

The Village Voice

Vol 1, No.2

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

May 7, 1991

Indian Springs Village Town Council Meeting Indian Springs School Town Hall Tuesday, May 14, 1991, 7 P.M.

Agenda

I. Featured Speakers

John Cox, Shelby County
Building Inspection Department

Gary Ray, Alabama Highway
Department

II. Mayor/Council Committee Reports

III. Resolutions/Ordinances

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

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL

The Environmental Committee had its second meeting on April 21 with Peter Peacock, Chairman, presiding. Graeme Wilson, Sharon Kuhn, Anne Bishop, Virginia Rancont, Jackie Johnson, and Jean Owens were present. This meeting continued a discussion on whether Oak Mountain Park could be made more available to limited non-motorized traffic. Circular trails inside and outside the park, using both private and park property (like the Appalachian Trail), received consideration. The committee has been in touch with Hayden Montgomery, Oak Mountain Park Superintendent. **(Continued Page 2)**

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

At a recent meeting of the Shelby County Commission, the Commissioners were unable to reach a consensus and failed to enact a uniform policy for the provision of county services to the various municipalities. This has no adverse effect on our town. The county is merely attempting to establish guidelines which will insure that all municipalities are treated fairly and equally. Some members of the commission obviously thought that the issue needed more study before uniform policies were established.

At the same commission meeting, our request that Shelby County provide building inspection services was favorably received. Mr. John Cox, the director of that county department, will be at our next council meeting to explain the services provided by his department and answer your questions.

We are glad to participate in the Adopt-a-Mile program in cooperation with Gary Ray of the state highway department. Virginia Rancont of the Environmental Committee is coordinating our responsibility for the part of Highway 119 that runs through Indian Springs Village. Mr. Ray will be at the next council meeting to discuss this effort, and we hope that all interested volunteers will be there. We appreciate Ms. Rancont's efforts; the appearance of this thoroughfare is important to all of us.

If any of you have difficulties with utilities or any other services, please contact me or a council member so that we might be aware of the problem and assist in coordinating the improvement of these services. Recently, our telephone was totally out for four days. The cable television has been unwatchable for weeks and remains so. We had been trying for a year or so to get a trash container from BFI before they graciously agreed to put us back on the bottom of their waiting list. In each of these instances, my repeated complaints went unheeded. So much for the prestige and influence of the mayor's office. Nevertheless, if you are experiencing any similar problems, we would like to be aware of them so that we might take the appropriate action on behalf of all those affected.

I look forward to seeing you at the next council meeting, May 14, at 7:00 p.m. at Indian Springs School Town Hall.

*Sincerely,
Hub*

Comments From the Council

(Continued From Page 1)

Virginia Rancont reported a discussion with Gary Ray, Alabama Highway District Engineer, about participation in the Adopt-A-Mile program for the approximately two miles of state Highway 119 passing through Indian Springs Village. On behalf of the town residents, the committee agreed to adopt that section. The desirability of involving youth groups was emphasized.

Anne Bishop distributed materials for discussion on Hoover's laws concerning environmental violations (sewage, nuisances, abandoned vehicles) and on available environmental programs. The feeling of the committee at this time is that ISV should aim at government by persuasion rather than by legislation.

The second draft of a circular letter to residents of ISV was discussed and approved with minor changes and additional questions dealing with billboards; hiking, jogging, cycling, and equestrian trails; and with a possible recycling program. *

The next regular meeting of the Environmental Committee is at the home of Virginia Rancont, 5300 Mountain Park Drive, 3 p.m. Sunday, May 19.

-Peter Peacock

*Editor's Note: The committee's letter is part of this newsletter. Please return your responses to their questions so they might have your opinions on plans and procedures. They are sensitive to differences of opinion, and they want to hear all sides of the issues.

APRIL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

As previously announced in the April Newsletter, the council met on April 9, the second Tuesday of the month, in the Town Hall of Indian Springs School. Mayor Hub Harrington presided, and council members Patricia Crapet, Ron Luster, and Peter Peacock were present.

Mr. John Ellison, guest speaker and director of the Shelby County E911 Service, assured those in attendance that all address problems had been resolved regarding the use of Indian Springs Village as our permanent address. Mr. Ellison credited Mayor Harrington with having been instrumental in achiev-

ing this feat. Similar efforts had failed in other areas of Shelby County.

Enhanced 911 Service is designed to get emergency assistance to residents more quickly than previous services. After dialing 911 the caller's name, address, telephone number, and his provider of police, fire, and rescue services appear on the computer screen at the 911 office. This saves considerable time when a caller under stress fails to give complete information or is interrupted. Mr. Ellison urged all residents to make one call (Identify as a test) at any time day or night to verify the accuracy of 911's household information. He emphasized that we should use 911 for any emergency and said that saving time often saves lives.

The Annexation Committee is currently working on annexation requests, and all interested persons are asked to contact Nick Glenos (988-0355) for information.

