

The Village Voice



Volume 15, Number 9

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

December 13, 2005

INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday, December 20, 2005 , 7:00 PM

Tuesday, January 3, 2006, 7:00 PM

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: villagevoice@indianspringsvillage.org.

The Village Voice is published the second Tuesday of each month. Articles for publication in the January edition should be submitted by Friday noon, December 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

ISV Children's Fund

It's the holiday season again and some of the neediest among us need your help. I'm talking again about children who live in our community and go to our Oak Mountain schools. We have some new additions this year of children from families who have moved into our community from their homes in Louisiana and Mississippi. In some cases these children also need help. Our **Indian Springs Village Children's Fund** will again buy basic needs for these children such as shoes, clothing, school supplies and materials. Margie Robins and others in the community work with school administrators to identify children needing assistance and how they can be helped. They shop and buy the needed items and make sure they are given to the parents so that the children get their gifts on Christmas. We appreciate the donations made so far and hope you will continue to open your hearts and wallets to help these children and make their Christmas just a little better and happier. All donations will be gratefully accepted. Checks should be made payable to the ISV Children's Fund and sent to Shirley Church, 335 New Hope Mountain Road, Indian Springs Village, AL 35124.



Merry Christmas, Happy New Year

and a

Wonderful Holiday Season

from

Mayor Steve Zerkis

Councilmembers

Herb Robins Brian Stauss

Stewart Dudley

Brenda Bell-Guercio Jack Mendel

& *The Village Voice*

Town Council Meeting

October 18, 2005

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met on Tuesday, October 18, 2005 at 7:00 PM at the Indian Springs Village Town Hall Pavilion.

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

The minutes of the October 4, 2005 council meeting were accepted as presented on a motion by Robins; seconded by Guercio.

The September 2005 financial reports were presented and suspended on a motion by Mendel, seconded by Guercio.

Robins announced that the Council had decided to offer town events (Founder's Day, 4th of July, etc.) as fundraisers for current disaster relief efforts. Anyone wishing to donate to The Salvation Army should designate "Disaster Relief" on their check. Anyone desiring that their donation be used locally should designate "Shelby County Disaster Relief". He pointed out that a number of hurricane victims were residing temporarily in our area and are being aided by The Salvation Army. Robins also reminded everyone that the **ISV Children's Christmas Fund** provides Christmas gifts, clothes, etc. to needy children in our area. All donations can be sent care of Shirley Church, 2635 Cahaba Valley Road, Indian Springs Village, AL 35124.

Stauss reported the Board of Zoning Adjustments would meet Friday, October 21, at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall to review a request from Marc Phillips for a variance to operate a home business (recording studio).

Zerkis reported all questions had been resolved in the contract with the Sheriff for the services of a deputy sheriff for the fiscal year 2005-2006. Stauss made a motion, seconded by Robins, to accept the proposed contract as presented. The contract was unanimously approved.

Dudley recommended the financial report be put on the website each month and perhaps printed quarterly for all ISV residents' review.

Recognized at the meeting were honored guests Representative Mary Sue McClurkin, past Council Members Art Johnson and Patricia Crapet, and Shelby County Deputy Heather Bobe.

Zerkis gave a personal thank you from all ISV Villagers to Bart and Connie Trammell, Nora Boyett and all who participated in making the 15th Annual Founder's Day such a success.

Meeting was adjourned on a motion by Stauss.
Respectfully submitted,
Shirley Church, Town Clerk

Special Town Council Meeting

October 27, 2005

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met on Thursday, October 27, 2005 at 7:00 PM at the Indian Springs Village Town Hall.

Town Clerk Shirley Church called the roll and noted the presence of Mayor Steve Zerkis, Council Members Herb Robins, Brian Stauss and Jack Mendel. Also present was Assistant Town Clerk Jim Wyatt, Administrative Assistant Bart Trammell and Planning & Zoning Chairman Wayne Jones.

Zerkis made a motion, seconded by Stauss, that the Town Council, by resolution, approve the applications for sale of off-premises beer and off-premises wine at the Shelby Food Mart. The motion was unanimously approved.

