

The Village Voice



Volume 19, Number 9

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

December 4, 2009

INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday, December 15, 2009 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 5, 2010 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 327-8791

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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Birmingham, Alabama, 35244; Tel: 253-1605,
Fax: 949-6279, or e-mail: alison@indianspringsvillage.org.

The Village Voice is published the first week of each month. Articles for the January edition should be submitted by Friday, January 1, 2010. 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*

It's December and our town is having two wonderful events for everyone.

The first event is the annual visit by Santa. Santa Claus will travel to ISV and be at our Town Hall on Saturday, December 12, 2009. He is expected to arrive by 1:00 p.m. and take off at 4:00 p.m. Santa will be in the front parlor next to our fireplace and is looking forward to meeting all the children in town, of all ages. Make sure your children bring their wish lists and that you bring your cameras for some great photos. It's fun just to see all the smiling faces. Again, this wonderful day is hosted by the Crapet family and I am grateful to them for all of their efforts.

The second event is our Annual Holiday Party that follows our council meeting on Tuesday, December 15, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to come and meet their neighbors and friends. We invite you to bring your favorite pastries, cakes and holiday goodies to share. There will be refreshments for all.

When parking at the Town Hall, I encourage you to park on the flag pole side. As I write this, we have only one driveway open.

You will also see an article in this issue about our annual Indian Springs Village Children's Fund. This year we are trying to help about twenty local children have a warm Christmas morning. All food, clothing and toys are purchased by your neighbors who volunteer to help do this program. You can help them with a donation to the ISV Children's Fund sent care of our Town Hall. All charities need help, but this one is very close to home and your support is most appreciated.

No need to tell you more about the Highway 119 project. The construction crews are blocking a lane almost every day as they now work the north side of the road. We are having driveways cut, shoulders plowed up and asphalt put down and it's taking a lot more time to get through town, but I think the result will be well worth it.

On behalf of the ISV Town Council and everyone who helps with the town, I wish you all a very happy and safe holiday season.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Town Council Meeting

October 20, 2009

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met at 7:00p.m. at the Town Hall pavilion. The Mayor called the meeting to order and the City Clerk called the roll. Stewart Dudley did not attend the meeting.

The September 15 meeting minutes were reviewed. Mendel made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Bell-Guercio. The October 6 meeting minutes were also reviewed. Bell-Guercio made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Stauss. Both motions were accepted unanimously.

Mendel requested that the financial report be reviewed at the next meeting.

Mayor Zerkis presented the new sheriff services contract and noted that it was identical to the previous year's contract except for the increase in cost that was previously discussed. Bell-Guercio motioned that the contract be accepted, seconded by Robins. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Mayor Zerkis discussed the upcoming Oak Mountain schools grants. He has contacted all the principals and asked for request letters for the grants.

Zerkis stated that he wants a meeting with Charter representatives regarding the renewal of their franchise agreement. He would like to request community access for area schools and government. Reggie Holloway of Shelby County is also making the same request for the County.

There is an upcoming vote before the Shelby County Commission to accept the new International Building Code. Once the County accepts it, the City will motion to do the same.

Mayor Zerkis adjourned the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Rasco, City Clerk

Town Council Meeting

November 3, 2009

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. The Mayor called the meeting to order and the City Clerk called the roll. Brian Stauss did not attend the meeting.

The October 20 meeting minutes were reviewed. Mendel made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Bell-Guercio. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Mendel presented the September financial report. He noted that the report covered through the last month of fiscal 2009 and that there would likely be some

