

# The Village Voice



Volume 15, Number 11 Indian Springs Village, Alabama February 14, 2006

## INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday, February 21, 2006 , 7:00 PM

Tuesday, March 6, 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](mailto:ISVillage@aol.com)

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 February edition should be submitted by Wednesday noon, March 1, 2006. 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

### House Work at the Town Hall

Wondering what those trucks are doing at our Town Hall? We had two projects at the Town Hall in January. After Christmas, a gap was noticed between the wall and the floor in the front parlor. The floor was sinking! So a contractor came in, went under the house, saw that one of the floor beams had moved slightly and installed a jack and support to raise the floor back to the proper height. We asked him to come to a Town Council meeting to give us his opinion on the condition of the physical structure of the house. He assured us that there was no sign of dampness, rot or deterioration under the house, and that the wood was in excellent condition. All of this is very good news. The beams that support the floor and planks that make up the sub flooring are all extra wide and substantial. Our intent is to not only maintain your Town Hall in excellent condition but retain and preserve as much of the original structure as possible.

He and Council Member Jack Mendel went on to describe the construction of the Town Hall as a unique southern “dog-trot” house. This was a design common to southern Alabama that took advantage of the prevailing breezes to provide some shade, cooling and ventilation in warm weather, and, of course, lots of places for dogs to sleep.

The second contractor painted a good deal of the interior. The walls of the front parlor, small meeting room, kitchen and center hallway received a fresh coat of paint in a traditional earth tone. The trim was also painted and two windows repaired. Our beautiful Town Hall is looking bright and clean again. A number of framed pictures have been placed in several rooms. The front parlor is looking much more as it might have looked in the early nineteen hundreds.

We invite you to use the Town Hall for your family events and community meetings. We do ask that you take special care of the Town Hall and its furnishings. Hand prints and marks on the walls from anything including tape and tacks are going to be obvious and not welcome. We wouldn't do that in our own homes. So please ask your guests to be careful, especially children. Some of the items of furniture in the front parlor are donated or loaned antiques and need be treated with care. It's your house.

(picture on page 2)

# Town Council Meeting

December 20, 2005

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met on Tuesday, December 20, 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, Brenda Bell Guercio and Jack Mendel. Also present were Chief Financial Officer Paul Stephens, Administrative Assistant Bart Trammell, Planning & Zoning Chairman Wayne Jones, past Mayor Gene Weingarten and wife, Olivia, and past Council Member Patricia Crapet.

The minutes of the December 6, 2005 Council meeting were accepted on a motion by Guercio; seconded by Stauss. The November, 2005 financial report was waived until the January 3, 2006 meeting.

**Robins** announced Margie Robins, along with Alison Stigers, Brenda Guercio, Jayla Long (Brenda's "Little Sister") and Oak Mountain School Counselors Hayden Blumberg and Christy Wade shopped for 35 families representing 66 children within the Oak Mountain elementary and intermediate school system. Funding was provided through the ISV Children's Fund. Thanks to everyone who participated in this worthwhile effort.

**Guercio** reported the Shelby County Humane Society has been given approval to hold their fundraising function at the ISV Town Hall and grounds next spring.

**Stauss** reported there was an ISV annexation committee meeting on November 21. The committee continued discussions regarding an annexation vision for the City. Stauss reported Shelby Food Mart has agreed to allow us to use their facility as one of our four sites for posting of legal notices.

**Stauss** reported the Shelby Food Mart drainage problems adjacent to the highway have been corrected.

**Zerkis** discussed the situation regarding the dumping of dirt and construction debris on the flood plain of a lot at the Caldwell Mill Road/Highway AL 119 intersection and on an adjoining lot on AL 119 owned by Messrs. Maddox.

There was discussion regarding the State Department of Transportation paving Cahaba Valley Road from just east of US 31 to Cahaba Valley Drive which is just west of US 280. This 7 mile project will be let in mid January and should be finished in 60 working days.