Will Stokes, 1730 Indian Crest Drive, who is working on his Citizenship in the Community Boy Scout Badge, was present at the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned on a motion by Stauss.
Respectfully submitted,
Shirley Church, Town Clerk

Town Council Meeting

November 1, 2005

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met on Tuesday, November 1, 2005 at 7:00 PM at the Indian Springs Village Town Hall.

Town Clerk Shirley Church called the roll and noted the presence of Mayor Steve Zerkis, Council Members Brenda Bell Guercio, Herb Robins, Brian Stauss, Brenda Bell Guercio and Jack Mendel. Also present was Chief Financial Officer Paul Stephens, Assistant Town Clerk Jim Wyatt and Administrative Assistant Bart Trammell.

The minutes of the October 18, 2005 council meeting were accepted as amended on a motion by Robins; seconded by Stauss.

The minutes of the October 27, 2005 special Council meeting were accepted as presented on a motion by Stauss; seconded by Robins.

The September 2005 financial report was accepted as presented on a motion by Stauss; seconded by Mendel. There was discussion regarding incorporating Certificates of Deposit information in the 2006 financial reporting.

Robins will determine if the town will receive an Emergency Disaster Relief Kit in CD format from the Alabama League of Municipalities.

Robins reported that State Highway Department District Engineer Gary Ray is checking to determine if cleaning of the culvert, located on the Slaughter property, will solve the water drainage problem in that area. Robins also talked with Shelby County Engineer Scott Holladay, who will determine if the culvert at Double Oak Lane needs to be cleaned or replaced.

Stauss reported the Board of Zoning Adjustments approved, at the October 21 meeting, the variance requested by Marc Phillips to operate a recording business in his home. Stauss also reminded those present that the Board of Zoning Adjustments will meet November 3 to consider a setback variance requested by Citation Homes on High Gate Hill.

Zerkis announced the county has issued a Cease and Desist letter to the owner of property on Cahaba Valley Road near Caldwell Mill Road regarding dumping of dirt on a flood plain. Zerkis stated that he has drafted a similar letter to the owner of that property and an adjoining property at the Caldwell Mill Road and Cahaba Valley Road intersection regarding the dumping of dirt and construction debris. The letters are being reviewed by our Town Attorney, Russ Allison.

Zerkis announced that an interview will be held on Monday, November 7, with a prospective auditor for the town.

There was discussion regarding other capital improvements needed, and Comprehensive Plan implementation.

An ordinance to amend business license fees was presented. Motion was made by Zerkis, seconded by Stauss, and unanimously passed to accept this ordinance.

Meeting was adjourned on a motion by Zerkis.
Respectfully submitted,
Shirley Church, Town Clerk

Holiday Cheer at Town Council Meeting

by Brenda Bell-Guercio, Council Member

Come one, come all to the Town Council meeting on Tuesday, December 20. Following a short meeting, attendees will gather for Indian Spring Village's annual holiday social. Bring your favorite holiday treat, whether savory or sweet, to share and enjoy egg nog and cider provided by the council.

Special Thanks for *The Village Voice* Contributors and Couriers

by Alison Stigers, Editor

It doesn't seem possible that more than a year has passed since my first issue of *The Village Voice* was published. My main focus is formatting *The Village Voice* and getting it to the printer, so the articles you send in, and the calls and notes I receive alerting me to news and events, are especially important and much appreciated. I would like to thank all of you, especially Mayor Steve Zerkis who is our most prolific contributor, for your help. And last, but certainly not least, many thanks to the dedicated and efficient townspeople who deliver each issue of *The Village Voice*. I wish you all a most happy holiday and a peaceful 2006.



Ho Ho Ho!

Santa Claus is Coming to the Village!
on
Saturday, December 10, 2005
from 1:00 p.m. til 3:00 p.m.
at the ISV Town Hall
2635 Cahaba Valley Road

**Santa will welcome ALL good
little girls and boys of all ages to
share their holiday requests with him!**

**Bring the Wish List and a camera
and enjoy an afternoon with Santa!**

Refreshments will be served.



