

The Village Voice



Volume 16, Number 10 Indian Springs Village, Alabama January 9, 2007

INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday, January 16, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 6, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

Agenda

- I. Mayor/Council/Committee Reports
- II. Ordinances and Resolutions
- III. Citizen's Forum

Indian Springs Village Telephone Directory
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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:
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The Village Voice is published the second Tuesday of each month. Articles for publication in the February edition should be submitted by Monday, January 29, 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

Another year has passed, 2006 has gone into the history books and it is hard to believe that 2007 has arrived. As I look back at the past year, it's very important to thank my fellow council members, commission and committee members and the town staff for the countless hours they contributed toward making Indian Springs Village a better place to live and enjoy. Thank you for another outstanding year.

To all of our residents who volunteered and put in hundreds of hours on our commissions, committees and other organizations in the town: Thank you! We couldn't accomplish all that we did, and be the town we are, without your efforts. I know 2006 was a busy year for many of you, with numerous hearings and meetings, but you've made the town better.

And to all the residents who came forward to talk with all of us on various issues, one-on-one and at our public meetings: Thank you for all of your input. We represent you and need your thoughts and ideas to serve better.

Please consider investing some of your time to your town. Your help is appreciated with any of our community and government activities. Call anyone on the Council and see how you can help.

Shelby County is facing many difficult challenges. Its growth has been amazing. A few towns with several hundred residents are now exploding with hundreds and thousands of new homes and businesses which puts a huge strain on resources and the environment. ISV is, and will remain, a quiet, green oasis. That is the way it has been for the last 16 years and we hope it will so remain. The growth that does occur in ISV has been measured and has a low impact on our environment. We want to keep it that way. One result of the county's growth will be the planned turn lane project on Highway 119. I know, we have all heard about it for years and its start dates seem to always be rescheduled, but 2007 looks like it will be the year when this happens. When completed it should make it safer for us to enter and leave Highway 119.

Happy New Year to everyone.

Town Council Meeting

November 21, 2006

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

The Mayor called the roll and noted the presence of Council Members Brian Stauss, Jack Mendel and Mayor Steve Zerkis. Also present were Administrative Assistant Bart Trammell and Planning and Zoning Commission Chair Wayne Jones. There being no quorum, no approvals or decisions could be made.

Mendel said that the financial records need to be reviewed in preparation for our annual audit. He also discussed the drafts of financial procedures he prepared along with a position description and tasks for the bookkeeper. He suggested that we outline a job description for the Town Clerk's position.

Stauss presented a design for a proposed conference table for the Town Council and alternative designs were discussed.

Jones discussed recent Planning and Zoning activities regarding Keith and Jennifer Blanton's annexation of the vacant lot on 145 Cherokee Trail and their petition to combine their two parcels into a single lot. The Blanton's petition is scheduled for the December 12th Planning and Zoning Meeting. The developer of Stagg Run is continuing to work toward satisfying the requirements set by the Planning and Zoning Commission for the proposed development of the Burr property.

Stauss said that the Zoning Board of Adjustment will be meeting on November 30, 2006 to consider the request for a side setback variance at 418 New Hope Mountain Road.

Zerkis recognized the outstanding work by the ISV Garden Club in performing a fall cleanup around the Town Hall and flag pole area. He also mentioned the planned visit from Santa on December 9, and the Christmas and holiday party after the council meeting on December 19.

Zerkis announced that Jack Mendel will become the Financial Officer for the town, and that Hollie Johnson, formerly of Barfield, Murphy, Shank and Smith, has agreed to be the Bookkeeper. We are also actively recruiting for a town clerk. There are six candidates and all will be interviewed.

There was discussion about the continuing need to keep our residents informed of town happenings through the minutes of various meetings, articles in *The Village Voice* and official notices posted around town. Neighbors are encouraged to spread the word where practical.

Will Stokes of Scout Troop 96 was also present as part of his work to obtain his Citizenship Merit Badge.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Zerkis, Mayor

Town Council Meeting

December 5, 2006

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

The Mayor called the roll and noted the presence of Council Members Mayor Steve Zerkis, Brian Stauss, Jack Mendel, Herb Robins and Brenda Bell Guercio. Also present was Administrative Assistant Bart Trammell.