adjustments. Mendel reported that we were significantly over budget in engineering fees and presented a Memo for Record: Financial Footnote regarding the 2370 Cahaba Valley Road property. The memo recaps the meeting minutes in which the Council voted to increase the budget for engineering fees in the amount of \$8,900 for due diligence on the 2370 Cahaba Valley Road property. Dudley suggested adding to the financial report the names of the banks where each fund is held. Mendel made a motion to endorse the financial report, seconded by Bell-Guercio. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Robins reported that the Highway 119 lane shifts have been started. Paving is taking place between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. The project may possibly be completed in late February or early March, depending on the weather. He has asked the contractor to check for potholes and line of sight problems. He suggested that if residents notice these problems, to contact him and he will contact the appropriate personnel. Per Gary Ray, ALDOT, the culverts have been increased in size. Robins also noted a small sinkhole on the shoulder in front of Dudley's property that is scheduled to be repaired. Robins spoke with Scott Holladay, Shelby County engineer, regarding the request for the No Outlet sign on Indian Forest Trail. Zerkis stated that there are also signs to be replaced on Spring Garden. A resident of Spring Garden South thanked the Council on behalf of everyone on the street for having their road repaved. Mendel noted a new stop sign on Deer Mountain where it intersects Indian Trail. Another resident asked about the missing sign at Indian Trail and 119. Robins will call and ask the status.

Mendel received an email from former administrative assistant Trammell regarding the upcoming expiration of Bob Thomas' 6-year term on the Educational Building Authority. Mendel spoke with Thomas and he has agreed to serve another term. Mayor Zerkis will prepare a formal letter to the Council regarding the committee appointments. Dudley made a motion to reappoint Thomas as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Education Building Authority for another 6-year term, commencing at noon, the second Monday of November, 2009 and will extend until Monday, November 9, 2015. Mendel seconded the motion. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Mayor Zerkis stated an article about the Children's Fund will be coming out in the next issue of *The Village Voice*. He will also prepare an article for the December issue.

Zerkis gave an update on the school grant requests. He has received a letter from Oak Mountain Elementary and is waiting for the other 3 schools to respond. The Mayor read the request letter from principal Darby at OMES and made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Robins. The motion was unanimous by roll-call vote. Mendel motioned to give a \$4,000 grant to OMES, seconded by Robins. The motion was accepted unanimously.

There was a discussion about the number of cell towers in the City.

The owner of the property at 119 and Caldwell Mill contacted City Engineer Christy inquiring if he could use his property for Christmas tree sales or furniture sales. Christy told him no, because the property is zoned residential. He also told the property owner he cannot accept construction debris on his property.

Mayor Zerkis adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Rasco, City Clerk

Building Permits

submitted by Frazier Christy, Town Engineer

Applicant: Alton Castleberry
Owner: Alton Castleberry
Address: 123 Castleberry Road
Proposed Use: Foundation Survey Form Approved

Applicant: Archideck of Birmingham – John Crews
Owner: David and Susan Price
Address: 109 Old Post Road
Proposed Use: Remodel Deck

Applicant: Jonathan Lind
Owner: Jonathan Lind
Address: 250 Indian Trail Road
Proposed Use: Electrical Service Upgrade – Heat Pumps

Roaming Dogs

by Steve Zerkis, Mayor

I hate to bring this up but I've gotten calls about pairs of dogs roaming neighborhoods in at least two parts of town. They also are attacking other dogs in their own yards. **Please keep your dogs on your property. That is state law.**

If a dog is aggressive, the Sheriff's office will be called to look at the situation and take what action is needed. The dog may end up at the humane society facility for processing. I hope you don't want that. I love dogs as do most people but your dogs need to stay on your property, please.

TOPS Weight Loss Support Group Meetings

"Take Off Pounds Sensibly" Meeting each Tuesday, two groups offer morning (10:30 a.m.-12:00 noon) or evening (5:30-7:00 p.m.) times at St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church on Highway 119 in Indian Springs Village. For the morning group, call 995-2166 or 408-9340; for the evening group, call 563-9840 or 408-1517.

Town Hall Grounds Drainage Improved

by Steve Zerkis, Mayor

Shelby County just completed a project to improve the handling of storm water runoff going through the grounds behind the Town Hall. The existing channel had eroded and deteriorated and could not handle the runoff from major storms.

