

# The Village Voice



Volume 15, Number 5

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

August 9, 2005

## INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday, August 16, 2005, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 6, 2005, 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: [tricia@indianspringsvillage.org](mailto:tricia@indianspringsvillage.org)

Website: [www.indianspringsvillage.org](http://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: [villagevoice@indianspringsvillage.org](mailto:villagevoice@indianspringsvillage.org).

*The Village Voice* is published the second Tuesday of each month. Articles for publication in the September edition should be submitted by Tuesday noon, August 30, 2005. 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.

### Editor's Appreciation to

Indian Springs Village couriers for hand delivery

Mildred Wyatt for the masthead drawing

Herb Robins for proofing

## Message from the Mayor

by Steve Zerkis

The main responsibility of any town government is to provide for the public safety of its citizens. We are blessed with quality services from the Shelby County Sheriff's Department and the North Shelby Fire Department. Both organizations are well managed, equipped and staffed to come to our aid. But we can certainly make improvements.

I am inviting everyone to attend a Town Meeting on Tuesday, August 16, 2005 at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall to listen to a proposal from Sheriff Chris Curry to provide additional services to our town from a Deputy Sheriff dedicated to serving Indian Springs Village. This individual would patrol within the borders of Indian Springs Village. The deputy will get to know our neighborhoods, our streets and our people, and work here as an addition to the services we already get from the Sheriff's department. This individual would be available to also enforce ISV ordinances as needed.

Sheriff Curry will describe how this program would work and you will have an opportunity to ask questions, make comments and offer your input to the Mayor and Town Council.

Since this program was authorized a year ago, two towns in Shelby County have contracted with the Sheriff's department for their own dedicated Deputy; those two towns are Chelsea and Wilsonville. There is a possibility to share a Deputy with another town and improve your safety. I know one issue this Deputy could address is the excessive speeding on some of our streets and highway 119. There is a cost to this program and that cost would be shared between ISV, the other town, and the County. The cost of this Deputy would be considerably less than if we have to provide our own police services.

Please come out on the 16<sup>th</sup>. If we fill up the Town Hall, we will move the meeting to our pavilion so that everyone has a chance to participate in this important issue.

**THE NORTH SHELBY LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED  
ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH AND MONDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 5TH FOR THE LABOR DAY HOLIDAY.**

# Town Council Meeting

June 21, 2005

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met on Tuesday, June 21, 2005 at 7:00 P.M. at the Indian Springs Village Town Hall.

**Town Clerk Shirley Church** called the roll and noted the presence of Mayor Steve Zerkis, Council Members Brian Stauss, Brenda Guercio, Stewart Dudley and Jack Mendel. Also present were Chief Financial Officer Paul Stephens, Assistant Town Clerk Jim Wyatt, Administrative Assistant Bart Trammell, and Zoning and Planning Chairman Wayne Jones.

The minutes of June 07, 2005 were presented and unanimously adopted on a motion by Mendel; seconded by Dudley. The financial report for May, 2005 was presented to the Council and unanimously adopted on a motion by Mendel; seconded by Stauss.

**Guercio** reported all was in place for the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration.

**Stauss** reported the smoke detection system has been checked and all is operational. Fire Chief O'Conner requested we talk to him before we purchase a monitor for this system.

**Stauss** reported Bobby Trussell has been awarded the contract for additional grass cutting.

**Stauss** reported invitations have been mailed to honored guests to attend our July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration.

**Stauss** noted mail received by council members regarding a transportation resolution and their vision in controlling traffic in Shelby County. He suggested the Council sign this resolution individually and also on a city level at our next meeting.

**Zerkis** reported that an excellent job was done in the completion of the roof replacement on the town hall.

**Trammell** reported that except for five, all ordinances have been organized in a binder that he presented to the town clerk. Past officials have been contacted via letter in an effort to retrieve the missing ordinances.

**Zerkis** requested the Council plan for the Fiscal Year 2006 budget. The capital portion of the budget will be discussed and drafted in mid-July, and the operating budget drafted in August. A final budget should be in place in September 2005.