The Town Council minutes of the November 21, 2006 meeting were approved on a motion by Stauss, seconded by Guercio. A review of the minutes of the November 7, 2006 meeting was deferred.

Robins reported that the State is still looking to let bids for the highway 119 turn lane project in January. The council previously discussed inviting state and county engineers to hold a public hearing to inform our residents of their design and scope of work for this project. That public meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 17, 2007. Schedule information will be published in *The Village Voice*.

Robins reported that there may be residential houses on Valleydale within ISV used for businesses, and a property also on Valleydale that appears to be neglected. He will also contact the state engineer about a drainage culvert on Highway 119 that may be blocked.

Mendel presented the October, 2006 financial report. Stauss made a motion to accept, seconded by Mendel, and the motion was approved. Mendel also produced a report that can describe expenses in detail for trend analysis.

Stauss reported as Chair of the Zoning Board of Adjustment that a variance request for an addition to a property at 418 New Hope Mountain Road has been approved. The variance was to the side setback of the property. He also reported that a request has been received for a variance to install a swimming pool on a lot at the corner of Indian Crest and Valley View. Pools are required to be installed in the rear of a house. Because this house is on a corner, there are two front yards, two side yards but no rear yard.

Trammell presented two petitions for annexation. The first is for the Dunn property on Copena. Robins made a motion to waive the rules, seconded by Stauss, to consider the annexation of the Dunn property. The motion passed unanimously. Robins then made a motion to pass the annexation ordinance, seconded by Stauss. The annexation ordinance passed unanimously.

Stauss made a motion to waive the rules, seconded by Robins, to consider the third phase of the Burr property annexation. The motion passed unanimously. Stauss made a motion to adopt the annexation as presented, seconded by Robins. The annexation ordinance passed unanimously.

On a motion by Stauss, seconded by Robins, Bart Trammell was appointed as Town Clerk. This is an interim appointment until the new Town Clerk takes office.

Zerkis reported on the recruiting of a new Town Clerk. After a notice was published in the November issue of *The Village Voice*, a number of candidates responded and six were interviewed. All had excellent experience. Kelly Rasco of Homestead was nominated. Robins made a motion, seconded by Guercio, to elect her to the Town Clerk position. Motion passed.

Zerkis reported that the signature cards on the Town's bank accounts are being updated to reflect the individuals now authorized to sign for the Town.

Meeting was adjourned on a motion by Stauss.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Zerkis, Mayor

Planning and Zoning Commission

Wayne M. Jones, Chair

There were no matters pending before the Commission in November.

The Planning and Zoning Commission met on December 12th in response to a subdivision Final Plat Application filed by Robert K. Blanton and Jennifer L. Blanton. The subject property is located at 145 Cherokee Trail. The application proposed to combine two separate parcels that were located directly behind one another into a single parcel. The petitioner's home is currently located on the parcel that fronts Cherokee Trail. Upon review of the submitted documents, the Planning and Zoning Commission determined that the Blantons had met the minimum standards of the subdivision regulations of Indian Springs Village and approved the Final Subdivision Plan, subject to the submission of the Shelby County required Access Permit. The following week the Shelby County Engineer granted the Access Permit for the existing driveways.

Town Clerk Appointed

by Steve Zerkis, Mayor

I am pleased to announce that Kelly Duncan Rasco has been appointed as our Town Clerk. Kelly and her husband, Brian, and their two children, Katherine and Matthew, live in the Homestead subdivision. Kelly is currently a manager with Regions Financial, and has considerable experience in systems implementation. She has also worked as a consultant with Deloitte, and has owned her own local publishing company. Please join me in welcoming her to her new position.

Building Permits

submitted by Frazier Christy, Town Engineer

Applicant: Brian Davis
Owner: Brian Davis Home, Inc.
Address: 3263 Indian Crest
Proposed Use: New Residence

Applicant: Ron Stokes
Owner: Ron Stokes
Address: 1730 Indian Crest Drive
Proposed Use: Pool Addition

Applicant: Ian Clemmett
Owner: Ian Clemmett
Address: 67 Valley View Lane
Proposed Use: New Barn

Applicant: Butch Billingsley
Owner: Mark Tortorici
Address: 418 New Hope Mountain Road
Proposed Use: Addition

Indian Springs Village Children's Fund

by Alison Stigers, Editor

Thanks to the generous donations of ISV residents and friends, Margie Robins and a group of volunteers were able to purchase clothing and toys for 22 children from 10 families this year, in addition to providing a meal for 10 families.

