

The Village Voice



Volume 14, Number 7

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

October 12, 2004

INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday, October 19, 2004, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 2, 2004, 7:00 p.m.

Agenda

I. Mayor/Council/Committee Reports

II. Ordinances and Resolutions

III. Citizen's 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 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: Alison Stigers, Editor, 5110 Split Rail Trail, Birmingham, Alabama, 35244 (981-1750), Fax: 980-0408, or e-mail: alison@indianspringsvillage.org. Reporter for the Homestead neighborhood is Jana Hagan, 5121 Hollow Log Lane, Birmingham 35244 (980-9419); e-mail: byzx4@charter.net

The Village Voice is published the second Tuesday of each month. Articles for publication in the November, 2004 edition should be submitted by Tuesday noon, November 2. All materials submitted for publication may be edited, including **letters to the editor, which must be signed and 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.

A Message from the Mayor

By Steve Zerkis

On October 4, your town government had the largest change in office holders in its history. We now have a new mayor and two new members of the council. The three of us, Brenda Bell Guercio, Jack Mendel and myself, join Stuart Dudley, Herb Robins and Brian Stauss in being your town council. I say your town council because we are here to represent the citizens of Indian Springs Village and the interests of this town.

One of the first acts of this council will be to complete work on the town's comprehensive plan and then begin to do those actions required by the plan to preserve, defend and enhance the quality of life, its peaceful and uncluttered atmosphere, and the beauty, serenity and tranquility that defines and describes Indian Springs Village. I use those specific words because they paraphrase the key phrases from the town's first resolution which defined the general purpose and goals of Indian Springs Village. Those goals are just as valid now as they were fourteen years ago when the town was incorporated. Our overall mission will be to assist you, the citizens, in maintaining these goals. This will be a long and ongoing effort. Change, if needed, will occur if it supports the town's goals.

Every town considers itself unique in some way, and Indian Springs Village is no exception. A key here is that we appreciate a quality of life that does not focus on new development and growth, but maintains those environmental qualities that make our town special. Some change is going to happen, it's inevitable. But we want to be able to control the rudder and steer our town, as best we can, in the direction that is best for it and its citizens.

Our previous mayors and councils have believed in a government that has a “light touch”. That certainly sounds good to me and that approach should certainly be maintained. But that light touch must include encouraging everyone involved in our town to follow our ordinances so that we can preserve, protect and enhance Indian Springs Village.

We are a volunteer town. We have no paid full-time employees. We do have a lot of wonderful “employees” who volunteer their time and hearts to make this town work. I couldn't begin to list the volunteers who created and who now support our town. But we all are very grateful for their efforts and hard work. It is that spirit of volunteering that makes ISV work and I'm proud to be part of this community.

This town is losing several wonderful people. Gene Weingarten is going to retire after eight years as our mayor. He has led this town well through a period of careful development and growth. Tricia Crapet is leaving the council but will

Editor's Appreciation to

Indian Springs Village couriers for hand delivery
Mildred Wyatt for the masthead drawing

now become the curator of the town hall, and Art Johnson is also retiring after his fine years of service. Dr. Ruth Goodwyn is retiring from her position as editor and publisher of *The Village Voice*, although she will remain town historian. We are going to miss her prose and her work in all parts of the community. I only wish I could write half as well as she can. Russ Allison has left his position as chairman of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, but he's not going very far. I'm glad to say that he will continue to be this town's very able city attorney. The outstanding services of Shirley Church as Town Clerk, Jim Wyatt as Assistant Town Clerk, Paul Stephens as Financial Officer and Treasurer, and Bart Trammell as Administrative Assistant, are well appreciated and valuable to the town. I should add Wayne Jones who is doing a great job of running our Planning and Zoning Commission, Marty Martin our City Engineer whose knowledge is invaluable; Jerry Templeton who has been outstanding in leading the development of the Comprehensive Town Plan. And the list goes on. If I tried to list everyone, we'd run out of space, paper and maybe even trees!

We are a very lucky community to have such valuable residents. But we always need more volunteers. There are always projects and committees that need your time, effort and ideas. I hope you will consider sharing some of those ideas and time with your fellow citizens and help Indian Springs Village remain the wonderful place it has become.

Town Council Highlights

September 7, 2004

By Brenda Bell Guercio, Town Council Place #2

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

Town Clerk Shirley Church presented the minutes of the July 20, 2004 and August 17, 2004 meetings, and these were amended and adopted unanimously.