**Crapet** announced the Town Hall will be available on a limited basis to ISV villagers until a floor joist problem is corrected.

There was discussion regarding the selection of an auditor for the town.

**Zerkis** recognized Cameron Chandler, Boy Scout Troop 71, who is working on his Citizenship in the Community Badge.

Meeting was adjourned on a motion by Zerkis. Refreshments were enjoyed at the town's Christmas Party following the meeting by all present.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shirley Church, Town Clerk



*Mike Smelser inspecting the floor of the Town Hall*

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## LeAnne Church In the News

LeAnne Church, a resident of Indian Springs and daughter of ISV Town Clerk Shirley Church, addressed the Alabama Association of Rehabilitation Professionals at their January meeting. LeAnne and her brother, Jon Paul, who own Beyond Physical Therapy of Vestavia, LLC, have had much success in getting people who suffer from acute and chronic pain back to work by using their manual therapy procedure, myofascial release.

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Consumers *can* include their cell phone number on the National Do Not Call Registry. When the National Do Not Call Registry was established, it allowed individuals (not businesses) to enroll both their landlines and cell phone numbers on the Registry. To sign up for the National Do Not Call Registry, call 888-382-1222 from the number you want to register or go on line to [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov).

# Rare Indian Springs Hummingbird

by Bob & Martha Sargent

On January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006, I received a phone call from our friend Ginny Lusk of the Indian Springs community. Ginny lives in the area just east of Interstate I-65 off of Highway 119. She called to tell me that she had a hummingbird feeding in her yard and that it was now using a hummingbird feeder that she had cleaned and refilled. I asked and received permission to visit her home the following morning, early, to attempt to capture, identify, band and properly document this unusual hummingbird. Ginny granted permission and we settled on an arrival time of between 8:30 and 9:00 AM the next morning.

As is usually the case, we arrived early on the morning of January 20<sup>th</sup>. Fortunately these fine folks were early risers too. Martha Sargent and I quickly set up our cage wire trap, baited with the hummer feeder that the hummer had been using. The trap door is operated manually by using a length of fishing line. We decided to operate the trip line from inside the area of Ginny's kitchen. We had barely got ourselves seated when the bird came to the trap, entered the open door and was captured in an instant. It is rarely this easy, so I think Ginny worked some of her magic for us.

Martha and I quickly removed this rare hummingbird from the trap and determined it was an immature male Rufous Hummingbird that had hatched in the summer of 2005. It probably hatched in Washington, Oregon, British Columbia or maybe even Southeastern Alaska. We quickly affixed band number 6000C36057 around the tarsus bone, just above the foot. It takes some 5,500 of these tiny numbered aluminum-alloy bands to weigh ONE OUNCE! After the bird was banded, we took a series of measurements, weighed the bird, took a feather sample for future DNA analysis, photographed it extensively and released it back into the yard. This Rufous male weighed 3.39 grams and appeared to be remarkable healthy. To give you some size prospective, one could mail 8 of these tiny beasts for the price of a 39 cent stamp! After being released, this cold-hardy hummer approached the feeder, but was spooked away by our loud conversations as we answered questions for some neighbors and proceeded to load our gear. This Rufous now wears a distinctive iden-

tification feature, an exclusively numbered band. Should it be encountered again by other banders, or by us in future years, we can start to unravel and perhaps better understand the natural history that has evolved between encounters. Perhaps down the road we can define its longevity, as well as better understand the migration and timing and routes of this very special hummingbird.



I would like to thank the Lusk family for their kind hospitality and for giving us the opportunity to include this rare bird in our long-term study.