The legislative report from Mayor Harrington detailed state Sen. Butch Ellis's bill, which would prohibit any municipality from rezoning newly annexed property for a two year period. Addresses and phone numbers of our local representatives were made available as the mayor encouraged all townspeople to support the Ellis bill.

Councilman Peter Peacock of the Environmental Committee called for support of Litter Walk Week, April 13-20. Several suggestions from his committee were to be the subject of an upcoming opinion poll to determine which suggestions would have popular support.

An ordinance introduced by Mayor Harrington to create officially the office of Assistant City Clerk was passed unanimously. Paul Stephens was officially elected to the position of City Clerk by a unanimous vote of the council, as was Jim Wyatt to the Assistant Clerk's position.

Jim Wyatt presented the mayor with the bills for expenses incurred during the incorporation and the mayor/council elections.

A resolution adopted by the council permits ISV to join the Alabama League of Municipalities. The town

will receive many benefits from the association: books and publications for each town official, updates on legislation regarding municipalities, access to seminars, and free expert legal advice.

-Patricia Crapet

FIRST ANNUAL JULY 4 CELEBRATION

This committee, headed by Sandy Luster, met May 2 and discussed a fun run, an antique auto parade through the town, a time capsule, hot dogs, horses, flags and other plans for a community July 4 celebration. Full details will be in the June issue of *The Village Voice*, but the plans, at this publication deadline, were for the formal village events to end after lunch. This is to be the start of a tradition for the village, but the committee members want to leave time for residents to observe their own traditions, too. Call Sandy Luster (987-7918) and volunteer to help. Be a part of Indian Springs history!

VILLAGER OF THE MONTH

Does Benji Thomas ever sleep? His Curriculum Vitae is longer than many doctors of philosophy, and he won't even start to college until this fall. After his upcoming graduation from Indian Springs School, he will attend Massachusetts Institute of Technology on a scholarship. He could have accepted a scholarship from Johns Hopkins or Vanderbilt.

Benji first came to your editor's attention when he spoke briefly at our March 12 council meeting about his attendance in early March at the 1991 National Youth Leaders Conference in Washington D.C. Throughout the six-day conference, he and 350 other scholars met with key leaders and news makers from the three branches of government, the media and the diplomatic corps. Benji also had the opportunity to meet with our state representatives on their Capitol turf. Since he had campaigned actively for incorporation of the Indian Springs area, he was gratified to know that the state representatives were aware of our new municipality.

Educational opportunities and honors last year were trips to the Soviet Union as a student ambassador in the American-Soviet Youth Exchange and to Washington, D.C. to the Governor's Congressional Fellowship. Other 1990-91 honors were University of Alabama Scholastic Achievement Award, National

Merit Scholar, Congressional Scholar, Who's Who Among American High School Students, and Boy Scout National Order of the Arrow Founder's Award.

Since 1982 Benji has been active on the local and state level in Children of the American Revolution, a national patriotic and historic youth organization. He won the Gold National Award for outstanding achievements as the Alabama State President of the C.A.R. for his service in 1989-90.

Among Benji's scouting achievements are receiving the Cub Scout All Awards Award in recognition of earning every award and advancement in the program, attaining the rank of Eagle Scout at age 13, and receiving the Founder's Award in 1991 (one of only three awarded in the Birmingham area during the last 60 years).

From his school days at Riverchase Middle School to his joining the Class of 1991 at Indian Springs School his academic standing has been superior. Extra curricular choices reflect his interests and talents: Latin, French, Glee Club, Outdoors Club, Fencing and Rifle clubs.

In almost every activity Benji has been a leader. In the Alabama Symphony Orchestra Youth Education he was Concertmaster of the Birmingham Strings Orchestra and also of the Birmingham Prelude Orchestra. This may seem a little unusual for a life member of the National Rifle Association, but it is another indication of the diversity of this young man.

This surfeit of achievement has been made possible by the support system of his parents, Bob and Jo Thomas of 1975 Cahaba Valley Road and sisters, Susan and Buffy. Susan, a graduate of Indian Springs, is now at Auburn University, and Buffy is currently in the ninth grade at Indian Springs. Bob Thomas attended the recent national C.A.R. meeting with Benji and Buffy. Susan, at 22, has outgrown her membership. Bob is a network planning manager with Bell South, and Jo works part time in a lab at Shelby Medical Center.

Benji wrote, "In 1990, I actively campaigned to incorporate the area in which I live into the new municipality of Indian Springs Village. I will continue my involvement with the town as it develops."

Benji has been true to his word; he has attended most council meetings and is a courier for The Village Voice. We wish him luck and hope that after he completes his higher education that he will be a Villager in residence again.

VILLAGE PERSONALS

Leigh Elise Allison, born April 30 at St. Vincent's Hospital, is reported to be the first Indian Springs Village baby born since incorporation. Congratulations to the parents, Lindsay and Russ Allison, and older sister Kelsey, age 2 1/2, of 454 Valley View Road. Russ is head of the ISV Zoning Board of Adjustment, and Lindsey is on the Environmental Committee. They are both practicing attorneys.

