



The Village Voice

Vol 1, No.3

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

June 4, 1991

**INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**
Indian Springs School Town Hall
Tuesday, June 11, 1991, 7 P.M.

Agenda

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

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

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 for publication 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.

Address letters and appropriate news articles or information about births, weddings, or deaths of ISV residents to the editor: LaVerne Ramsey, 530 Indian Crest Drive, Indian Springs, AL 35124

Editor's appreciation to:

Mildred Wyatt for the masthead drawing
Dr. Ruth Goodwyn for editorial consultation
Patricia Crapet for circulation(985-9205)
Indian Springs Village couriers for hand delivery.

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL

Patriotism. Isn't it wonderful for red, white and blue to be fashionable again? Being an American is especially sweet at this time, with our country's having just lead a multi-national force in one of the most decisive victories in wartime history. Knowing the sacrifices that have been made by so many Americans in this war and in other past, we should truly celebrate this July 4th that we are "the land of the free and the home of the brave."

Indian Springs Village would like to help make the Fourth of July, 1991, a very special Independence Day. The First Annual Fourth of July Picnic will be held beside the lake at Indian Springs School.

The fun will start early, and community events should wind down after lunch so that villagers can still have some family time at home. Adults and kids can choose their own participation in a parade of antique cars, decorated horses and bicycles, or patriotic pets (on leashes, please). There will be contests and prizes, musical entertainment, decorations, souvenir T-shirts for sale, and, for your convenience, food concessions. Chief Boutwell plans to have a fire truck there so the kids can have a close look. Bring cameras to capture some colorful memories and lawn chairs if you need the rest!

Come, everyone, and bring guests. This will be a perfect time and place to see friends and neighbors and meet new ones. Come, show your true colors--especially the red, white, and blue--on Independence Day, 1991.

--Patricia Crapet

MAY COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Indian Springs Village Town Council held its May meeting on the 14th at 7 P.M. in the Town Hall of Indian Springs School. Mayor Hub Harrington presided, and council members Patricia Crapet, Gary Dennis, Stewart Dudley, and Peter Peacock were present.

May Council Meeting Highlights

(Continued from page one)

Gary Ray of the Alabama State Highway Department addressed the adoption by the citizens of ISV of the two miles of Highway 119 that run through the village. The purpose of Governor Hunt's Adopt-A-Mile program is to keep Alabama roadways free of litter through cooperative efforts of the state and private citizens. The Alabama State Highway Department will provide **Work in Progress** signs, twenty safety vests, and a supply of garbage bags. Additionally, The Department will coordinate the mowing of the roadside and collecting and disposing of the litter bags within twenty four hours. Attention to volunteers' personal safety practices along the busy roadside was stressed. Mr. Ray provided those in attendance with new 1991-92 Alabama Highway maps.

Editor's Note: Broad participation in this effort is encouraged. See the LITTER WALK announcement for details.

John Cox, Shelby County Building Inspection Department, presented the first revenue income to the town, a check for funds collected from a recently issued building permit. Mr. Cox explained how the building inspection department functions and the proper procedures for applying for a building permit. ISV currently receives \$2.50 per \$1000 of construction cost, as set by the Shelby County Commission.

Minutes of the April council meeting were read by Paul Stephens, City Clerk. Our city officials have begun to receive literature from the Alabama League of Municipalities. Mayor Harrington is working with the league to set a date for ISV officials to attend a seminar since ISV is the newest member of this educational body.

Councilman Gary Dennis and the mayor are working with Indian Springs School to establish an Educational Development Board. Such a board would allow for construction and other types of development for solely educational benefits to be free from state and local taxes.

Mayor Harrington and Councilman Dennis also reported that they have been contacted by alternate garbage and cable companies who want to negotiate for business in the town. No such negotiations are

underway, but it was mentioned that choices were being offered.

Councilman Stewart Dudley announced a meeting of the Finance Committee to begin coordination of revenues due to the town.

Nick Glenos, chairman of the annexation committee, reported that there have been several applications from property owners who wish to annex into ISV.

Mayor Harrington showed a design for an ISV flag given him by Christopher Faulkner, an architect and the son of Judge James and Jane Faulkner of Jasmine Hill Road. The mayor expressed appreciation for the tribute to our new town and announced a design competition to produce a town logo suitable for signs, stationary, and T-shirts. Rita Mendel will chair the design selection committee. Entries should be submitted to Patricia Crapet no later than the June council meeting. She will conceal the identity of the artists and submit the entries to Ms. Mendel's committee.

Councilwoman Patricia Crapet reported on the Social Committee's efforts to coordinate the First Annual Fourth of July Celebration. Anyone interested in contributing to the success of ISV's first social event should contact Sandy Luster (987-7918) or Patricia Crapet (985-9205) for an assignment.