Bob and Martha Sargent  
The Hummer/Bird Study Group  
PO Box 250  
Clay, Alabama, 35048  
[www.hummingbirdsplus.org](http://www.hummingbirdsplus.org)  
205-681-2888



Mary Bowman, Virginia and Ed Lusk, Martha and Bob Sargent  
Photos supplied by Ralph Bodie

## Letter to the Editor

### Plea from a Concerned Neighbor

This morning, on January 16th, 2006, I opened my garage door so that our cats could go out. I have done this every morning for the past 7½ years that we have lived in Indian Springs. We love the beautiful woods and most of the wildlife that wanders around. However, we make sure all our pets are secure each night and whenever we leave the house. The first thing that we did when we moved into our new home was to make sure that at least half of our 3 acres of land was fenced so that our pets would not be harmed or cause harm to anyone. So as to not hurt the scenery, we made adjustments so that much of the fencing was made of wood and would fit into the woody areas of our surrounding property.

Within minutes of allowing our elderly cats out, one was 23 years old and the other is 18 years old, they had sat down on our driveway outside the garage door to clean themselves. Both were in great condition! I went down to get the paper. Our driveway, like many in the area, is long and our house is off the main road. I got our paper and as I walked back up to my house I heard dogs barking. Two large dogs stood by my garage door and had killed my beautiful 23 year old cat. They had broken her neck and the other cat was up a tree.

I screamed, picked up a long stick and ran to that side of the house. The dogs just stood there barking. I do not think either dog had a collar on. Both were very pretty dogs. One was a grey Weimaraner and the other a Golden Retriever. They finally ran as I got closer, but they did not want to go and they growled as they ran off. I realize that they could very well have attacked me. It does not matter that both dogs in other situations are sweet dogs. They had killed something and they were wanting to protect their right to have it.

I have seen these dogs on many occasions running loose around my house and our back yard. In fact, I believe that they belong to a family that lives in the back of us and they have children, so the dogs probably love to play and have nice homes. I do not blame the dogs for the death of my cat. Owners that allow their dogs to roam loose are the concern. Dogs by nature will usually run after cats and many will want to kill cats. Any time a dog is in a group of two or more, they become more prone to want to chase and kill for the fun of it. Why would dog owners that love their pets allow them to run free and do such damage to other people? After all the news articles on television about dogs attacking people, why are dogs still allowed to run free?

I am quite confused as to the owners reasons for allowing their dogs to roam. Several years ago, I spoke to an owner who told me that she wanted her dog to run free because they were meant to be free and not penned up. Her dog was killed several months later by a car. Dogs are not meant to run free.

Not when they live in areas with other people and in a neighborhood. Within 20 minutes after killing my cat, the dogs came back through the woods and ran down the road and ALMOST got hit by a car coming down Indian Crest! Dogs and cats cross roads and do not look. They do not know anything about boundary lines. They only know what their owners allow them to know or do. If they are allowed to run loose, they will eventually get hit by a car or in my case, kill someone else's pet. They tear up garbage not in the cans, and harass other pets in their fences. They scare other neighbors out in their yards.

Why run the risk of having your pet bite a child or someone out walking or someone just out in their yard? In the last few months, there have been more and more dogs running loose. These are usually large dogs and for the most part, very friendly. I love animals and I hate the thought that they may get killed by a car or get lost. I really hate that my pet of 23 years was taken before her time because other pet owners did not care enough about their pets to keep them up at their own house.

After this occurrence, we will finish fencing all the rest of our acreage in so that these dogs can not come closer to the back of our fence. Hopefully these dogs will become better neighbors, but only if their owners take care of them and keep them up. Please, if you love your pets, keep them at your own house!! If you are the owners of the dogs that killed my cat, I am looking for you. I would like to talk to you about what happened. If any of you know these dogs, you should be aware that they could be dangerous to yourself and/or especially to your pets. These dogs are proven cat killers, no matter how pretty they look.

Thank you,  
An Indian Springs Neighbor  
(name withheld by request)

## Volunteers Needed at Wildlife Center

by Anne G. Miller, Executive Director

Alabama's native wildlife needs your help! Volunteers are urgently needed at the Alabama Wildlife Center to provide care for this year's wildlife orphans so they can return to the wild. Call 663-7930 for more information about the next training session at the Alabama Wildlife Center located in Oak Mountain State Park.