State Representative Mary Sue McClurkin of ISV was kind enough to help the town obtain funds for this important project. We appreciate the work she and the CAWACO RC&D (CAhaba, WArrior and COosa rivers and Resourse Conservation and Development Council) organization have done to make this happen. Several engineering reviews were conducted and Randy Cole, the Shelby County Engineer, and his staff suggested a design that would enable the channel to handle an increased water load without overloading down-stream facilities along Highway 119. Council Member Herb Robins worked with the county on the design and monitoring of the actual work. If you have a chance to look at the area, you'll see that there has been some widening, and more rip rap stone has been placed to reduce erosion and slow the rate of water flow. Frankly, it also looks much better.

Updates at the Town Hall

by Steve Zerkis, Mayor

Widening of Highway 119 will mean that we will be losing some of the ground in front of the Town Hall. The grassy shoulder and ditch will disappear and the highway will be just that much closer to our front stairs and porch. The contractors have already dug out a deep trench to prepare the area for paving and a shoulder.

For your safety, I ask that you park on the flag pole side of the Town Hall and use the side stairs to get to the front door. I also ask that you no longer park directly in front of the Town Hall steps. You will be only a couple of feet from the highway traffic and it won't be safe to get in and out of your vehicle.

After the state finishes the highway work, we will be looking at making some changes in our parking area for your convenience and safety.

If you've been to the Town Hall lately, you might have noticed that the kitchen area has new appliances. That includes a full-sized microwave over the stove, a new stove and refrigerator. The old units fell victim to a power surge and plain old age. There is now more counter space for food preparation and serving.

A suggestion about our new bathroom: the new toilet must meet current design standards which means it is also the kind that uses only a small amount of water per flush. So please be sensitive to the need to occasionally flush it again for the next user.

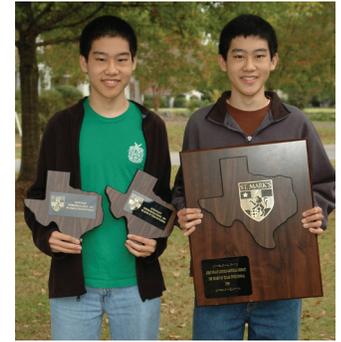
Indian Springs School Students, Brothers, Shine in National Debate Tourney

submitted by Melanie Kieve, Assistant Director of Development

Indian Springs School (ISS) juniors and brothers, Jeff and Larry Liu, made their mark on the 2009 Heart of Texas Invitational Speech and Debate Tournament, a leading national tournament hosted by St. Mark's School of Texas in Dallas October 22-25.

Larry Liu won the tournament's Lincoln-Douglas Debate, a one-on-one debate placing emphasis on logic, ethical values and philosophy and named for the famous 1858 debates on slavery between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas. With his win, he qualifies for the Tournament of Champions, the national championship of speech and debate, to be held in May.

Jeff Liu also excelled in the Heart of Texas competition, being named a Lincoln-Douglas Debate Octofinalist, or top 16 finalist, as well as Fourth Speaker, given to the fourth place finisher in terms of speaking ability.



(from left)- Jeff and Larry Liu

New Courier Needed

by Alison Stigers, Editor

This is becoming a monthly event! Staci Torgerson and her family are leaving Indian Springs, so we are in need of a new courier for her route – Indian Crest from Mountain Park to Arrowhead. We'd like to thank Staci for her help and wish her good luck in her move. We did have some extra volunteers for Bart Trammell's route; are you interested in taking this one on? Please contact me at 253-1605.



DECEMBER 2009

HEARDMONT PARK SENIOR CENTER

5452 Cahaba Valley Road, Birmingham, Alabama 35242

Hours: Monday—Friday 9a.m.—3p.m.

