



The Village Voice

Vol 1, No.10

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

January 7, 1992

**INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**
Indian Springs School Town Hall
Tuesday, January 14, 1992, 7 p.m.

Agenda

- I. Mayor/Council Committee Reports
- II. Resolutions/Ordinances
(further discussion of proposed zoning ordinance)
- III. Citizen's Forum

(Council meetings are scheduled for the second Tuesday each month)

Editor's Notes

The *Village Voice* is the official organ of Indian Springs Village, AL, established October 16, 1990. The primary purpose of this newsletter is to report the monthly deliberations of the mayor and the council in town council meetings as well as to give the mayor and council members the opportunity to communicate with the electorate. In addition, your editor's hope is to foster a spirit of community and cooperation along with fun and fairness. Good neighbors need less legislation. Expenses are covered by the efforts and donations of ISV volunteers. Deliveries are also made at no charge by volunteer couriers.

Address letters to the editor and appropriate news articles to: LaVern Ramsey, Editor, 530 Indian Crest Drive, Indian Springs, AL 35124. Newcomer information should be reported to Patricia Crapet (985-9205).

The *Village Voice* is published the first Tuesday of the month. Articles for publication in the February, 1992, edition should be submitted by Tuesday noon, January 28. The editor reserves the right to edit all materials submitted for publication. All opinions are those of the author, unless otherwise indicated. All articles not attributed to other writers are written by the editor.

Editor's Appreciation to:

The donors who subsidize printing expenses
Patricia Crapet for circulation (985-9205)
Dr. Ruth Goodwyn for editorial consultation
Indian Springs couriers for hand delivery
Mildred Wyatt for the masthead drawing

INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE CELEBRATED THE SEASON

Those mysterious elves we mentioned in the December *Voice* were busy observing the Village decor during the recent holiday season. They are eager to compliment everyone who transformed Indian Springs into a Christmas village. The Hoff's' home at 1200 Indian Crest Drive seemed enchanted with the twinkling white lights that seemed to make the house float above the lighted shrubbery. It was a fairyland of miniature lights, and, down the street, Clyde and Fay Wood had similar white light effects. There were beautifully decorated outdoor trees at the home of David and Patricia Otto and at JoAnn Cantavespre's. The Boyetts' brightly colored lights and the beautifully decorated street sign on the Cahaba Valley Road at Spring Garden Street were immediate indications of the spirit of Indian Springs Village. The elves would love to see all the ISV street signs decorated similarly next Christmas.

Traditional greenery in wreaths and swags with red bows were beautifully used on many homes and looked especially stunning when they complimented the design of the house. A favorite was the home of Tom and Judy Groover at 1115 Indian Crest Drive. Roy and Patti Connell's and Michael and Patricia Crapet's decorated homes on Valley View Road were reminiscent of old fashioned Christmases with their decorated banisters and porches that seem to hold out arms in welcome.

Favorite driveway entrances were at the homes of the Homer Colemans and the Ricky Lewises. At both were wreaths that were beautiful accents and well placed. There were also creative mailbox designs, too many to mention, but one favorite was at the Thomases' house at 350 Arrowhead Lane and another was the at the Cooks' on Mountain Park Circle. The Cooks used wreaths to decorate the house and to encircle the mailbox.

There were too many delights to mention from the visual treat of passing the Ostrowsks' lighted porch wreath and candle-lit windows on well-traveled Indian Crest Drive to the rarely-traveled Signal Trail where Rudolph's red nose provided the only light at one house. Space prevents our thanking everyone personally for sharing the inner joy of the season with beautiful outdoor manifestations. It was indeed a celebration of neighborhood.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Residents of Indian Springs Village need to be aware of proposed legislation that would give the city of Hoover control over our fire and emergency medical services. Representative Al Knight, elected to represent Bibb and Shelby Counties, advertised a bill June 12, 1991, that applied only to cities located outside of Shelby County annexing [property from] within our fire district. When 70% of our fire district is annexed, we will be at the mercy of Hoover for protection, with Hoover setting the price. This bill was not presented; however, Al has stated to me that a bill will be introduced in the next session.

Al promised in the past that before any action was taken, he would discuss it with the board of trustees of the North Shelby Fire District (NSFD). Please know that the bill of last June published in the *Shelby County Reporter* was very much a surprise to the board. When questioned, Al stated to me that he was simply trying to bring Hoover and the board of trustees to the table for discussion. Why?

1. Why not discuss with the board first and explain the purpose?
2. Why worry about cities "located outside of Shelby County"? Shelby County elected Al Knight.
3. Why not work harder to improve life in Shelby County so that our people will not want to annex into outside cities?