Council Member Art Johnson stated there would be one last chance to deposit aluminum cans for recycling in a trailer at the Town Hall, date to be announced. After this, cans can be recycled at Heardmont Park.

Council Member Brian Stauss announced that the Planning and Zoning meeting on the following Tuesday, Sept. 14 would be a public hearing on the Town Plan with another public hearing by the Town Council at a later date. He encouraged the newly elected officials of Indian Springs Village to attend a one day seminar in October in Birmingham for newly elected municipal officials. Council Member Stauss

also suggested certificates of election be issued to new council members and mayor, elected without opposition. This was voted on and passed unanimously.

Jim Wyatt asked the mayor and council to review the ordinance on junked cars.

Request for variance on the Foxfire house and two lots was reported as denied again by ZBA. However, this is reportedly being appealed.

Two ISV citizens, Hugh and Frances Williamson, requested the town council make needed repairs to maintain the track behind the town hall, and expressed a preference that it be gravel as this was easier on joints. Mayor Weingarten indicated the town now has equipment available to repair the walking track.

Reminder

By Bart Trammell, Administrative Assistant

Saturday, October 16 is a free day at the Shelby County landfill. This is a time that you can get rid of your accumulated junk, old mattress, broken chairs, etc. So, clean out the garage spruce up the yard and haul it to the landfill at no charge.

Garden Club News

by Gladys Price, ISV Garden Club

This past month we had a special program on fall color and special autumn plants presented by Judy Baccari from Meyers Nursery. Judy told us about soil mixing, plants that weather well and add color to our gardens. She also said if anyone would like to know plants that are deer resistant, you can stop by the nursery and ask for the list.

Our meeting in October will not be the usual 4th Thursday, but will be October 23rd. It will be a cookout for members and spouses at the Baracah Ranch. Don't forget our 4th annual ISV Holiday Greenery sales that will be held at the ISV Town Hall, Saturday, December 4th, 9 a.m. until noon.

Tips of the Month:

Cut tired perennials to the ground.

Mulch beds after the leaves have fallen. This keeps them looking neat all winter.

Trees and shrubs should be planted and transplanted when they are dormant.

Choose and plant new camellias when they are in bloom at your local garden center.

Building Permits

by Marty Martin, City Engineer

Rite Aid	Rite Aid	New commercial
Lot 10 Indian Gate	Kerry Carter	New residence
2472 Cahaba Valley Road	Siddle	New residence

Happy 14th Birthday INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE!



FOURTEENTH ANNUAL FOUNDERS' DAY CELEBRATION

Tuesday, October 19, 2004

FREE

Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Chips, Drinks and Home-Made Desserts

**Come celebrate the founding of your town with family, friends,
and neighbors and meet special guest
Collyn Loper, Indian Springs Village resident and recent Olympian!**

Dinner will be served beginning at 6:00 p.m.
Town Council meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.

Bring a favorite dessert to share!

Voter Registration

by Steve Zerlis, Mayor

Election day is coming up in November and there is still time for you and your family members to register to vote. All you need to do is pick a registration form, fill it out and get it to Shelby County's Voter Registration Office. The deadline this year is October 22.

You can pick the forms up at the North Shelby Library and other locations in the area. The library is now open seven days a week for your convenience. You can also print out the form from the Internet by going to our Secretary of State's website, www.sos.state.al.us, and clicking on the box that says "Get a Voter Registration form".

The forms can be mailed to the address on the form, or delivered to the Shelby county Services Building in Pelham (where we get our vehicle registrations), or the Butch Ellis Service Building behind the court house in Columbiana.

The deadline for registration is October 22. It must be delivered or postmarked by that date. As long as it has a postmark no later than October 22, it will be processed and you'll be ready to vote in our national and state elections. Let's all get out and vote.

This article comes from the October 1991 issue of the Village Voice and the advice it offers could fit well today.

From LIFE'S LITTLE INSTRUCTION BOOK

195 - Determine the quality of a neighborhood by the manners of the people living there.

274 - Leave everything a little better than you found it.

322 - Don't say you don't have time, You have exactly the same number of hours in a day that were given to Helen Keller, Pasteur, Michelangelo, Mother Teresa, Leonardo da Vinci, Thomas Jefferson and Albert Einstein.