Phone: 991-5742 Fax: 991-5657 Email: heardmontpark@hotmail.com

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
*\$2 per person suggested meal donation *Please reserve your meals one week in advance *Outings are limited to 12 so be sure to sign up early	10-11 Exercise w/Janice 1 11-12 Bible Study 12 Lunch 12:15 New Options In Cataracts w/Vision First 1-3 Decorate Center	9-12 Bridge Club 2 11-11:45 Pilates 12 Lunch *1-2 Ballroom Dancing—RUMBA	10-11 Exercise w/Donna 3 10:30-1:30 WalMart & Lunch Outing 12 Lunch 1-3 Let's Wii—Bowling *1-3 Acrylic Art Class	9-10:30 Intermediate Line Dancing 4 10:30-11:30 Beginning Line Dancing 12 Lunch
9:30-10:30 Tai Chi 7 9:30-12 Mah Jongg 11:30-3 Canasta 12 Lunch	10-11 Exercise w/Janice 8 11-12 Bible Study 12 Lunch 11:45 Health South presents Health & Stroke Tips	9-12 Bridge Club 9 11-11:45 Pilates 1-2 Ballroom Dancing *9-2 Ink & Blood Exhibit in Gadsden Outing	No Exercise Class 10 11:30 Quarterly Carry In Luncheon w/ the Seasoned Performers presented by Columbia Cottages	9-10:30 Intermediate Line Dancing 11 10:30-11:30 Beginning Line Dancing 12 Lunch
9:30-10:30 Tai Chi 14 9:30-12 Mah Jongg 11:30-3 Canasta 12 Lunch	10-11 Exercise w/Janice 15 11-12 Bible Study 12 Lunch *10-2 Our Daily Bread w/ shopping at J Allen's Outing	9-12 Bridge Club 16 11-11:45 Pilates 12 Lunch *1-2 Ballroom Dancing—RUMBA	10-11 Exercise w/Donna 17 11-12 Handbells Performance by Greenbriar at The Altamont 12 Lunch *1-3 Acrylic Art Class	9-10:30 Intermediate Line Dancing 18 10:30-11:30 Beginning Line Dancing 12 Lunch End of Toys for Tots Drive
9:30-10:30 Tai Chi 21 9:30-12 Mah Jongg 11:30-3 Canasta 12 Lunch	10-11 Exercise w/Janice 22 11-12 Bible Study 12 Lunch 1:00 Ornament Exchange (\$5-\$10 limit)	9-12 Bridge Club 23 11-11:45 Pilates 12 Lunch *1-2 Ballroom Dancing—RUMBA	24 Center Closed Until January 4th	25 Merry Christmas
28 CLOSED	29 CLOSED	30 CLOSED	31 CLOSED	AARP Driving Class coming in January Watch for new exercise classes in January

ISV Children's Fund *by Kelly Rasco*

Each Christmas, the ISV Children's Fund is used to provide gifts and clothing for less fortunate children who attend schools within Indian Springs Village. Without our help, these children may not experience the joy of Christmas.

Each year, school counselors provide an ISV volunteer with the wish lists of several children. The lists typically include toys and clothing and sometimes household needs. A shopping trip is organized, and the lists are distributed to the volunteer shoppers. If you are interested in participating, contact Herb and Margie Robins at 980-9217 or via email, herb@indianspringsvillage.org, to volunteer.

By using volunteers for activities associated with the Children's Fund, there are no administrative costs. Therefore, every dollar donated goes towards the cost of the gifts and clothing requested by the children we support. Donations have decreased over the last three years. As the Christmas season approaches, please consider making a donation to the Children's Fund. Checks should be made payable to ISV Children's Fund and mailed to ISV Children's Fund, 2635 Cahaba Valley Road, Indian Springs, AL 35124.

Arts Calendar Indian Springs

School *submitted by Melanie Kieve, Assistant Director of Development*

INDIAN SPRINGS SCHOOL STAGE BAND CONCERT

1/7/2010 7:00 p.m.

Location: Indian Springs School John Badham Theater,

190 Woodward Drive, Indian Springs

Contact: Jim Ellington, (205) 332-0597,

jellington@indiansprings.org

INDIAN SPRINGS SCHOOL CHOIR CONCERT WITH

ALABAMA YOUTH SYMPHONY

1/24/2010 3:00 p.m.

Location: Indian Springs School Concert Hall,

190 Woodward Drive, Indian Springs

Contact: Dr. Tim Thomas, (205) 332-0612,

tthomas@indiansprings.org

INDIAN SPRINGS SCHOOL CHOIR CONCERT

1/28/2010 12:30 p.m.

