remain a citizen. In "our" town "We the people," the citizens, have a great influence on our town government. Well, back in 1990 when Indian Springs Village was forming, it was all so different. Some pundits said the formation of our town would result in higher taxes, loss of services, or some other catastrophe. However, many citizens stepped forward, volunteered their efforts, and laid the successful foundations of our Village. In "our" town "We the people," the citizens, tell our government what to do; it doesn't tell us.

It's time for a "new" generation of Village citizens to become involved, and stay involved. As I leave office, the Village is strong and in good hands under the leadership of a new mayor and council.

In closing, let me thank you for giving me the great honor of allowing me to serve you. It has been a great honor to represent you on the council. Many of you have called or written the past few weeks to say thanks, but I could say as much to you. Jackie and I are grateful for the opportunity you gave us to serve.

Preparing for Fall Gardening

By Marge Dunn, ISV Garden Club President

Fall is a fun time for gardening. Plant shrubs, trees, and perennials in cool weather so that root growth will develop before top growth begins next spring.

Our next garden club meeting will be Thursday, Sept. 23, at the town hall. We'll gather at 7:00 p.m., share refreshments and a program on fall gardening. Our speaker will be from Myers Garden Center, Pelham, with a brief business meeting following.

We know it is a good time of year to start a fall compost pile. DONOT BURN LEAVES. Pile them in your side or back yard. They will decompose and provide you with enrichment for your garden. Avoid adding diseased plants, material, or weed seeds to your pile.

If you have questions, please call Marge Dunn at 987-4765.

In Memoriams

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

Dr. Peter Norman Bligh Peacock

A founding father and member of the first Indian Springs Village Town Council died August 27 due to injuries sustained in a motor vehicle collision. Dr. Peter Peacock, 82, held Place #4, and supported environmental protection and beauty. He initiated the once-monthly litter walks along Cahaba Valley Road. He served two years and elected not to run for a second term in 1992, later moving to Pelham.

Dr. Peacock spent his life in the field of medicine in Africa, Canada, and America. He graduated from Cape Town University in South Africa and worked in public health during the early part of his career. He was the Dean of the Department of Health and Epidemiology at the University of Alabama in Birmingham from 1965 to 1973. The latter part of his career was spent as a general practitioner in the Fayette, Birmingham, Huntsville, Montgomery, and Mobile areas.

Dr. Peacock was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed hiking, biking, camping, sailing, and golf. He also loved to travel.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy Peacock; former wife, Amali Peacock; a brother, Oliver Peacock; four children, Martin and Norman Peacock, Adele Caldwell, and Margaret Peacock-Cervine; 11 grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Funeral services were held September 1 at Southern Heritage Chapel with burial in the adjoining cemetery. Visitation was held Tuesday evening, August 31, at the funeral home.

Frances Dudley

Another early advocate of incorporating Indian Springs Village, Frances Dudley, passed away September 10.

When meetings were being held in 1990 by interested citizens to form the new town, some of them were so large they were held at the Dudley Family's horse barn on Cahaba Valley Road. Mrs. Dudley loved horses and had taught many equestrians how to ride. She also loved gardening, and for years volunteered to take care of the upkeep of the ISV sign on the western side of the Village, Highway 119. She was a member of the Indian Springs and Cahaba Valley garden clubs; also the Birmingham Botanical Garden Society. She was also active with the Birmingham Dressage and Combined Training Association.

Born in Parrish, AL (Walker County), she was a resident of the Birmingham area for more than 65 years. She was a member of Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church.

Survivors include her husband of 58 years, Ray Dudley; sons, Stewart and Richard Dudley of Indian Springs, grandchildren: Kyle, Linden and Steven Dudley; two brothers, several nieces and nephews. Her son, Stewart, another "founding father," has served on ISV's Town Council since 1991, and continues to serve (Place #5).

Her funeral service was held Monday, September 13 at Ridout's Elmwood Chapel with burial in Elmwood Cemetery. The family received friends Sunday evening at the funeral home.

Thomas Orin Smith

Formerly of Mobile, Thomas Orin Smith, age 57, of Indian Springs, died August 15. He was a veteran of the U. S. Air Force and served during the Vietnam Conflict. He had been employed by EBSCO Industries for the past 14 years. He was a car and truck enthusiast.

Survivors include his wife, Ruth Peck Smith; son, Paul Smith; daughter, Andrea Smith; his mother and sister of Mobile and Bay Minette, and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, August 18, at Asbury United Methodist Church, of which he was a member, with burial at Southern Heritage Cemetery. The family received friends Tuesday evening at Southern Heritage Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, it was requested that donations be made to the Special Equestrians, 900 Woodward Drive, Indian Springs, AL 35124.

Mildred Grace Alexander Vincent

Mrs. Vincent, age 84, passed away on August 26 after an extended illness. A native of Cullman County, she was retired as a buyer for Parisian after more than 35 years of service.

Survivors include her husband of 65 years, Thomas O. Vincent of Indian Crest Drive; sons, Thomas Larry Vincent and James Roderick Vincent; three grandchildren; five great grandchildren; and a sister, Kathleen Dean; 11 nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were Saturday, August 28, at Southern Heritage Funeral Chapel with burial in Southern Heritage Cemetery.

Hannah Rish Participates in Special Program to Celebrate Her 12th Birthday

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

Interested in becoming a marine biologist (or a psychiatrist) when she grows up, Hannah Rish recently participated in Gulf World Marine Park's Dolphin Trainer for a Day Program. She had the chance to experience the daily responsibilities of the Marine Mammal Department at Gulf World in Panama City, meeting the dolphins, sea lions, penquins, and otters. Thus she learned the daily care, husbandry, and training of these various animals and all about the different aspects of a trainer's job responsibilities.

The fun-filled educational experience ended with Hannah's appearing on stage to perform a special segment of the Dolphin Show. Hannah, 6th grader at Joseph S. Bruno Montessori Academy, is the daughter of Dave and Lisa Rish of Miller Circle.

Motheread/Fatheread Classes at Library

Nine weeks of free classes in the Motheread/Fatheread program began Aug. 26 at the North Shelby Library, to last through October 7, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. This series is a wonderful opportunity to sharpen your storytelling skills and learn ways to encourage your children to enjoy reading. Call 439-5555 to make a reservation.