**Zerkis** reported on an article in *The Birmingham News* regarding a proposal to request Charter Communications to offer public access channels to municipalities and schools in the county. The channels could be used for broadcasting of educational activities and events, municipal and county meetings, safety announcements, local sports, school activities and local interest programming. The technology for creating TV programming is available in several of our schools.

Sheriff Curry will be invited to our next town meeting to discuss the use of a shared deputy sheriff for additional police services.

The abandoned vehicle ordinance is in place. Offenders will be notified by letter if they are in apparent violation of this ordinance. Copies of the ordinance are available through the Town Clerk or the town's website.

Painting and needed repair work has been completed on the exterior of the Town Hall.

An ordinance to establish procedures and controls for accountability of city funds was discussed. Stauss made a motion, seconded by Mendel to suspend the rules to allow for an immediate vote. The vote to suspend the rules was unanimous. Guercio made a motion, seconded by Dudley, to adopt the proposed ordinance and it was adopted unanimously.

**Jones** presented a waiver on additional landscaping at the cellular tower site, located at Davis Plumbing, because present landscaping is deemed sufficient. This waiver was approved by The Planning and Zoning Commission. Dudley made a motion, seconded by Guercio, to accept the petition as presented. The vote to accept the waiver was unanimous.

**Jones** presented a final plat application submitted by Alan Keith and Robert Cerfolio to divide 3 lots totaling approximately 3 acres into two lots. The Planning and Zoning Commission has approved this application. Guercio made a motion seconded by Mendel, to accept the final plat application as submitted. The vote was unanimous.

**Jones** presented an application seeking a subdivision of three lots on approximately 8 acres on Highgate Hill Road. The Planning and Zoning Commission has approved this application. Stauss made a motion, seconded by Mendel to accept the subdivision as submitted. The vote was unanimous.

There being no further business, Stauss made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shirley Church, Town Clerk

# Town Council Meeting

July 5, 2005

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met on Tuesday, July 5, 2005 at 7:00 P.M. at the Indian Springs Village Town Hall.

**Town Clerk Shirley Church** called the roll and noted the presence of Mayor Steve Zerkis and Council Members Herb Robins, Brian Stauss and Jack Mendel. Also present were Financial Officer Paul Stephens, Assistant Town Clerk Jim Wyatt and Administrative Assistant Bart Trammell. No financial report was given.

The minutes of the June 21, 2005 council meeting were

presented and unanimously adopted on a motion by Stauss, seconded by Mendel.

**Robins** reported the 4<sup>th</sup> July Celebration was a great success where approximately 300 people participated in this event.

**Robins** spoke with Gary Ray of the State Highway Department and reported that faded and worn striping on streets joining Highway 119 will be surveyed and re-striped wherever needed. They will also put raised reflectors on some of these streets. The potholes on Double Oak Lane have been repaired. Double Oak Lane still has a culvert problem and this is being checked by the County Highway Department.

**Stauss** reported he has an old geographic software program to donate to the town that can be used in detailing maps of property in ISV. He plans to check this program out to determine if it needs to be updated.

Sheriff Chris Curry will attend a future council meeting to discuss the possibility of ISV contracting with the County to provide additional law enforcement services on a part-time basis.

There was discussion with Commissioner Lindsey Allison regarding the possible sale of the Shelby County Sewer System and its effects on our town.

There being no further business, the council accepted a motion by Robins that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shirley Church, Town Clerk

## Town Matters

by *Bart Trammell, Administrative Assistant*

### Free Landfill Day - October 8th

Fall is upon us, so it's time to clean out the attic, straightened up the garage and dispose of the old picture frames that your cousin sold you for a bargain. Saturday, October 8 has been designated as "free" landfill day. The landfill is located on the north side of Highway 70 approximately four miles west of Columbiana. The landfill operator may ask that you drive your vehicle across the scales so they can keep track of how many citizens take advantage of this free day. Products that are harmful to our environment, such as paint, paint thinner, solvents, petroleum products and similar items are not acceptable at the landfill.