*Santa is brought to you by the Crapet family.
Happy Holidays from Michael, Tricia, and Joseph.*

In Memoriam

Alvin Richard (“Dick”) O’Connor

Born November 21, 1920 in Brooklyn, New York. Son of Alvin William O’Connor and Rose Costello O’Connor.

Survived by son David Forrest O’Connor, wife Mary, and grandson Robert; son Richard Michael O’Connor, wife Nelle, and granddaughter Laura; stepdaughter Ann Walsh Mosher, husband Earl, and grandsons Matthew and Brian Mosher; stepsons John Christopher Walsh, wife Kathyryne, and granddaughters Elizabeth, Meg and Caroline Walsh; Timothy Edwards Walsh, wife Sarah and grandchildren Lydia and Eli Walsh; son Geoffrey, wife Sue Ellen and grandchildren Andrew and Katie.

Also surviving is brother-in-law Richard Warren, and many loving nieces and nephews. Predeceased by beloved wife of 37 years, Jean Rumble O’Connor, Sonya Ruescher O’Connor, the mother of his children, and stepson J. Michael Walsh.

Mr. O’Connor attended Townsend Harris High School, and then graduated with a BBA from the City College of New York. After a short stint with Chemical Bank he served as a Lieutenant, Senior Grade in the Naval Reserve during World War II. While in the Pacific he earned thirteen battle stars. After four years in sales with Whitman’s Chocolates, he joined fraternity brother David Stone in a window covering business. They were partners for 37 years, branching out into the manufacture of stage curtains and their suspensions and rigging. Mr. O’Connor had been a Webelos leader for the Boy Scouts, a Little League coach, and the president of the Stony Brook School District in New York. For eleven years he volunteered on the infectious diseases floor at Lee Memorial Hospital in Fort Myers. He then volunteered as a pianist at the Health Park Hospital atrium and at the Care Center skilled nursing facility.

Please make any memorial donations to “God’s Love We Deliver”, 166 Ave. of the Americas, NY, NY 10013, or “The Aids Memorial Quilt-The Names Project Foundation”, 101 Krog Street, Atlanta GA 30307.

A memorial service was held on November 11, 2005 at Saint Columbkille Catholic Church in Ft. Myers, Florida. (Mr. O’Connor is the father of our Fire Chief, Michael, O’Connor. Reprinted from the Ft. Myers News Press)

William A. Honeycutt

William A. Honeycutt, age 88, of Indian Springs, died November 15, 2005. Mr. Honeycutt was a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers for over 55 years. He was preceded in death by his wife of over 40 years, Christine. He is survived by his daughters, Sharan Hyde (Ronald), Virginia Millsap (Randall), Trudy Scokel (Steve); grandchildren, Bryan Hyde, Kelly Hyde (Leah), Alex Scokel, Christy Scokel, Evan Paulk; sister-in-law, Gertrude Reynolds. A graveside service was held Friday, November 18, 2005 at 1 p.m. at Elmwood Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials be made to the American Red Cross Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund. Services under the direction of Ridout’s Valley Chapel, 1800 Oxmoor Road, Homewood, AL 35209. (Reprinted from The Birmingham News)

Garden Club News

by Marge Dunn, President

In October we shared a Harvest Dinner at the home of Malak and Marion McNinch. The food was delicious; it was complemented by the loving hospitality and warm fellowship.

After dinner we had a brief business meeting followed by election of officers. In January we will install a new slate of officers and be ready to offer them our help and support.

On November 19th we had a work morning at the Town Hall. We removed summer annuals that were tired and finished off by Jack Frost. We pruned some perennials and removed some overgrown shrubs. We are all amazed at how well things have grown in the gardens at the Town Hall – it is the growingest spot in town.

We wish you all a joy-filled December. May your holidays be blessed with all that you hold dear...faith, family, friends, and most of all, love.

