



The Village Voice

Vol I, No. 7

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

October 1, 1991

**INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**
Indian Springs School Town Hall
Tuesday, October 8, 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 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 or information to: LaVerne Ramsey, 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 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 author, unless otherwise indicated. All articles not attributed to other writers are written by the editor.

Editor's Appreciation to :

Bruce and Phyllis Monical, 138 Willow Ridge Lane, for the printing of this issue of *The Village Voice*.
Patricia Crapet for circulation (985-9205)
Dr. Ruth Goodwyn for editorial consultation
Indian Springs Couriers for hand delivery
Mildred Wyatt for the masthead drawing

Happy Birthday Indian Springs Village October 16

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

A year ago at this time, our community was deciding whether or not we wished to become incorporated and form our own town. On October 16, 1990, we voted overwhelmingly to formally unite our community as a municipal corporation. A census followed which was submitted to the Judge of Probate, whose order on November 14, 1990, officially certified the Town of Indian Springs Village. The election of our town's first government officials was held in January, 1991, and our first town council meeting was held in the latter part of February. We have been functioning as a full-fledged municipality ever since.

The avowed purpose for founding our town was to protect our community from outside intrusion, and to do so with a minimum amount of government. The town council and I have worked diligently to fulfill these goals. In the months since we have been in office much has been accomplished, though much remains to be done. As in all community endeavors, whether past, present or future, Indian Springs Village relies on the patronage of its citizens who have come forward, freely donating of their time, energy, and money. The success that our town has thus far enjoyed is owing to the efforts of these unselfish individuals who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes. Their only reward is in knowing that they are investing in the future so that all will be able to enjoy the natural beauty of our community for generations to come.

I invite everyone to participate in the activities of our town. It is only through our concerted efforts and vigilance that we will successfully meet the challenges of the future. I look with great pride upon our community, and thank you, the citizens of Indian Springs Village, for making it possible.

Sincerely,
Hub Harrington
291 Valley View Lane
987-2748

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL

RON LUSTER, Place #1

Primary Responsibility--Maintenance

It does not seem possible that we have been conducting the business of our town for eight full months, and we will be celebrating the first anniversary of our town this month. First, I would like to thank each of you who have been so supportive of our work since our initial meeting in February.

Since taking office we have maintained contact with the county and state regarding the following issues: road repair, traffic control on Highway 119, and the bridge on Indian Trail, which may become our first covered bridge. The Alabama Department of Environmental Management and other city government officials have been contacted regarding the required monitoring system satisfying requirements that Bishop Creek is not polluted by run off from within our town. Inquiries were also made to insure that legally required applications and permits were in order.

Preliminary contacts have been made concerning property which may be donated for a community park, and the repair of our first pot holes has been done. The initial revenues from the state have been received this month, thereby allowing us to begin accruing funds for a systematic routine maintenance program. We are aware of some pot holes which need attention and these will be taken care of by volunteers in the next few days. Please contact me with any concerns or requests regarding management of our roads, bridges, and such.

Ron Luster
151 Indian Trail
987-7918

Place #2 Patricia Crapet

Primary Responsibility-- Communications and Community Relations

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, INDIAN SPRINGS VIL-
LAGE! What a year it has been. If anyone had told me at this time last year that I would be involved in so many civic duties, I would never have believed them. I have never been particularly civic minded, but then I have never lived in such a unique and special community before.

Preserving, protecting, and enhancing the treasures that surround us were, and still are, the main goal of the founding of ISV. We are accomplishing these goals through countless volunteer efforts by citizens and officials. Our boundaries are protecting and preserving the integrity of our community from unwanted commercialization, annexation, and spot zoning. Through the Adopt-A-Mile program, we are enhancing the beauty of our community, showing our civic pride to all who pass through our town. In fact, during the September Litter Walk, Mike Carroll, Executive Vice President of the Hoover Chamber of Commerce, stopped to congratulate our group of eager volunteers on a job well done. I can tell you that after picking up trash for the last four months, we all relished that compliment.

But what has incorporation REALLY meant to me? It has meant late nights at the word processor banging out articles for *The Village Voice* and various other correspondences. It has meant studying municipal codes, attending numerous meetings and functions, and organizing the July 4 Celebration. It has meant delivering the newsletters to the couriers and then delivering my own route as well and begging for freebies for the ISV newcomer packets and then delivering them. It has meant sweating on the roadside on the third Saturday of each month. These things, and more, have been done purely as a labor of love.

My rewards, which far outweigh any tedium that I experience, are that I can now drive through ISV and say "I know who lives here," or "I know who lives there," and I really do **know** them. I don't just know that a particular house belongs to a particular person. I **know** the family inside the house. The most valuable resource that we have is the people of our community. Because of incorporation, I have met some wonderful people whom I might never have known otherwise. I have made lifelong friendships that I will forever cherish. Friendships have expanded to include new friends for my husband, Michael, and best of all, new "little" friends for my son, Joseph. These very special ties are those which bind us to our community and help make the spirit of volunteering work for our town.