Welcome packets are available for newcomers to ISV. Included in the packet, put together by Ms. Crapet, is informative literature and brochures from local agencies that service ISV, discount coupons from local merchants, and maps, as well as the names and phone numbers of the town officials. Names of newcomers should be reported to Patricia Crapet (985-9205).

All ISV bills have been paid. The mayor was pleased to announce that the printing bill for the incorporation vote was reduced by a \$414 discount through the negotiation of Councilwoman Crapet.

Jim Wyatt reviewed the results of the Shelby County Planning Commission's general opinion survey. There was a consensus of concerns on commercialization, annexations, and pollution in all parts of the county. An inter-governmental committee has been meeting to coordinate the county's zoning. These

meetings have been attended by Jim Wyatt, Assistant City Clerk, and Peyton Lacy, head of ISV Planning and Zoning Board.

Mayor Harrington introduced an ordinance which would create a licensing agreement to allow Alabama Power Company to use their easements within the town's limits without having to get a permit each time. This ordinance, drawn up by Alabama Power, will be voted on at the June council meeting.

The meeting was officially adjourned, and a few residents took the mayor's invitation to ask questions or make comments.

--Patricia Crapet

ADOPT-A-MILE/LITTER WALK

As a member of Adopt-A-Mile, ISV, as "Citizens of Indian Springs Village", has officially adopted the approximately two miles of Alabama Highway 119 that run through Indian Springs Village.

Every villager has an important stake in the appearance of Highway 119. It is our face to the world, and our town will be judged by the pride we take in keeping its roadsides clean and green.

Everyone willing to pick up roadside litter will assemble at Dr. Peacock's driveway (396 Cahaba Valley Road) at 10 A.M. on the first and third Saturdays of every month. Reflective vests and plastic bags will be handed out, and assignments made. Participants may prefer to bring their own bags, as the ones provided by the state are quite large. Gloves are suggested.

Be there for the first Litter Walk--June 15, 10 A.M.

--Virginia Rancont

VILLAGER OF THE MONTH

What does Jack Van Pelt think? That was the question in your editor's mind when it seemed a possibility that Indian Springs might incorporate. Van Pelt's name was in no public way associated with the 1990 efforts to incorporate our town, and yet I remembered that he had, long before, seen incorporation as an answer to our community's having self determination.

When my husband and I moved to what is now 530 Indian Crest Drive, it was a rural route without even a box number. It was 1968 and Jack Van Pelt had already been up the hill on Indian Crest for seven years. He had owned eighty acres on the ridge since 1959, and, in those early days, he could see the screen of

the drive-in movie in Vestavia from his terrace.

After a stint with Arthur Andersen as a CPA, Jack had worked in New York for the Federal Water and Gas Corporation, a holding company that had divested itself of the water utilities (because of some complex federal laws) but held Birmingham-based Sonat. Before the New York executives moved to Birmingham, Jack went off to World War II. After his duty ended he became an executive of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, now CSX Corp., and then later spent ten years with a surgical dressing company in Boston.

A desire for change led him to Vulcan Materials in Birmingham, where he was hired as Controller in 1958. It was, perhaps, his experience with the federal government, water systems, and accounting that was to benefit Indian Springs after his retirement from Vulcan Materials in 1973.

At that time Jim Wyatt was worried about the water supply in Indian Springs. Mr. Van Pelt himself had always had a bountiful supply of water from his 500 foot well, but he was concerned with a water supply for fire protection. These two joined forces with other concerned residents to get a water supply agreement from Pelham and to lobby to get 300 residents to tap on to the Pelham source. All residents shared the costs of the water hydrants. A substantial reduction of fire insurance premiums resulted from the presence of the water hydrants and the fire department services that followed. Van Pelt assisted in arranging the original financing from the Farmer's Home Administration, a government agency, and ultimately gave Pelham the land on which to locate their ISV water tower.

Once the water was in, a vote was required to organize a fire district. This required persuading local legislators to get a vote on the next ballot. As Van Pelt remembers, Bob Jacks and Martha Geyer, neighbors on New Hope Mountain Road, had been leading a group to start a fire district. Van Pelt got involved with their group as they got the legislation on the ballot and persuaded the voters to pass it. Martha Geyer is one of the known early activists still on the North Shelby County Fire District Board, but Van Pelt left the board of trustees two years ago. During his service he arranged the bank financing for the first, second, and third fire house locations and equipment as the area and its needs grew. He also gave an acre of his land to Chief Boutwell, the first and present Fire Chief, to help persuade him to leave a similar position in Pritchard and take over operations of the North Shelby Fire District. Under Chief Boutwell's leadership, the fire district serves about 25 square miles.