Location: Advent Episcopal School, Birmingham, Alabama

Contact: Dr. Tim Thomas, (205) 332-0612,

tthomas@indiansprings.org

In Memoriam

Christopher A. Campisi "Sarge", age 88, of Indian Springs passed away on Tuesday, November 10, 2009. He was preceded in death by his parents, Cosimo and Giovanna Campisi; brothers, Joe, Pete and Sammy Campisi; sisters, Virginia Sicola, Pauline DeJohn, Tina Rainelli, Angelina Scalici. Sarge was a graduate of Ensley High School and proudly served in the Third Marine Division of the United States Marine Corp during WW II in the Pacific Arena. Sarge participated in action against the enemy at Empress Augusta Bay, Bouganville, British Solomon Islands and received the Purple Heart. Sarge was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Marine Corp on April 26, 1947. He retired from the U.S. Postal Service as a Postal Carrier after 30 years of service. Survivors include his devoted wife of 63 years, Sarah; son, Coco Campisi; daughter, Jeanette Campisi-Snyder (Dave); son, Samuel Campisi (Janet); grandsons, David Cris Campisi and Ryan Christopher Campisi; granddaughter, Lauren Elizabeth Campisi; sister, Rosalie Sperando (Johnny); and numerous nieces and nephews. A funeral Mass was held on Saturday November 14, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at Our Lady of The Valley Catholic Church, with interment following at Elmwood Cemetery. Monsignor Rohling officiated.

17th Annual Holiday Craft and Bake Sale

by Janet Byars, Development Assistant

December 5, 2009, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Alabama Wildlife Center

Oak Mtn. State Park, 100 Terrace Drive

Each year the Alabama Wildlife Center helps an average of 2,500 of Alabama's native wildlife. The last year has been especially difficult financially due to the recession. ALL proceeds from the Craft and Bake Sale will directly benefit the Alabama Wildlife Center. The sale will feature: nature themed crafts such as ornaments, decorations, fashion items, bird feeders and houses; homemade jams, jellies, cookies, breads, gingerbread houses; artwork of wildlife and nature. There will also be children's activities, face painting and photos with Santa from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Free entry after Oak Mountain State Park admission.

Halloween Candy Buy Back Update!!

Dr. Lisa Wilson and staff would like to thank our wonderful community for the tremendous response to our 1st annual "Candy Buy Back" for Operation Gratitude. As a result, we collected approximately 230 pounds of candy, 971 Beanie Babies and a variety of others items from our troops' wish list. We appreciate your support and look forward to next year. It will be fun to see how we smash these totals. At any time, you can look on <http://www.opgratitude.com/> for items and / or ideas to help our men and women who serve in our great country's military.

December Happenings *by Cecelia Dean,* *North Shelby Library Youth Services Department*

The library will be closed December 23-25th in observance of Christmas, and December 31st in observance of New Years.

Special Programming

Mondays, December 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th – 3:15-4:15 p.m.: “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 dogs 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 the Children’s Department at 439-5504 or NorthShelbyYouth@gmail.com for more information.

Saturday, December 5th – 9:00-10:30 a.m.: “Breakfast with Santa.” Join us for a great time of food, fun and pictures. Breakfast will be from 9:00-9:30 a.m. Pictures with Santa and a Christmas craft will be 9:30-10:30 a.m. Registration will begin on November 5th. Registration required. All ages. \$5.00 fee per child due at time of registration. Call or email the Children’s Department at 439-5504 or NorthShelbyYouth@gmail.com for more information.

Tuesday, December 15th – 4:00 p.m.: “Craft – Reindeer Bucket.” Come make this super cute craft that can hold candy, pencils or whatever your heart desires. All ages. Registration required. Registration begins December 1st. Call or email the Children’s Department at 439-5504 or NorthShelbyYouth@gmail.com for more information.

Wednesday, December 16th – 1:00 p.m.: “Homeschool Hangout Holiday Party.” Come hang out with other homeschoolers, play games, eat good food and have a great time! Ages 8-12. Registration required. Call or email the Children’s Department at 439-5504 or NorthShelbyYouth@gmail.com for more information.