Why ask why? Because we have worked hard to create and maintain this fire district. We voted to start it and we would hate to see one person give it away. Out of all North Shelby Fire District, Al stated that he had received 120 letters from residents of Hoover complaining about still having to pay fire dues. He explained that it was this pressure to which he was responding. Our attempts to have Al meet with us have been fruitless.

-Charles Waldrop, Board of Trustees
North Shelby Fire District
325 Arrowhead Lane, ISV 35124

Editor's Notes on NSFD

In the June issue of *The Village Voice*, your editor wrote a Villager profile of Jack Van Pelt, who settled in Indian Springs in the late fifties. The article contains some of the history of the fire district -- a result of the combined efforts of Van Pelt, Jim Wyatt, Bob

Jacks, and Martha Geyer and other early settlers. First, they had to get a water supply to the area for fire hydrants. Then they lobbied successfully to get a vote on the election ballots to permit creation of a fire district. After those successes, these volunteers and early board members were responsible for financing and contracting for buildings, equipment, and employment of a fire chief and fire fighters. In addition to his arranging the bank financing, Van Pelt gave land to Pelham on Indian Crest Road for the water tower.

Al Knight's proposed legislation as published last June allows the annexing municipality or the annexed property owners to "buy" their way out of paying fire dues and receive no further fire protection. This could result in long-term erosion of the financial support of the NSFD and its ability to serve the remaining homes. Furthermore, the first bill stipulated that if as much as 70% of a fire district were annexed, that the annexing municipality would then assume all the assets, liabilities, and responsibility for employees as well as the responsibility for fire protection. This part of the legislation paves the way for Hoover to take control of NSFD assets without remuneration. We should all let Al Knight know that we do not feel well represented by him if he introduces legislation that is not in the best interests of areas in his home county. Knight had a prior commitment and could not plan to attend the League of Women Voters' legislative brunch on January 11 in the Village, but he agreed in a phone conversation to respond to your editor's request for information on any legislation he will present in the next session. He was specifically asked about any legislation having to do with our fire district, but he has not responded at this writing.

PERSONALS

At about 2:30 a.m. (the middle of the night for most of us), on Saturday morning, December 14, a couple driving on Indian Crest Road spotted a ground fire on Jack Van Pelt's property and the easement bordering the street and called the 911 Emergency Service. Van Pelt would like to thank the couple for their considerate response, but he does not know who they are. Actually, all of us in the area are grateful--the fire could have threatened many homes. It was caused by a fallen power line that looped over a dogwood tree as it fell to the ground, igniting the lawn on both sides of the driveway and burning into the woods.

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, SHELBY COUNTY UNIT

January 16--Shelby County Unit

LWV Meeting

Healthcare consensus

Collette Scott, discussion leader

7:00 p.m., Thursday evening

Jackie Johnson's home, 988-3217

162 Willow Ridge Drive

Indian Springs Village

Hostesses needed for February through March meetings!

For information call LaVerne Ramsey, 988-0059

About Healthcare...

In the next issue more information about the financing and operation of Shelby Medical Center will be made available. As you may have noted in *The Birmingham News* editorial page, December 17, 1991, and in Kent Faulk's byline article published Christmas day in the same paper, your newsletter editor is opposed to Shelby Medical Center's Board taking on taxpayers' behalf the enormous financial risk (\$61.3 million) to expand services. This is another appeal to Villagers to write their own opinions or provide information in letters to the editor pro or con. We should weigh whether all or most of SMC's proposed medical enterprises, if necessary, should be left to the private sector.

FIRST 1992 LITTER WALK--

JANUARY 18, 9:00 a.m.

Maybe next year! Didn't I bet that the whole town council would show up for December's Litter Walk? Didn't I tell you our good politicians would rise to the holiday occasion? It would be their Christmas gift to the town, right? So, will the smug, smart-alecky multitude who gleefully took my bet, please come to the Mormon Church parking lot on January 18 for the Litter Walk. I'll pay off at the ISV sign after the walk.

Nevertheless, our disappointment was nicely tempered by pride in the good citizens who insisted on keeping faith with Adopt-A-Mile on December 21: Nora and Jim Boyett, Deloris and Marshall Gilbert, Virginia Rancont, Jim Roy and son Spencer, Julie and Rusty Schenk, Jim Wyatt, and Dr. Peter Peacock (that's **Councilman Peacock**, by the way).

-Virginia Rancont

ACCOLADES FROM THE EDITOR

In the spirit of holiday giving, four contributions were received in December to cover printing costs for *The Village Voice*. Jack Van Pelt, Jack and Rita Mendel, Roy and Betty Duncan, and Patricia and Carroll Potter were very generous, and I know the entire Village joins the editor in saying "Thank You!"