Van Pelt tried, using the fire district contacts, to lobby for incorporation, but the appeal of Hoover at that time was the school system.

I asked Mr. Van Pelt whatever happened to the Indian Springs Civic Club which had met occasionally, I remembered, in the mid-70's to discuss zoning. In about 1975, Van Pelt had been elected president. In his zeal to conduct business properly, he had rewritten the bylaws, and as a result the club has now liquidated itself. A president could serve for only one year,

with elections being held each May. Some years later no meeting was scheduled by the president then in office and no election held. The club, by its own bylaws, no longer existed. Zoning had been the club's priority, and a Beat 12 zoning plan was adopted. This was later revised.

Thinking about the future of a newly incorporated ISV, I was still asking, "What does Jack Van Pelt think?" He says his main civic concern is the need for ISV to annex as many homes as possible in order to add to our pro rata share of gasoline and utility tax revenues. Since the share is based on our numbers, he believes that increasing our population through annexation can help us run the city without any additional taxes. He thinks that we should maintain our presence on the NSC Fire District Board. Currently, two of the five trustees are ISV residents, Charles Waldrop and Russ Allison. According to Van Pelt, the trustees are elected on a staggered basis, and the board appoints its own replacements between elections.

Our interview took place in Van Pelt's beautiful home, designed by his sister, a New England architect. The house is furnished with antiques given him by his grandmother. It seems that his grandmother ran a pension (a continental boarding house) in Paris and brought back to the states enough furniture to furnish five homes. The house sits on 30 acres now rather than the original 80. In addition to land gifts already mentioned that benefit the community, he gave land to the county for Indian Crest Drive as it passed through his property. Other acres were sold to developers who built many elegant homes.

Since Van Pelt bought a home on Eleuthera Island in the Bahamas, he and his second wife Jenevora divide their time between Indian Springs and the Bahamas. Van Pelt was a widower when he married the vivacious Jenevora. She has a delightful sense of humor and seems intolerant of anything pretentious. She is an adventurous Londoner who came to New York and worked for a Japanese firm until a British friend, who had married a Birmingham native, persuaded her to move to Birmingham. She was working with Van Pelt's veterinarian when they met. Their Great Danes and St. Bernards died and have been replaced with mixed breeds who needed a home.

The Van Pelt family history would make a good "read". His grandmother was widowed in Louisiana before his father was born. The plantation had been devastated by the Civil War, and she went to Germantown, PA, to be near relatives. She wanted her son to go to the very best school in the world to be educated as an architect. That is how she came to run a pension in Paris where her son could learn the language and attend the Beaux Arts. The architect son started his career in New York where his son Jack was born.

It was fortunate for the village that Jack Van Pelt's penchant for living space led him to buy 80 acres of the 2000 acres sold by an early real estate developer. His foresight and efforts in the development of the North Shelby Fire District brought water to the area, saved insurance premiums, and reduced worries about fires. His penchant for the tropics deprives us of much of his time now, but his is a well deserved retirement.

VILLAGE PERSONALS

Leigh Elise Allison, who was born April 30 to Lindsey and Russ Allison, was reported to be the first baby born to villagers after incorporation. At press time Miss Allison's place in ISV history was reported to be usurped by Micah Alan Keith, born April 4, to Alan C. and Sheri Keith of 194 Indian Forest Road. Congratulations to Alan and Sheri who also have two daughters, Meredith and Mallory, ages five and three. Alan is an attorney with offices in Birmingham.

Are there any other contenders for first baby?

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To whom it may concern:

My name is Molly Johnson and I am 11 years old. In the past few months I have become very concerned with our planet. A few people have come to my school to talk about saving the earth and things on it. I would really like to start a recycling system.

My grandmother who lives in Montgomery, Alabama, is giving orange trash bags to put out on the street filled with used soda cans or other kinds of cans. I know that since we don't have a garbage truck that will collect things like that, we can't do exactly that. I thought maybe we could have a place somewhere that people in Indian Springs could bring their cans, newspaper, etc., to be recycled. If you can help, please write me to send further information. Thanks.

Molly Johnson
174 Willow Ridge Dr.
Indian Springs, AL 35124

Dear Molly,

You are to be commended for your appeal for a recycling program. Your letter is appropriately addressed "To whom it may concern". We should all be concerned, and I believe most of us are.

I am forwarding your letter to Councilman Peter Peacock, Chairman of the Environmental Committee. He has been one of the most active and concerned groups in our town, and consideration of recycling was put to the town in their questionnaire in the May issue of *The Village Voice*. If ISV residents circle response #8 to read "ISV should develop a recycling program", I'm sure the committee will find a way to help us recycle.

The lack of landfill space will force recycling on everyone eventually, but, like you, I prefer to do it voluntarily before our planet groans more loudly.