Saturday, December 19th – 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. “Christmas Movie Marathon.” Join us for a marathon of your favorite Christmas movies. Drop in any time between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. and see if your favorite is playing, or discover a new favorite. All ages. Refreshments served.

Story-Time Programming

Toddler Tales

Mondays, December 7th, 14th, and 21st – 10:30 & 11:30 a.m.: Stories, songs, fingerplays and crafts make up a lively 30 minute program designed especially for short attention spans. Registration will begin one week – on Monday – prior to each storytime. Ages 19-36 months. Registration required. Call the Children’s Department at 439-5504 to sign up.

Baby Tales Story Time

Tuesdays, December 8th and 22nd – 10:30-11:00 a.m.
A story time designed especially for babies and their caregivers. Stories and music provide interaction for the babies and time for caregivers to talk and share with each other. No siblings please. Ages: Birth to 18 months. Registration required. Registration begins two weeks prior to program date. Call the Children’s Department at 439-5504 to sign up.

Mr. Mac (Storyteller Extraordinaire!)

Wednesdays, December 2nd, 9th, 16th and 30th at 10:45 a.m. Special Mr. Mac Christmas Party on December 16th. Stories, puppets and lots of music for every member of the family. All ages. No registration required.

P. J. Story Time

Thursdays, December 3rd, 10th and 17th at 7:00 p.m.
Come in your PJs, have milk and cookies and hear some wonderful bedtime tales. All ages. No registration required.

Teen Scene @ NSL

Wednesday, December 9th – “Chill Out Movie Night” 6:00-8:00 p.m. We will be showing “The Elf” featuring Will Ferrell. Join us for Christmas cupcakes, cocoa and a fun Christmas movie! For more information call Lori or Katie at (205)439-5512 or email nsyouth@shelbycounty-al.org.

Teen Book Pick of the Month – *Let it Snow: Three Holiday Romances* by John Green, Maureen Johnson and Lauren Myracle. What do a Christmas Eve snowstorm, 14 perky cheerleaders, a Waffle House and a guy covered in tin foil have in common? Answer: these romantic holiday stories. Through an interconnected cast of characters set in one small southern town, each author reveals a serendipitous night in the life of a particular teen. Tender without being mushy, these carefully crafted stories of believable teen love will leave readers warm inside for the holidays. (*From School Library Journal*)

Online Book Club

Want to find another teen book to read? Join our Online Book Club and receive portions of a teen book each week through your email! Sign up at www.northshelbylibrary.org to get started!

Be a Part of the 2010 Census Team

by Roberta Sharpe, Recruiting Assistant

The U.S. Census Bureau is now hiring nationwide for the 2010 Census. These temporary, part-time jobs offer good pay, flexible evening and weekend hours up to 40 hours a week, and the chance to work near home. Workers are needed in almost every community. Call 1-866-861-2010 or visit www.2010censusjobs.gov to learn more. That number again is 1-866-861-2010.

Steps to Cleaner Water

by David Henderson, Assistant Town Engineer

Many residents of Indian Springs Village are not aware of the efforts that Shelby County is putting forth everyday to help sustain the environment. One important component for a sustainable environment is keeping our streams and lakes clean and pristine. The Clean Water Act requires that all municipalities have in place a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) a federal program designed to eliminate storm water pollutant discharges to receiving waters of the United States. Shelby County has set up a MS4 permitted through the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) and Indian Springs Village is a part of this program along with the Cities of Alabaster, Helena, Moody, Pelham, the State of Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources-State Parks Division, and the State of Alabama Department of Transportation. Shelby County acts as lead permittee for the Shelby County MS4 permit. The goal is to reduce Non-Point Source (NPS) pollution which occurs from rain run-off from various sites. One of my duties as a representative of Indian Springs Village is to work with Shelby County to make sure the Village is in compliance with the MS4. So far so good, but know we are asking you, the public, to give us a hand. There are several things that you can do to reduce Non-Point Source pollution from around your home and yard.