Donations were received from: Bart and Connie Trammell, Shirley M. Renshaw, Greg and Barbara Bassett, L. M. Martin, Elizabeth K. and Harold D. Swain, Harold Tate, Kathy F. Lane, W. E. and Olivia D. Weingarten, Roger A. and Elizabeth A. Eastman, William M. and Peggy M. Gaines, N. and J. Bondi, Deborah L. and Allen F. Riha, Rosalind S. and Foster Mathews, Jr., Jana M. and Paul Hagan, Jr., Alison H. Stigers, David D. and Jane B. Chaplin, Brenda B. Bell, M.D., Jack M. and Rita D. Mendel, Judge Patricia M. and Jerry C. Smith in honor of Teresa Sims, Barney Butler and Charles Manning., Bob and Judith Konecny, Making Strides of Alabama, Inc. – Jerry Templeton, Keith and Kay Krininger and Dr. Mark and Karan Bailey.

Those who volunteered to shop were: Margie and Herb Robins, Pat Zerkis, Kristi Wade and her mother, son and daughter, and Alison Stigers.

Donations to the ISV Children's Fund are gratefully accepted at any time of year and can be mailed to Herb Robins, 5136 Hollow Log Lane, Birmingham, AL 35244.

Santa Claus Comes To Town

By Tricia Crapet, Town Hall Curator

The great flurry of activity at the Indian Springs Village Town Hall on Saturday, December 9, 2006 could only mean one thing – Santa Claus had come to town! Santa makes his yearly stop in the Village so that ISV’s children can tell him first hand what is on their wish lists, and so that parents can give Santa the real scoop on exactly who has been nice and who has been naughty!

This year, Santa’s visit was heralded by Deputy Stivers of the North Shelby County Sheriff’s Department. Officer Stivers was sent by none other than Sheriff Chris Curry himself to make sure that all little boys and girls, and their families, were kept safe when pulling in and out of Highway 119. No one knows how, but Sheriff Curry and Officer Stivers must have been privy to some elfin intuition in order to know in advance that this would be the largest crowd ever to visit with Santa in the Village. Close to 100 children graced the jolly old elf’s lap while spinning tales of all their Christmas dreams and wishes.

Santa Claus visited with children of all ages, handing out candy canes and little stuffed toys to the wide-eyed children while their parents snapped photos or took videos of the event. Some parents, aunts, uncles, cousins and even grandparents took turns visiting with Santa while making their own grown-up requests for Christmas.

Once again, Mrs. Santa had baked brownies, cupcakes and lots of other delicious goodies for Village families to enjoy while visiting with Santa. Mrs. Santa reported that hardly a crumb was left at the end of the day. The smell of hot mulled apple cider filled the air as friends and neighbors spent the day enjoying each other’s company, and especially being relieved that they would not have to stand in line at the mall for hours to get a glimpse of what must only be one of Santa’s helpers, and not Santa himself!

Look for Santa to return to ISV for a visit on Saturday, December 8, 2007. Mark your calendars, and get those wish lists started early!



Busy Santa compares his list with that of the children. Hannah, Nick and Jacob, children of John and Laura Fiveash. Santa thanks Deputy Stivers for a job well done in traffic control.

Yale Glee Club Performance at Indian Springs School

Submitted by Katie Cruce Hathcock, Assistant Director of Development

Indian Springs School (ISS) welcomes the Yale Glee Club for a special performance on Sunday, January 7, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the ISS Concert Hall. A \$5.00 donation is suggested.

As one of the leading collegiate choral ensembles in the United States, the Yale Glee Club has brought its gift of song to audiences around the world. The Yale Glee Club is an eighty-voice mixed chorus under the direction of Jeffrey Douma. The Glee Club’s 2007 Winter Tour will feature works by Gabrielli, Rossini, Copland and other composers, new works by young American composers Caroline Mallonee and Jenni Brandon, as well as folk songs, spirituals and traditional Yale songs.