Tip of the Month: It is time to plant new spring flowering bulbs: crocus, hyacinth, anemone, iris, daffodil, tulip and snowdrop. Plant narcissus and cyclamen out of the sprinkler path so they’ll dry out in summer.

Building Permits

submitted by Frazier Christy, Town Engineer

Marc Phillips 5176 Hollow Log Lane
Rogers & Associates for Rodney and Brenda Hill
Carter Homebuilders 116 Indian Gate Circle
Citation Homes Lot 2 Highgate Hill

Interior Renovations
7003 Indian Highland Estates Replacement of exterior siding
New construction
Foundation approval

North Shelby Children's/Teen Department December Happenings

submitted by Tess Bouvier, North Shelby Library
Children's/Teen Department Librarian

The library will be closed 12/23-12/27 and 12/30-12/31
for the Christmas Holidays

Visit our website www.northshelbylibrary.org for more
details or call 439-5504 or email [nsyouth@shelbycounty-
al.org](mailto:nsyouth@shelbycounty-al.org)!

Special Programming

*Wednesday, Dec 14 at 10:45—**Mr. Mac Story-time/Tot's
Christmas Party.** Enjoy an hour of holiday stories and
songs, led by our famous storyteller Mr. Mac, and topped
off by an appearance from a very special "Jolly Christ-
mas" guest!

For all ages:

*Tuesday, Dec 13th at 4:30—**Movie Afternoon.**
Madeline's Christmas. Come and watch this classic movie
to help you get into the holiday spirit! Snacks served.

*Thursday, Dec 15th at 4:30—**Christmas Ornament Craft.**
Are you ready to start decorating your home for the holi-
days? Come and paint your own designs on glass and
wooden ornaments! **Registration Required.** Register early
to guarantee a spot!

For Grades K and up:

*Tuesday, Dec 20th at 4:00—**Polar Express Movie and
Christmas Party.** *All Aboard!!* Come feel the magic of
Christmas! Come to the library to watch the movie **Polar
Express!** Come in your cozy pajamas and get ready to settle
down with hot cocoa, Christmas cookies and cool prizes!
(100 Minutes-G). **Grades K and up. Registration Re-
quired.**

Teen Zone

***Participate in our MONTHLY YA PICK!** Suggest one
of your favorite YA books and we will buy some copies for
the library and have them ready for you all to check out! If
we pick your book to display, we'll throw in a cool gift for
you as a thank you for your help!

***Sign up for the Teen Advisory Group!** Have a say in
what your library does! Call or email Tess—439-5504 or
nsyouth@shelbycounty-al.org.

~Regular Programming~

Mondays, Dec. 5, 12 and 19

Toddler Tales @ 10:30 & 11:30 am

For ages 18-36 months. **Registration required.** You can
call the library at 439-5504 to sign-up or put your name
down for the coming weeks after the program.

Wednesdays, Dec. 7, 14, 21 and 28

Mr. Mac (Storyteller Extraordinaire!) @ 10:45 am

For all ages.

Thursdays, Dec. 1, 8 and 15

P. J. Storytime @ 7 pm For all Ages.

Computer Classes Offered at North Shelby Library

submitted by Michelyn Reid, North Shelby Library
Reference Librarian

We will be offering Computer Classes here at North
Shelby Library starting Tuesday, November 29. The
classes include: Master the Mouse, Email, Introduction to
the Internet for Seniors, Internet for Beginners, Advanced
Searching, Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and a
class on The Alabama Virtual Library targeted for par-
ents.

Classes are free. Registration is required, as space is
limited. Please contact Michelyn Reid at 439-5510
or nsref@shelbycounty-al.org. For a complete schedule go
to www.northshelbylibrary.org and click on the Computer
Class link at the top of the page.

Car Accident on Indian Crest

by Steve Zerkis, Mayor

A single car accident occurred in the 1100 block of Indian
Crest Drive in November. The vehicle skidded off the street
on a curve and hit landscaping before being stopped by a
tree. The airbag deployed and the driver was able to walk
away without serious injury, but his mother's late-model
Mustang convertible was not so lucky. The car was
destroyed on impact. The Shelby County Sheriff's Depart-
ment and the North Shelby Fire Department responded
promptly.