352 - Just for fun, attend a small town Fourth of July Celebration

Installation of New Officials

By Alison Stigers, Editor

A large crowd gathered at the Indian Springs Village Town Hall on Monday, October 4th at 7:00 p.m. to witness the installation ceremony of the new mayor and town council members.

Father Ray Dunmyer of Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church gave the benediction, and Indian Springs Village's first mayor, Judge Hub Harrington, administered the oath of office to the new officials. Mayor Gene Weingarten passed the gavel to new mayor, Steve Zerkis. New Council Members Brenda Bell Guercio and Jack Mendel will fill places vacated by the retirement of Patricia Crapet and Art Johnson; Steward Dudley, Herb Robins and Brian Stauss will return for four more years of service.

A reception followed the ceremony, organized by Pat Zerkis, wife of the new mayor, which featured a beautiful array of hors d'oeuvres and sweets made by Pat and many of the townspeople of Indian Springs Village.



Stuart Dudley, Jack Mendel, Brenda Bell Guercio, Steve Zerkis, Judge Hub Harrington, Brian Stauss and Herb Robins



Big Wind Hits the Village

by Steve Zerkis, Mayor

A couple of weeks ago, most of us were watching Hurricane Ivan move through the Caribbean. This huge storm was devastating to a number of small islands and left dozens dead. Luckily for Florida it gave it only a glancing blow on its west side as it turned north. We kept hearing how huge the storm really was, one hundred to two hundred miles wide. We kept watching the cable and local stations and saw forecasts of various tracks and paths for the storm. Will it hit New Orleans, or Mobile, or Panama City? For a while it was aimed directly at New Orleans and the news people were warning that the city could be flooded. Finally it made a move to the right and came straight at Alabama. Sure enough it hit us and hit hard. It came ashore with its center around Gulf Shores and Orange Beach and Pensacola, devastated those areas, and then moved straight up toward us.

It blew through Indian Springs Village starting early in the morning with very strong winds and heavy rain. It was amazing to watch those massive oaks waving back and forth, and listen to the wind just howling away. Pat and I kept hearing things hit the house and waiting for the power to go out. Some of those trees were really bending. We could see some branches coming down. By mid afternoon the winds died down and the rain stopped, the worst of the storm was over. About 3:30 PM, Pat and I drove around town and we could see damage to trees on every block. Some trees were snapped off while many others were pulled out by the roots. We only saw one house with tree damage but I'm sure there were others. And, there were wires on the street.

As we drove down 119, the road itself and many of the adjacent properties were flooded. Our town hall grounds looked like you could go fishing. I heard more than a couple of TV stations say that we received about eight inches of rain in those few hours, and I heard another report that our area recorded wind gusts of up to 80 miles per hour. I don't know if that's true but at the time, it sure looked like we got all of that.

We saw so many people out there with chain saws, and neighbors helping neighbors cut up tree trunks and branches and getting rid of debris. People later came to the town hall and picked up the broken branches. Many people opened their homes to visitors who came north to escape the hurricane. Cars with tags from Baldwin and Mobile counties and others from Florida were parked all over town. It was good to see the spirit of the town in action.

I know some of our citizens lost electrical power plus phone and cable. Others were lucky to have those services continue. A big surprise to me was to see the fleets of trucks

roll into town to work on our power needs and fallen trees. Alabama Power brought in crews from other power companies. Several crews came to help from Con Edison, the power company for New York City. Another crew came from Des Moines, Iowa and one even one from North Dakota. We saw them working on Fox Fire, Indian Crest and Valley View. It was interesting talking with them. None had ever been to Alabama before and were amazed at the beauty of Indian Springs and our state, and the friendliness of our people. They certainly found the right town to experience Alabama.

If you are wondering what's happened in the panhandle, you can get at a lot of photos on the internet. The cities of Orange Beach and Pensacola have posted a lot of photos of the damage as has the United States Geological Survey. Some of the condo associations have also posted information and photos of damage and repairs. Lots of favorite places are gone or severely damaged. The Flora-Bama is one, and so is Ryan's, Tacky Jack's and the list goes on and on. Many condos and businesses have been destroyed. Governor Bob Riley said that the economy of those areas and much of the state has been damaged, especially our cotton, pecan and peanut crops. Those areas will be back, just give them some time.