Indian Springs Village could not be successful without the spirit and determination of our unsung volunteer

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heroes. I would like to thank all of those who have volunteered their time and talents to help make my job a little easier and to help make our town a little better: our historian, Dr. Ruth Goodwyn, who probably had to purchase a file cabinet to keep town records accurately, and who checks our literary efforts to make sure that we use correct form; our Social Committee Chairwoman, Sandy Luster, who worked tirelessly to make our July 4 Celebration such a success, and who makes entertaining the masses look easier than growing weeds; our illustrious Editor-In-Chief, LaVerne Ramsey, who brings us the finest newsletter this side of New York City and who prods us firmly, but gently, to meet our copy deadlines; and last, but definitely not least, *The Village Voice* couriers who put the U.S. Post Office to shame when it comes to dedication! They are Eleanor Bennett, Ralph Bodie, Jim and Nora Boyett, Dorothy Carlisle, Sandy Conley, Ed Goodwyn, Alleta Lowe, Emily McAdory, Kathy Monacelli, Phyllis Monical, Mike Rutherford, Julie and Rusty Schenk, Benjy Thomas, Debra Wagner, and Olivia Weingarten. These fine individuals are my neighbors, and yours, and we should all be proud of their various contributions to our community.

It is my sincere hope that as ISV enters its second year, we will see the list of volunteers grow longer. This is our town, and the time that we invest in it will certainly insure the quality of its future.

Patricia Crapet
370 Valley View Road
985-9205

PETER PEACOCK Place #4
Primary Responsibility--Public Health and The Environment

Active members of the Environmental Committee are Rosemary Ashford, Eleanor Bennett, Ann Bishop, Jackie Johnson, Sharon Kuhn, Sharon Lampkin, Virginia Rancont, Jean Owens, Ann and Graeme Wilson, and Dr. Peter Peacock, Chairman.

Editor's Note: The following are excerpts of interest from the minutes of the fourth meeting of the Indian Springs Environmental Committee--September 1, 1991--submitted by Dr. Peacock.

The fourth Litter Walk was planned for September 21.

Virginia Rancont presented a report on town signs. The Present "Welcome to Hoover" and "Welcome to Homewood" signs were studied to provide suggestions. It was agreed that the sign should have lettering large enough to read from a moving vehicle (with individual letters of 6-8") and that the logo should be simple in design. A suitable overall size would be about three feet square and the cost under \$350. We are continuing to consult with Julie Schenk who designed the logo for our T-shirts. Further progress is expected.

There was some discussion on the need for a municipally supported "shredder". The Shelby County dump charges fairly heavily for the disposal of garden refuse and no humus is recovered. Mountain Brook makes a shredder available so there is no need for residents to carry garden refuse outside their municipality. It was agreed that this should be investigated further.

Results of the Environmental Questionnaire

1. ISV should be declared a bird sanctuary with no killing of birds and the preservation, where possible, of important nesting areas. Agree 62, Disagree 14
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 75, Disagree 0
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 58, Disagree 16
4. A. Discharge of firearms, except in self defense, should be prohibited within the limits of ISV. Agree 56, Disagree 20
B. The use of light-weight firearms such as .22 rifles should be exempt from the above rule. Agree 30, Disagree 42
C. The use of firearms at designated ranges should be exempt from the above rule. Agree 58, Disagree 17
5. ISV should have a dog leash rule. Agree 38, Disagree 38
6. All billboards along public highways should be banned. Agree 66, Disagree 8

7. ISV should encourage the development of the following kinds of trails: Pedestrian-- Agree 48, Disagree 28; jogging--Agree 44, Disagree 32; bicycle--Agree 38, Disagree 38; equestrian-- Agree 32, Disagree 44.
8. ISV should develop a recycling program.
Agree 59 Disagree 8

Dr. Peter Peacock
2150 Cahaba Valley Road
985-2083

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS

Gary Dennis, Place #3 Primary Responsibility--Public Services Coordination

250 Spring Garden Street
987-7378

Stewart Dudley, Place #5 Primary Responsibility-- Finance and Tax Collection

2201 Cahaba Valley Road
988-4252

ISV State Representative

Al Knight, Republican

40th District (Bibb and Shelby)
2421 Brook Run, Birmingham, AL 35224
State House Office-Room 630, (205) 242-7766
Home 988-7445 or business 988-3281

ISV Senate Representative

Frank (Butch) Ellis, Jr., Republican

14th District (Bibb, Shelby, and St. Clair)
105 Ellis Farm Road, Columbiana, Alabama 35051
State House Office-Room 737 (205) 242-7894
Home 669-3051, business 669-6783

*Editor's Note: The preceding information on your Alabama representatives is from *The Birmingham News*, September 8, 1991.