Board of Zoning Adjustments

November 2, 2005

submitted by Brian Stauss, Chair

Called to order at 7:00 PM.

Roll call: Benton Baker, Ralph Bodie, Brian Stauss, Steve Zerkis, Bart Trammell (supernumerary for Monical)

Attending: Lyn Dobbs (Citation Homes, builder), Katy and Clayton Reuse (homeowners), Wayne Jones (resident, Planning and Zoning Chair).

Brian Stauss provided an overview of the variance request from Mr. Dobbs. The foundation of the Reuse home, which is under construction at 470 Highgate Hill, was placed on the lot behind the 40' setback line based on a survey stake at the left front corner of the lot. The right-of-way along the front of the lot veers into the lot rather than paralleling the road, resulting in the right front corner of the home sitting 3.5' inside the setback. Construction was halted pending resolution of the setback. Mr. Dobbs further stated that the house was placed on the lot parallel to the road and far enough back to provide a reasonable buffer for errors in the setback. It is very uncommon for a right-of-way to veer this much from parallel.

Ralph Bodie made a motion to grant the variance. Benton Baker seconded. Motion carried – unanimous. There were no objections from attendees.

Meeting adjourned at 7:12 PM

Beware of Con Artists – Don't be a Victim

by Steve Zerkis, Mayor

Every day people lose their savings or possessions to con artists. They come in all shapes and sizes, can be a man or a woman – they can look just like you or me. What makes them different is that they understand human nature and know exactly what to say and how to take advantage of you.

Don't become a victim! Never open your door to anyone you don't know. If someone says there is utility emergency at your house or in your neighborhood, ask if the Shelby County Sheriff's Department or the North Shelby Fire Department have been notified and are they responding? If not, then immediately call 911 for the Sheriff.

Insist on seeing proper identification from all utility service employees. When verifying the reason they are at your door, **do not** rely on the phone number they provide. If the person at your door is an imposter, the phone number they give you will be that of an accomplice.

When in doubt, call 911 for the Shelby County Sheriff's Department and ask for immediate deputy response. Your phone call may be the only way the Sheriff has to apprehend these criminals.

Reading with your Kids

by Steve Zerkis, Mayor

One of my fondest memories was that of my dad or mom reading stories to me or explaining articles in the newspaper. I'm suggesting that reading to your children throughout the grade school years is a very important way to show them how reading is fun and valuable. The National Education Association agrees and suggests some ideas for parents who have children in kindergarten through third grade:

- Keep reading to your child even when he or she can read. Read books that are too difficult or long for your child to read alone.
- After each chapter, talk about what is happening in the story. Encourage your child to make predictions about what will happen next, and connect characters or events to those in other books or stories.
- Ask your child about what they like to read. Does your child like adventure stories, mysteries, science fiction, animal stories, or stories about other children? Encourage your child to explain the reasons for their preferences.
- Talk with your child about favorite authors and help find additional books by those authors.
- Take turns reading a story with your child. Don't interrupt to correct mistakes that do not change the meaning.
- Talk about the meaning of new words and ideas introduced in books.
- Talk with your child about stories using the notions of the beginning, middle and end of the story to organize thinking and discussion.
- Enjoy yourself and have fun. The most important thing you can do to help your child become a successful reader is to communicate that reading is valuable and enjoyable.

Time to Renew Business Licenses

by Steve Zerkis, Mayor

As a courtesy, the Town Clerk will be sending out ISV business license renewals this month. If you operate a business in any location in Indian Springs Village, including your home, you do need an ISV business license. It is your responsibility to make sure you have a license and that your fees are paid on time. Annual business license fees are due January 1, 2006 and are delinquent after January 31, 2006. No business may operate without a current ISV business license. License applications are available on the Town's website (Indianspringsvillage.org) or from the Town Clerk. Please send your checks to the Town Clerk, City of Indian Springs Village, 2635 Cahaba Valley Road, Indian Springs Village, 35124.