Did You Know?

by Bart Trammell, Administrative Assistant

- That notices of public meetings must be posted in four places in our town? Those four places are:
 - The Town Hall
 - The fire station on Caldwell Mill Road
 - The Sunny Food store on Caldwell Mill Road
 - The Valleydale Winn-Dixie Marketplace
- That the Town Council and the Planning and Zoning Commission must hold public hearings on any matters that involve changes to the zoning ordinance and that notices of the public hearings must be posted 15 days before the public hearings in the four places listed above?
- That the Zoning Board of Adjustment's meetings are open to the public and that notices of such meetings must be posted 5 days before the meetings in the four places listed above?
- That any ordinance passed by the Town Council must be posted for five days following passage in the four locations listed above?
- That we have our own website – www.Indianspringsvillage.org – where you can find useful information regarding meeting dates, names of town officials, etc.
- That the Town Council meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at the Town Hall and invites your participation and attendance.

New Trustees and Officers for North Shelby Library

By Steve Zerkis, Mayor

There have been some recent changes to the board of trustees of the North Shelby Library. Tom Allen recently joined the board to replace Mary Sue Ludwig who resigned to run for office in Hoover. Tim Ryan joined the library board as of October 1, 2004. He replaced Wanda Carruthers who chose not to stand for reelection.

The term of office of a library trustee is four years, with elections to the board held every two years for either two or three of the trustees.

Elections of officers for the library board were held at the last board meeting in September. Kay Kelley is now president, Tom Allen is vice president and Steve Zerkis has been reelected as secretary/treasurer. Elections for board officers will be held annually.

Computer Class Schedule at North Shelby Library

By Michelyn Reid, Reference Librarian

North Shelby Library will be offering free computer classes:

Word I

Tuesday, Oct. 12

Wednesday, Oct. 13

Word II

Tuesday, Oct. 19

Wednesday, Oct. 20

Intro to PowerPoint

Saturday, Oct. 23

Tuesday, Oct. 26

Wednesday, Oct. 27

Publisher

Tuesday, Nov. 2

Wednesday, Nov. 3

Invisible Web

Tuesday, Nov. 9

Wednesday, Nov. 10

Saturday, Nov. 13

All classes are from 8:30a.m. - 10:00a.m..

Registration is required. Please call Michelyn Reid at 439-5510 to register or Email: nsref@shelbycounty-al.org.

North Shelby County Library offers teen programs

By Rachel Hodges, Children's / Teen Librarian

Teen Read Week

"It's Alive @ Your Library"

Grades 7-12 October 17-23, 2004

A raffle drawing for two movie tickets to the new Rave Theater will be held for those teens who fill out a book review form during the week.

"Movie Madness!" Saturday, October 23, from 12-2 p.m.
Come join us for food, door prizes, and a B-movie!

"Science with a Bang!"

Thursday, October 21, 5-6 p.m.

Take part in exploding experiments in a science lab with a bang

Call 439-5504 or visit our website for details and for the calendar of all children's activities: www.northshelbylibrary.org

2nd Annual Iron Bowl Challenge

by Alison Stigers, Editor

The second annual Iron Bowl Challenge will take place on Wednesday, November 17 at the Pelham Civic Center Complex from 5:30-9:00 p.m.. This event will feature 50 legends from past Iron Bowl games, who will compete for the "Radio Flyer Trophy". The athletes, in addition to competing against one another in several challenging events, will be available throughout the evening to sign autographs and for photo opportunities. There will be a silent auction, a play area for the kids, tailgate food and beverages and a secret special guest appearance.

The event is sponsored by Making Strides of Alabama, founded by Phyllis and Jerry Templeton. Making Strides is a non-profit foundation dedicated to helping children with cerebral palsy and other motor dysfunctions.

Tickets are available at www.makingstrides.org.

Zoning Board of Adjustments Requests

by Brian Stauss, Chairman

The ZBA has received a request to grant a variance to the minimum rear setback at a residence located at 5152 Hollow Log Lane. The owner plans to construct a sunroom on the back of the home that will place the new rearmost point approximately 28 feet from the rear property line. ISV zoning regulations require a minimum 40 foot setback. The ZBA will meet this month to hear and decide the request. Notice of the meeting day, time and location will be posted 5 days prior at four prominent locations in the city (Town Hall, Sunny Foods, Caldwell Mill Fire Station and Winn-Dixie) and on the city website.