## **New Paving for Cahaba Valley Road**

*by Steve Zerkis, Mayor*

The Alabama Department of Transportation has announced that they have a funded project to repave Cahaba Valley Road (Highway 119) from US 31 to just shy of AL 280. The work will be done mostly this summer. This is not a rebuilding of Highway 119 but a repaving to eliminate all the pot holes and rough areas. The work will be at night from Monday through Friday. Any weekend work may be done during the day. No more than one lane will be closed at a time. They will be scraping or “planing” off about an inch and a half of the old black top and replacing it with new material. The process uses a lot of mechanization and should move along so that the work is done in sixty work days spread over several months. I have been assured that no ones driveway or street will be blocked for more than a few minutes at a time and emergency access will be assured.

This is not the long discussed “Turn Lane” project that we have heard about in the past. That project is designed to add turn lanes at intersections along Highway 119 to improve safety and traffic flow. That project has not been funded but may occur later this year. I’ve been told that there should not be a significant duplication of work between the two projects, and that some repaving may not be done in some areas and left to be completed in the Turn Lane project.

One result of this project is that there will be delays along Cahaba Valley Road while this work is in progress. That’s a fact of life. I suggest we all look at any alternate roads we can use to take our trips. It also means we may need to add a few minutes to our trip times and be as flexible as we can. I’ve been assured that the State will move this work through town as promptly as they can.

## **Inaugural Luncheon for City Clerks**

*by Steve Zerkis, Mayor*

Blue Springs Manor in Vincent was the location of the first luncheon meeting for town and city clerks of Shelby County. Our Town Clerk, Shirley Church, attended this meeting and reported that the clerks are planning to meet quarterly and organize as a group to foster professional development and improved working relationships. Becky Landers, the town clerk of Vincent organized this event and invited State Senator Hank Erwin to be their guest speaker.

## **Building Permits**

*submitted by Frazier Christy, Town Engineer*

Applicant: Keith Johnson

Owner: Robert James and Lorraine Cerfolio

Address: 260 Cahaba Oaks Trail

Proposed use: Replace deck with enclosed area.

## **Volunteers Needed for Annual Easter Egg Hunt**

*by Brenda Bell-Guercio, Council Member*

The ISV Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday April 15th. Please call Brenda Bell-Guercio at 987-2581 to volunteer. Helpers are needed to plan, to order prizes, candy and goodies for the kids and winners; to set up Saturday morning and hide the eggs; to be at the Hunt; to award prizes to winners in each age category; and last but not least—clean-up. Mothers with young children who will be participating are especially encouraged to volunteer in planning so we can have your input in making this worthwhile and fun for the kids.

## **Garden Club News**

*by Lynn Hendricks, President, Indian Springs Garden Club*

Our next meeting will be February 23rd and we will have lunch and tour the new Ross Bridge Complex facility and grounds. We will meet at the ISV Town Hall and car pool to Ross Bridge. Please call me at 988-0099 for more details.

A note about Arbor Day: the Soil and Water Conservation Office, located in Columbiana, will be holding a seedling sale on Saturday, February 25th starting at 8 AM. These are bare root seedlings (not in pots) and prices range from \$1.00 each for things like crepe myrtles, up to \$9.00 for fruit trees that are approximately 4-5 feet tall. There will be a wide variety of seedlings from which to choose, including hydrangeas, grapes, mountain laurels, apples, pears, and honeysuckle. The sale will be held in the parking lot across from the Courthouse on Route 70. You can call the Soil and Water Conservation Office at 669-7136 for more details. Something to keep in mind: last year they were completely sold out by 9 AM!

January presented us with a few spring-like days and some of us have already begun a little spring cleanup. Mid to late February is the time to begin pruning shrubs and to shape and prune summer flowering plants such as hydrangea, abelia, etc. while they are dormant. Remember to leave shrubs just a bit wider at the base than the top for the sun to reach the lower branches. This will prevent the shrub from becoming thin and stalky at the bottom.