- Report pollution. If you see a construction site that has run-off, a road that has litter or any type of spill, call Shelby County Environmental Services at 205-669-3737.
- Don't litter. Litter and debris can wash into the stream and tributaries eventually polluting the Cahaba River.
- Properly dispose of yard waste. Yard waste such as leaves and grass clippings that wash into drains and streams will biodegrade. As bacteria decompose these organic materials, they utilize the oxygen in the water and cause a strain on the aquatic life in the stream.
- Be responsible when washing your car. Take your car to a car wash facility or wash it in your yard over the grass. Don't wash your car on concrete or asphalt driveway as the water will run into the storm drain increasing the amount of detergents that enter the stream.
- Reduce pesticides, herbicides and fertilizer. Follow manufacturer's recommendations for dosage and don't overspray onto concrete or pavement. Don't apply just before a rain – the majority will run off into the drain or stream and will not help your lawn.
- Prevent oil from entering the storm drains or streams. Take your vehicle to an oil change facility or properly dispose of oil products if you do it yourself. Fix oil leaks on your vehicle. Always remember, if it hits the

pavement, it will run into the stream the next time it rains.

Help from the public is essential in keeping our streams and tributary's clean and usable for everyone. A good slogan is *Used and enjoyed, not abused and destroyed.*

Home-Made Chicken Soup

by Steve Zerkis, Mayor

Classic chicken soup is a comfort food. It's fun to have any time of the year but especially good when it's cold or when you are not feeling well. This version is made from scratch to allow lots of time to cook the chicken. But you can save a lot of time by using pre-cooked chicken and canned chicken broth. Use this as a guide and adjust as you want.

Ingredients:

- 2 tbs vegetable oil
- 3 carrots chopped
- 3 celery ribs in slices
- 1 chicken (5-7 pounds) (pre-cooked chicken saves lots of time)
- 2 quarts of chicken broth or canned low-sodium broth (I prefer the latter)
- 1 qt cold water as needed
- 4 sprigs of fresh parsley
- ½ tsp dried thyme
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Rice or noodles

Heat the oil in a pot over medium heat and add carrots and celery and cook until softened, about 10 minutes, stir often.

Cut chicken into 8 pieces, add to the pot and pour in the broth. Add enough cold water to cover the ingredients by about 2 inches. Bring to boil over high heat, skim off the foam, and add the parsley and thyme.

Reduce heat to low and simmer, uncovered, until chicken is very tender, about 2 hours.

Remove chicken from pot and set aside to cool. Wait 5 minutes, then degrease the soup. While you are doing this, you can prepare the rice or noodles.

Cut the chicken into pieces, discarding the skin and bones, and stir meat back into the soup. Season to taste with salt and pepper. When the rice or noodles are ready, also add to the soup and serve hot.

Good health!





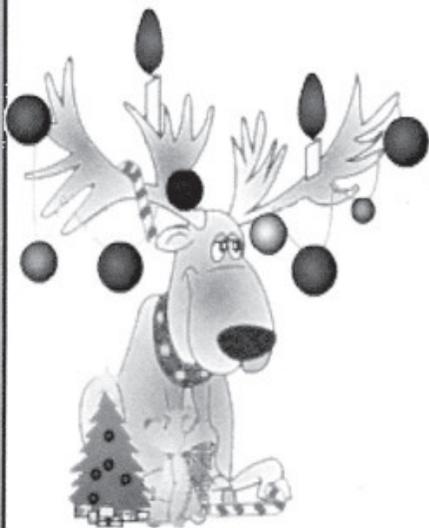
Ho Ho Ho!

**Santa Claus is coming to Indian Springs Village
Saturday, December 12, 2009
From 1:00 P.M until 4:00 P.M.**

**Indian Springs Village Town Hall
2635 Cahaba Valley Road**

**Santa welcomes good boys and girls of ALL ages
to share their holiday requests with him.**

**Bring the wish list and a camera
and spend an afternoon with Santa!**



*Refreshments
will be
served.*



*Santa is brought to you by the Crapet family.
Merry Christmas from Michael, Tricia and Joseph!*