### No Burning

A reminder that the no-burning policy in Shelby County is in effect until October 1<sup>st</sup>. For information on open burning rules, contact the Alabama Department of Environmental Management at 334-271-7861 or use this website: [www.adem.state.al.us](http://www.adem.state.al.us)

**Thank you** to Bruce Benford for repairing the shed door header.

## Mosquitos are Breeding

by *Steve Zerkis, Mayor*

The mosquito season is here and we've had a lot of rain from storms and our visit from "Dennis". If your yard is like mine, you've got millions of mosquitos buzzing around looking for their next meal. Here are a few suggestions on how you can reduce their numbers. Residents should thoroughly inspect their property and eliminate the following mosquito breeding habitats:

- Flooded yards and fields
- Pools of standing water
- Clogged drainage ditches and drains
- Untreated catch basins
- Clogged gutters
- Untreated stagnant or "drained" swimming pools
- Garden planters, catch trays or buckets
- Dead tree limbs and stumps
- Unkempt bird baths – change water every few days
- Improperly maintained compost piles
- Any place you can have standing and stagnant water

The West Nile Virus has now been detected in 48 of the 50 states. Eliminate every possibility of mosquitoes breeding on your property. You and your neighbors will be more comfortable and possibly safer. The county is looking to spray for mosquitos but they have a lot of miles of roadway to cover.

If you have standing water from recent storms, you probably are looking at serious mosquito grounds. Please take action to have those areas drained before you, your family and neighbors are affected.

## Garden Club News

by *Marge Dunn, President*

Good summer rains have helped reduce our need for outside watering. This liquid gold should benefit our native plants, improve fall foliage color and, hopefully, make our wildflowers more colorful next winter and early spring.

Our neighbor, Keener Morrow, a Forest Ranger and naturalist from nearby Oak Mountain State Park is coming to give us a slide show on native plants and wildflowers of our area. This will be our regular monthly meeting night - Thursday, August 25th, at 7 PM at the Indian Springs Village Town Hall. Of course, refreshments will be served and fellowship enjoyed. If you have any questions give me a call at 987-4765.

**Tip of the Month:** After a good rain is an ideal time to dig and divide bearded iris and other perennials.

July 2005						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

August 2005						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

September 2005						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

October 2005						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November 2005						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December 2005						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

# SHELBY COUNTY SCHOOLS

## 2005 – 2006 School Calendar

\*\*\*\*\*

July 4.....Independence Day (Schools & Offices Closed)  
 Aug 2-4.....New Teacher Orientation  
 Aug 8.....Institute / Local Prof. Dev. (No Students)  
 Aug 9.....Teacher Workday (No Students)  
 Aug 10.....1<sup>st</sup> Semester Begins, Full Day for Students  
 Sep 5.....Labor Day (Schools & Offices Closed)  
 Oct 13.....Local Prof. Dev. / Collaboration (No Students)  
 Oct 14.....Teacher Workday (No Students)  
 Oct 17.....Schools Closed  
 TBA.....System-Wide Parenting Day  
 Nov 11.....Veterans' Day (Schools & Offices Closed)  
 Nov 21-25.....Thanksgiving Break (Schools Closed)  
 Nov 23-25.....Thanksgiving Break (Offices Closed)  
 Dec 20.....1<sup>st</sup> Semester Ends, Schools Close at 1:00 P.M.  
 Dec 21-Jan 4.....WINTER HOLIDAYS  
 Jan 4.....Teacher Workday / Collaboration (No Students)  
 Jan 5.....2<sup>nd</sup> Semester Begins, Full Day for Students  
 Jan 16.....M.L. King, Jr. Birthday (Schools & Offices Closed)  
 Feb 17.....3<sup>rd</sup> Inclement Weather Day  
 Feb 20.....Presidents' Day (Schools & Offices Closed)  
 Mar 17.....Teacher Workday / Collaboration (No Students)  
 Mar 20-24.....SPRING BREAK  
 Apr 17.....2<sup>nd</sup> Inclement Weather Day  
 May 15.....1<sup>st</sup> Inclement Weather Day  
 May 25.....2<sup>nd</sup> Semester Ends, Schools Close at 3:00 P.M.  
 .....High School Graduations  
 May 26.....Teacher Workday (No Students)  
 May 29.....Memorial Day (Schools & Offices Closed)