The Yale Glee Club began with thirteen men from the class of 1863, often singing to the accompaniment of banjos and guitars. In 1921, Marshall Bartholomew began a 32-year tenure as director, adding serious classical music to the repertoire for the first time. The Yale Glee Club soon became synonymous with male chorus singing at its finest. Mr. Bartholomew’s retirement in 1953 brought Fenno Heath to the directorship of the Club, under whose baton it grew and evolved into the chorus of men and women which it is today. Dr. Douma was appointed director in 2003, becoming the group’s seventh leader in 144 years.

Zoning Board of Adjustment Meeting

by Brian Stauss, Chair

The ZBA met on November 30th to consider a request from Mr. Marc Tortorici to build an addition to the left front of his home (418 New Hope Mountain Road) that would extend to approximately 7 feet from the property line – 13 feet inside the 20 foot setback. The left front corner of the home is currently 14.4 feet from the property line, or 5.6 feet inside the setback (this was allowed due to grandfathering at the time of the city's incorporation). Due to architectural design concerns in the home and topography issues behind the home (steep slope and water management concerns), a variance was granted.

Zoning Board of Adjustment Meeting

by Brian Stauss, Chair

The ZBA met on December 14th to consider a request from Mr. Charles King to build a 24' x 28' woodworking shop at the rear of his property (7005 Indian Ridge Drive). Because of the topography of the land and water runoff concerns, Mr. King preferred to place the shop within the rear 20 foot setback. A variance was granted to allow placement of the shop 5 feet inside the rear setback.

Lost and Found

by Brian Stauss

A gray OLV sweatshirt, size "youth medium", was found at the Town Hall shortly after Santa's visit on December 9th. Please call Brian Stauss (987-9997) or email brian@indianspringsvillage.org to claim.

The Day of the Giant Peach!

by Tess Bouvier, North Shelby Library Children's Librarian

Join the North Shelby Library and the Alabama Shakespeare Festival for a fun-filled day of face-painting, coloring, costume trunk and giveaways! Also, learn about the upcoming ASF production of Roald Dahl's classic tale of an enormous fruit! (Otherwise known as "James and the Giant Peach".) The movie *James and the Giant Peach* will follow at 1:00 p.m.!

Saturday, January 6th 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. All ages. Refreshments served.

The Town Flag

by Steve Zerkis, Mayor

The next time you are in the Town's Council Chamber please take a look at our new Town flag. This flag was created, donated and presented to you and your Town Council by former Council Member Tricia Crapet. Gold fringe has been added and it now has taken its place with our US and Alabama State flags. It is dark green in color with the seal of the Town. Thank you again to Tricia for the flag and her service to the town.

School Bus Safety

by Steve Zerkis, Mayor

A few weeks ago, I saw something happen with one of our yellow school buses on Highway 119. A school bus was stopped on 119 near Arrowhead Lane with its lights flashing and its STOP sign displayed. Of course we all know we are supposed to stop in both directions until the bus moves again. In this case, while several students were being discharged, a white pickup came past in the opposite direction and ran the stop signals. A number of motorists honked at him and he did slow down. He was lucky he did not injure anyone. The point is, please remind your children to ALWAYS look both ways before crossing the street – any street. Luckily, there are relatively few accidents involving school buses, but it only takes one idiot to destroy a life.

Garden Club News

by Lynn Hendricks, President, Indian Springs Garden Club

Happy New Year to Everyone from the Garden Club!

It may be snowing by the time you receive this issue of *The Village Voice*; however, as I write this note, it is one beautiful day! We have had several of these of late, and it was a good time to finish up fall cleanups, shredding the last leaves that fell, prepare beds for spring and get those last minute bulbs into the soil ASAP if you want them to bloom this spring. Remember to water at least one inch per week for any newly planted shrubs or fall annuals when there is no rain.

Tip of the month: Spray deciduous shrubbery with dormant mixture to control diseases and insects. Also, it is a good time for a soil test before preparing the soil for spring. Visit your local nurseries for a soil testing kit.