Kelly Lynne Luster, daughter of Councilman Ron Luster and Sandy, married Reed Wilbur Wertz on February 2 at Shades Mountain Baptist Church. We wish Kelly and Reed much happiness in their new residence in Hoover.

WELCOME TO NEWCOMERS

Billy and Mary Ann Cooke of 5317 Mountain Park Circle moved from Forest Park in Birmingham.

Doug and Lisa Angelin and their three daughters are in a new home at 8007 Woodfern.

Next door to the Angelins at 8005 Woodfern are Frank and Maria Kirkwood.

Jack and Jean Grady and Helen Caldwell are in a new home at 1015 Valley View Road.

OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

The League of Women Voters of Greater Birmingham has several members who are willing to be mentors to a LWV evening unit meeting in Indian Springs Village. A unit is a small discussion group of League members who meet also four times a year with the larger League group. Voting membership is open to everyone over age 18; associate membership is open to younger people.

The LWV is non partisan. It takes a position on issues only. It arrives at its positions on issues from a membership consensus taken after study and discussion. At league meetings members are urged to keep

reports and discussions non partisan. Board members and officers are restricted in their activities in support of specific candidates.

If you are interested in a neighborhood League of Women Voters unit to study local, state and national government, education, administration of justice, the environment, and other legislative issues, please contact the League at its headquarters (251-2346) in the Chamber of Commerce Building in downtown Birmingham. Indicate your interest to the volunteer or to the answering machine, if necessary, and someone will call you. There is no Shelby County League, and this could be a beginning for our county. Greater Birmingham League members willing to work with a new unit are Theresa Wade, immediate past president of the Greater Birmingham League; Collette Scott, a nominee for the State of Alabama Ethics Board; and LaVerne Ramsey, *The Village Voice* editor.

EDITOR'S NOTES

The Village Voice, the official organ of Indian Springs Village, AL, established October 16, 1990, is delivered at no charge to your home by volunteer couriers. *The Village Voice* is published the first Tuesday of the month. Articles for publication in each month's edition should be submitted by the last Tuesday of the preceding month. The editor reserves the right to edit all materials submitted for publication. All opinions expressed in *The Village Voice* are those of the authors, unless otherwise indicated.

The answer is "yes" to a question from a neighbor on whether your editor will entertain letters to the editor. That is one reason the newsletter is called *The Village Voice*! Your editor would also like to hear about outstanding residents whose accomplishments should be recognized by their neighbors. Address letters or news articles to LaVerne Ramsey; 530 Indian Crest Drive; Indian Springs, AL 35124

Newspaper tubes are available from the *Birmingham News/Post Herald* at no cost. However, subscribers must go in person to the newspaper office to get one. If they are installed it will simplify the deliveries for our block captains' couriers and help insure that your copy of *The Village Voice* arrives in good condition.

Editor's appreciation to:

Mildred Wyatt for the masthead drawing
Dr. Ruth Goodwyn for editorial consultation
Patricia Crapet for Circulation (985-9205)
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Dear residents of Indian Springs Village,

Your Environmental Committee wants to make its recommendations sensitive to the wishes of the residents. The following suggestions have been discussed. Please give us your opinion and return the form by May 21, 1991, the Tuesday following the council meeting.

1. ISV should be declared a bird sanctuary with no killing of birds and the preservation, where possible, of important nesting areas.
Agree _____ Disagree _____
2. Littering public highways and the frontages bordering on such highways should be made a punishable offense with an appropriate fine for transgressing this code.
Agree _____ Disagree _____
3. Burning of tree cuttings, etc., should be permitted only under the personal supervision of the property owner, where there is no significant fire hazard and where no neighbor complains that a nuisance is being created.
Agree _____ Disagree _____
4. A. Discharge of firearms, except in self-defense, should be prohibited within the limits of ISV.
Agree _____ Disagree _____
B. The use of light-weight firearms such as .22 rifles should be exempt from the above rule.
Agree _____ Disagree _____
C. The use of firearms at designated ranges should be exempt from the above rule.
Agree _____ Disagree _____
5. ISV should/ should not have a dog leash rule.
(Circle one)
6. All billboards along public highways should be banned.
Agree _____ Disagree _____

7. ISV should encourage the development of the following kinds of trails: (Please circle choices if you agree)
Pedestrian Bicycle Jogging Equestrian
8. ISV should/should not develop a recycling program. (Circle one)

We appreciate that, except under unusual circumstance, we will not have any rigid policing power to enforce any environmental rules; but, if we can establish a consensus, we can influence community cooperation to achieve environmental goals. Any additional suggestions will be most welcome. If you would like to participate in any environmental project, please give us your preference along with your name, address, and phone number in the space below.

Return To:

Peter B. Peacock
2150 Cahaba Valley Rd.
Indian Springs, AL 35124

or

Anne Bishop
150 Valley View Dr.
Indian Springs, AL 35124

_____ name _____

_____ address _____

_____ phone _____

_____ project preference: _____