First Semester 85 days                      Second Semester 90 days

### TESTING DATES

Jul 11-15.....Graduation Exams  
 Sep 19-23.....Graduation Exams  
 Oct 12.....PSAT  
 Dec 5-9.....Graduation Exams  
 Feb 22 – Mar 1.....State Writing Assessment-Grades 5, 7, & 10  
 Mar 6-10.....Graduation Exams  
 Apr 3-14.....Stanford Achievement Test 10 and  
 Alabama Reading and Math Tests – Grades 3-8

### GRADING PERIODS

Period Ends	#Days	Grades Sent Home
1 <sup>st</sup> Period October 12.....	45	October 24
2 <sup>nd</sup> Period December 20.....	40	January 9
3 <sup>rd</sup> Period March 16.....	48	March 27
4 <sup>th</sup> Period May 25.....	42	*May 26

\*Some schools may hand deliver report cards on the last day of school. All others will be mailed as soon as they are available.

 Dates of school holidays   
 circles indicate dates of institute, professional development, and teacher workdays.  
 squares indicate inclement weather make-up days.

January 2006						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February 2006						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

March 2006						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

April 2006						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

May 2006						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

June 2006						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

# The Dirt Pile

by Emily Stauss

If you have driven by the Town Hall in the past few days, you may have noticed a large pile of dirt and mulch behind the flagpole. The Town Council recently approved my plans to make a wildlife habitat, which I am building for my Girl Scout Gold Award Project. A Gold Award Project is the equivalent of the Boy Scout's Eagle Project. I recently put down twenty tons of topsoil and mulch which is the base for foliage that will attract wildlife. I will plant the foliage over the next several weeks and finish the project. There is already some wildlife moving in – there are two baby bluebirds in a birdhouse next to my habitat. Mr. Jim Loper of J Loper and Company Landscaping has been working with me on the design and without whom this project would not be possible.



# Christmas in July

by B.J. Scharath, Villager

With temperatures in the mid-90's, and humidity almost as high, it's hard to think about Christmas, but that's exactly what a group of a dozen ladies who needlepoint and cross stitch were thinking about at the "Second Annual Christmas in July". As anyone knows who does crafts and handwork, Christmas gifts and ornaments need to be at the finishers by the first of October to be ready in time for the holidays. To help stitchers get motivated and in the holiday spirit, the Cahaba Lily Chapter of American Needlepoint Guild held a day long stitch-a-thon on July 23rd, setting the mood with Fractured Christmas Carols, colorful quilts draped over chairs and tables, and lots of red and green threads and canvases of painted Santa's, poinsettias, Christmas stockings, and the like. There were even a few Halloween ornaments that were being stitched as well. An added bonus was a swap table full of stitching magazines, catalogs and patterns free for the taking. Stitchers made great progress in getting started with their holiday canvases and ornaments; in addition, there was much laughter and friendship shared among friends new and old, and that too is part of the holiday spirit, even when it's in July.

Cahaba Lily Chapter is open to anyone interested in needle arts and stitching. For more information, please contact Villager B.J. Scharath at [BJscharath@charter.net](mailto:BJscharath@charter.net).



Left to right around the table: Cheryl Locke, Cathy Campbell, Peggy Maxwell, Ginger Trawick, Frieda Suttles, and Susie Stiles. In the background, June Solomon.



Left to right, back first: Beverly Culwell, Christa Evans and Jeanon Massien. Partially seen is June Solomon

# Adult Consequences for Teen Parties

 by Steve Zerkis, Mayor

Residents are reminded that parties and teen alcohol use can have serious, if not tragic, consequences, not only for the teen involved but for parents as well. Most people know that State Law prohibits the possession and consumption of alcohol by persons under the age of 21. Parents may also be held accountable

Parents must supervise parties at their home, because they are responsible for keeping it under control. If a party becomes out of control and/or the teens have been drinking, end the party immediately and start contacting parents to pick up their children. Teens that have been drinking should NEVER be allowed to drive. If you need help, call the Shelby County Sheriff's office.