North Shelby Children's/Teen Department

January Happenings

The Library will be closed January 15th in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Special Programming

The Month of January: "New Books in the New Year" Help us ring in the New Year with new books! North Shelby Library will have new books ready for check-out every day of the month!

Saturday, January 6th – 11:00-1:00 – "James and the Giant Peach Celebration" Presented by the Alabama Shakespeare Festival. Join the North Shelby Library for a day of fun for the whole family. Enjoy face painting, the ASF costume truck, refreshments and more! The movie, *James and the Giant Peach* will be at 1:00!

January 8th-21st: "Heroes in American History" In honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, we want to know who your American hero is. Write down your pick's name and why and we will give you a prize!

Monday, January 8th, 22nd and 29th: "Sit, Stay, Read!" A non-profit organization through Hand-in-Paw dedicated to providing volunteer services to children. Sit, Stay, Read! brings children together with specially trained therapy animals to help them gain more confidence in their reading abilities in an individual setting at the North Shelby library that is supportive, relaxed, and furry! All Ages. Registration Required. Call or email Tess at 439-5504 or nsyouth@shelbycounty-al.org for more information.

Tuesday, January 16th at 4:00 – "Craft: Flowerpot Polar Bears" Brrrrrr.....it's cold outside! What better animal to make in January than a chilly polar bear? Stay warm at the North Shelby Library and decorate a polar bear flowerpot! All Ages Welcome. Registration required. Call or email Tess at 439-5504 or nsyouth@shelbycounty-al.org for more information.

Thursday, January 25th – 1:00-2:00 - "Author Adventures" A story time/craft club for children of all ages. Each month, one author is highlighted. For January, we will read picture books by Jan Brett! Brett's wintertime stories and illustrations from such books as *The Mitten* and *Gingerbread Baby* will delight children of all ages. We'll be making our own mittens and gingerbread men and testing our imaginations! We'll also talk about nature, winter, animals, and different cultures! This program meets once a month on Thursday. All ages welcome. Registration required. Call or email Tess at 439-5504 or nsyouth@shelbycounty-al.org for more information.

Story-Time Programming

Toddler Tales

Mondays, January 8th, 22nd and 29th - 10:30 & 11:30 a.m. 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. Ages 24-36 months. Registration required – call the Children's Department at 439-5504 to sign up.

Mr. Mac (Storyteller Extraordinaire!)

Wednesdays, January 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th at 10:45 a.m.

P. J. Story time

Thursdays, January 11th, 18th and 25th at 7 p.m.

Bring your favorite snuggly and listen to Ms. Kristy's stories and enjoy cookies and milk. All ages welcome.

Teen Scene

January 8th at 6:00 – Teen Advisory Group and Book Club

Would you like to have a say in what goes on at your library? Then join the Teen Advisory Group! We will be taking recommendations for the teen collection, planning future activities and finding out what teens want at the North Shelby Library! We will also be meeting to discuss the book club pick *Sammy Keyes and the Sisters of Mercy* by Wendelin Van Draanen and choosing a book for our next book club meeting! Call or email Katie at 439-5504 or katie.guerin@gmail.com

The Month of January – Online Book Club

Want to learn more about a book? Join our Online Book Club and receive portions of our Teen Book Pick through your email. You will receive emails about a new book each week! We also have copies of the featured book for you to check out next time you visit the library. Sign up on our website to get started!

North Shelby Library Computer Classes

submitted by Michelyn Reid, North Shelby Library Reference Librarian

All classes are free of charge. Registration required. For more information or to register for classes please contact Michelyn at 439-5510 or nsref@shelbycounty-al.org.

Classes are from 8:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

January

Tues. Jan 6 - Intro to Word I

Wed. Jan 7 - Intro to Word II

Tues. Jan 23 - Intro to Word III

Wed. Jan 24 - Intro to Internet for Seniors

Tues. Jan 30 - Intro to Excel I

Wed. Jan 31 - Intro to Excel II

February

Tues. Feb 6 - Intro to the Internet for Beginners

Wed. Feb. 7 - Intro to PowerPoint

Tues. Feb 13 - TBA

Tues. Feb 20 - Intro to Word I

Wed. Feb. 21 - Intro to Word II

Tues. Feb 27 - Intro to Word III

Wed. Feb 28 - Intro to Internet for Seniors