# North Shelby Children's/Teen Department

## February Happenings

by Tess Bouvier, Children's/Teen Librarian

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

### Special Programming:

\* **"Readers Break Records!" Winter Reading Olympics.** Stop by the library February 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> to pick up your Winter Olympic Reading Logs! Record any library books in your log (Pictures, EZ Readers or Chapter) that you read up until the reading deadline: **February 23rd**. If you read 1-3 books you will receive a **bronze** medal prize, 4-6 books a **silver** medal prize and 7 books or more and you will receive a **gold** medal prize! **Drop off** your completed reading logs in the Children's department by **February 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Pick up your bronze, silver or gold prize during our **Winter Olympics Reading Party: February 27<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm!** During the party, we will have snacks and some fun Olympics of our own such as the egg and spoon contest, three-legged race and Frisbee toss! **Grades 1-5. Registration Required. Drop-Off.**

### For All Ages:

\*Tuesday, Feb 7 at 4:30- **"Handcrafted from the Heart"** Join us for a mosaic heart craft to celebrate Valentines Day!

### Registration Required.

\*Saturday, Feb 11 at 1:30—**Cinematic Saturday—"March of the Penguins"**. Did you know that February is the end of summer in Antarctica? In February, thousands of penguins will have to begin a battle against the coldest of temperatures to survive! Come and learn more about these majestic creatures in this National Geographic film narrated by Morgan Freeman. **(80 Minutes-G).**

\*Monday, Feb 20 at 2:00 – **WE WANT YOU!** To join us for a craft to celebrate **President's Day!** Come as you are and leave decked out in patriotic gear!

**Registration Required.** Registration begins Thursday, Feb 9<sup>th</sup>.

### Teen Zone

\***February YA Pick: The Clique** novel by Lisi Harrison. Visit our Teen website for information about this cool chick series and other great chick lit titles available for checkout.

\***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, you'll receive a cool gift as a thank you for your help!

\***GRAPHIC NOVELS!!** Attention all graphic novel fans! We recently added a bunch of awesome titles to our collection, to include: **Meridian**, **Ultimate Spider-Man**, **Bone**, **Batman: No Man's Land**, **Elfquest**, **Queen Bee**, **Spider-Man Team Up**

and **W.I.T.C.H.!** Check out our website for cool graphic novel links and more info on our collection.

\***Want to join our Teen Book Discussion Group or sign up for the Teen Advisory Group?** Call or email Tess—439-5504 or [nsyouth@shelbycounty-al.org](mailto:nsyouth@shelbycounty-al.org).

### ~Regular Programming~

#### Mondays, Feb. 6, 13 and 20

Toddler Tales @ 10:30 & 11:30 am

For ages **24-36 months**. **Registration required.** You can call the library at 439-5504 to sign-up. You may begin registration the last Monday of the month for the following month of programs.

#### Wednesdays, Feb. 1, 8, 15 and 22

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

**All ages.**

#### Thursdays, Feb. 2, 9, 16 and 23

P. J. Story time @ 7 pm **All ages.**

## Computer Classes Offered

by Michelyn Reid,

North Shelby Library Reference Librarian

The North Shelby Library offers computer classes free to the public. Please register in advance because space is limited. You can register by emailing or calling Michelyn Reid at [nsref@shelbycounty-al.org](mailto:nsref@shelbycounty-al.org) or 439-5510.

### **FEBRUARY**

Tues., February 7

*Word I*

Wed., February 8

*Word II*

Tues., February 14

*Word III*

Wed., February 22

*Advanced Searching*

Tues., February 28

*Excel I*

### **MARCH**

Wed., March 1

*Excel II*

Tues., March 7

*PowerPoint*

Tues., March 14

*Internet for Beginners*

Wed., March 15

*Advanced Searching*

Tues., March 21

*Word I*

Wed., March 22

*Word II*

Tues., March 28

*Word III*