To all of you who have responded to the requests for names, correct box numbers, and phone numbers for the directory, she is grateful. If she could be grateful to more people, we would be closer to having a directory. Amnesty to procrastinators! It is not too late. Mail your names, addresses and phone numbers or place the information in the editor's paper tube.

Much appreciation is due also to those intrepid couriers who deliver *The Village Voice* each month. In the busy month of December most of them tried, without great success, to identify the residents of ISV by name and house number so that we can see how close we are to having the necessary information to start the town directory. This information is not available from E911 Service because it is privileged; the criss cross street reference won't be updated with the new numbers for some time, and the direct response to our requests for information from Villagers has been less than 25%. There are some mailboxes with no names or numbers; there are many without names. There are many homes without the paper tubes that would make it convenient for delivery of *The Village Voice* and other important town bulletins. In spite of all these impediments, we are still hopeful for a more complete response to our requests for names, addresses and phone numbers, and for volunteers to help collect and process the data.

Accolades to Pat Duncan, Editor/Publisher of *The Community Messenger* for her feisty editorial, 1992 Changing of the Guard! in the January, 1992, issue. She reminds us that 1992 is an election year important to county government and takes a stand against Shelby County politics as usual. Duncan cautions us to "...look closely at each candidate's ties to special interest groups in order to understand where their philosophies were formed and finances anchored. Ask questions before you cast your ballot. Look closely at financial disclosure forms--they are public records...." Duncan is not afraid to take a tough stand, name

names, and ask hard questions. This editor approves her attitude and the new format.

Accolades also to Editor Kim Price of *The Shelby County Reporter* who is also taking a tough stance against politics as usual. His editorials, especially those on Shelby County finances, should continue to be valuable during this election year. On the light side (if there is one) of the Shelby County Commission's recent budget cuts, Price's weekly newspaper printed a picture of Sheriff James Jones holding a leafless branch and a lone bullet sent him by **Tax Collector Annette Skinner**. In lieu of a Christmas card, Skinner sent the sheriff a cartridge in a bare tree.

DECEMBER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The ISV town council met at 7:00 p.m. in the town hall of Indian Springs School on Tuesday, December 10, 1991. Mayor Hub Harrington presided, and council members Ron Luster, Patricia Crapet and Peter Peacock attended.

The minutes of the November meeting were adopted as read by Town Clerk Paul Stephens.

Councilman Ron Luster reported the results of his and Mayor Harrington's trip to Montgomery to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) to discuss the storm water runoff requirements and ISV's responsibilities. Luster and Harrington wanted to know if participation were absolutely necessary and, if so, how the cost could be reduced as much as possible. Because ISV is in the Cahaba River drainage basin, it is required to participate in the federal Clean Air and Water Act and monitor storm water runoff for pollution. The federal regulations require any municipality that is chosen, regardless of size, to have as many as 250 different monitoring stations for pollution. By participating jointly with other area municipalities, ISV may not have even one area to be monitored. Cuts in federal spending have forced local governments to bear the costs of implementing federally instituted programs, but the positive note is that the various localities will cooperate to save our local areas from the decimation of pollution.

Councilwoman Crapet reported that the beer tax distribution for November was \$586, which goes to the general fund. ISV's share of state-distributed road funds for November was \$512.

The remainder of the meeting was spent in discussion of the proposed zoning ordinance regulations for ISV. Most Villagers and the attending council members were concerned with having buffers and setbacks increased in many of the land use classifications and prohibiting all portable signs, billboards, and certain types of illuminated signs. The ordinance was sent back to committee for refinement, additions, and deletions. It will be brought back for discussion at the January meeting.

Christmas refreshments were provided by Nora Boyett, Patricia Crapet, Ruth Goodwyn, Sandy Luster, Julie Schenk, Olivia Weingarten, and Mildred Wyatt.

- Patricia Crapet

IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. Lesta Lucas, mother of Sue DeBoer, 170 Broad Green Lane, passed away on December 5. Mrs. Lucas was a long time member of Indian Springs Baptist Church. Our condolences to Mrs. DeBoer and her family.

TIPS FOR A MEANINGFUL LIFE

- 1. Talk to people.**
- 2. Know your neighbors.**
- 3. Develop a sense of place.**
- 4. Know the history of your neighborhood.**
- 5. Help out where and when you can.**
- 6. Form a meaningful community.**
- 7. Don't waste time.**
- 8. Don't try to escape a sense of meaninglessness by turning to alcohol, drugs, TV or "just relaxing".**
- 9. Become a "creative thinker". Create a vision of your own life.**
- 10. Discuss the newsletter.**

-Robert H. Lichtenbert

The Meaning of Life newsletter

Please, if you are procrastinating...one more reminder...get your house properly identified at the mailbox with the number provided by E911. Efficient postal service depends on your cooperation as well.

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