## Village Personals

by Tricia Crapet

The Village welcomes David and Deana Hunter to their newly acquired home at 209 Auburn Road. The Hunters, who have moved to ISV from Sunny Meadows, have one precious daughter, Alie, who is 7 months old. David is employed by Buco Building Contractors, while Deana is currently at home trying to keep up with Alie. The Hunter family also includes two yellow labrador retrievers, Zeke and Holly, and two horses, Primo and Hermione. Welcome to the Village!

Leaving the Village from 209 Auburn Road is Janet Roper, who had resided there for 21 years along with husband, Michael, who is now deceased. Janet, originally from Great Britain via Canada, is moving to Washington state to live near her son, Lindsey. No doubt that her condo on the bay will be a nice change of scenery for her. We wish her well.

## Recent Graduate

Christina McGowan recently graduated from Oak Mountain High School. Thanks to her mother, Phelan Webb, for letting us know Christina's name had been omitted from the list of ISV graduates in last month's issue of *The Village Voice*.

## Summer Markets

by Steve Zerkis, Mayor

One of the wonderful benefits of living in Alabama is that we can find a very wide selection of locally grown fruits and vegetables. This is a great time of the year to pick your own blueberries and peaches. Just drive down 280 and I-65 and the farm stands and farms are at many exits and what you get is fresh. I don't understand why our supermarkets insist on selling California peaches when everyone knows that Alabama peaches are the best that can be found. I'd rather buy nice, ripe, sweet peaches from Chilton County any day.

There are also several farmers' markets we can visit. The most famous is the one at Pepper Place on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South on Saturday mornings from 7 am to noon. Farmers from all around the area bring their produce for sale. There are also local bakery goods, crafts, plants, herbs, local cheeses and honey. And the magic word is local. Like it fresh? They have it. It's a fun place to visit. There is always a cooking demo at 9 am with free samples, live music, and some interesting people to see. It's a fun place to visit and another opportunity to enjoy our summers.

## North Shelby Library Goes Wireless

By Natasha Hanna, Library Staff

During the carefree days of early summer, Director Carol Farr of the North Shelby Library quietly led her library into the most modern dimension of library service: the North Shelby Library went wireless. WiFi service is common to the most metropolitan libraries, universities and other high budget organizations. Early costs of the service precluded small libraries from offering it to its users.

As the technology has become more common, and therefore more fiscally accessible, the prices have come down. A sprinkling of libraries in the Jefferson County Public Library system, along with several buildings on the UAB campus, recently added WiFi service to their list of resources. And now the North Shelby Public Library offers it as well.

Although the library has not yet heavily advertised the service, the sight of users actively engaged in wireless research in the library has encouraged others to join in. In fact, wireless usage has doubled in the month and half the library has been offering WiFi capabilities. Patrons are very excited about the idea of logging on, being portable, and not having to wait in line to use the computers. Internet technology at the library has always been a high priority among its patrons, and now this has expanded their range of options.

With technology growing and expanding so fast, Mrs. Farr is very pleased to be able to offer this service to the library patrons. This is another way the North Shelby Library can offer a technology to the public in an effort to not only make their lives less complicated, but also to enrich their experiences, broaden their information literacy and, also, to facilitate their access to more thorough and current knowledge than can sometimes be found in in-house texts.

This is just the latest development in North Shelby's progress towards being a competitive full-service metropolitan library. Patrons have watched the library incorporate new technology, and experience rapid growth in all collections. In addition to the many types of programs offered, WiFi service is the latest in a growing trend of features that the library plans to implement in the coming years.

---

## The Youth Department at North Shelby Library

is going to take a much needed vacation in Aug, but we will still have Mr. Mac on Wednesdays.

**Wednesdays, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>**

**Mr. Mac (Storyteller Extraordinaire!) @ 10:30 am**