SEPTEMBER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

When Indian Springs School had to use their Town Hall for a meeting of their own at 7 p.m. on September 10, Villagers used the school dining hall for the

ISV Town Council/Citizen's Forum. Mayor Hub Harrington presided, with council members Patricia Crapet, Gary Dennis and Stewart Dudley present.

Questions were raised at the July council meeting about the electric and magnetic field (EMF) emissions from power transmission lines in ISV. Employees of Alabama Power sent by the company to address those questions were Bobby Hosea, District Manager; Willard Bowers, Manager of Environmental Affairs; and Mike Whitt, an engineer in power delivery who also serves on the EMF Task Force. The concerns addressed by the Alabama Power representatives are linked to recent publicity that the emissions cause cancer, especially in young children.

Mr. Whitt explained how EMF relates to our daily lives. He stated that an electric field is created by anything that is electrically charged. For example, a lamp's cord has an electric field around it, even when the lamp is off. A magnetic field is created by moving charges of current which flow through a conductor when the lamp is turned on. Both fields increase with voltage increases but decrease in intensity the further they are from their voltage source. The new high line recently installed on the main power lines which run through ISV carries 115,000 Kvc. Alabama Power can measure the intensity of EMF emissions from these lines. Mr. Whitt stated that measurements had been taken recently on Remington Circle in Quail Run and last year on Alpine Street in ISV. The measurements taken directly underneath the lines have ranged from 1 to 20 Milligauss, depending on the time of day and year. However, since studies of EMF effects have been inconclusive thus far, there have not been any guidelines set by the federal government on the level of Milligauss that can be tolerated without harm. Mr. Whitt also said that Alabama Power follows all current government standards strictly. If citizens have questions about EMF or want to have measurements taken at their residences, they can call 250-4124.

Jim Hollins, Director of the Shelby County Health Department, talked about his investigation of raw sewage in Bishop Creek, which flows through ISV. He had investigated the complaint personally and located the cause--septic tanks at Kings Mobile Home Park on Highway 119, just east of the ISV town boundary. Mr. Hollins presented pictures of ponds of

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raw sewage at the trailer park. There could be several causes for the problem, but the SC Health Department cannot take legal action against anyone except the owner of the park. Mr. Hollins is sending a legal notice as soon as possible giving the owner 15 days to correct the problem. There have been problems in the past with direct sewage discharge into Bishop Creek from this park. Therefore, the county will do a study to determine feasibility of a sewer tie in from the park to Shelby County Sewer System. In the meantime, the park will be required to do whatever pumping is necessary to avoid the ponding of sewage on the ground surface. Connecting to the county sewer line can hardly be done in 15 days if that is the resolution, but the owner must adhere to a strict timetable or be subject to fines or closing the trailer park.

Councilwoman Crapet reported an August beer tax receipt of \$679 from Shelby County. She also reported that the beer tax receipts and July 4 profits had reduced the town's \$10,000 loan by \$3000. Donations of \$210 had been received to date to fund the printing of *The Village Voice*.

Councilman Stewart Dudley brought the first draft of the business license ordinance. He expects to have a draft of the utility tax ordinance ready at the October meeting.

Mayor Harrington addressed complaints from real estate agents who have had signs removed from the rights of way on state and county highways. The removal of these signs from prohibited areas is done routinely by the Adopt-A-Mile crews. The agents are then called and told where they may pick up the signs. Candidates who placed signs on the rights-of-way during the ISV election campaign became aware that the State Highway Department removes these signs regularly. Mayor Harrington suggested that no signs be removed from personal property when the signs are for the property owners' personal use. However, he wishes property owners to observe the 40 feet from road center rule wherever it is possible.

The council heard a request from Maurice Lane of 125 McGuire Lane for a zoning variance. His wish to keep a 24 by 40 mobile office on the property behind his residence, currently zoned R1 (single family residential), was met with resistance from neighbors, Danny and Lynda Bedgood. The Bedgoods presented

pictures of the mobile home as viewed from their property. There are four mobile home residences on McGuire Lane, grandfathered since they were there before zoning went into effect. The concern of the council is that Mr. Lane's mobile home is strictly for commercial purposes, and even though no sales are made from this office, employees will work at this location. Mayor Harrington commented that granting a variance for a business office on residential property would be a bad precedent for the council to set. The council suggested to Mr. Lane that he submit an alternate plan in one week.*

Patricia Crapet

**Editor's note: According to Mayor Harrington, no additional submissions have been received to date.*

IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. Excer Jones Eich, 76, died Sunday, September 15. Our sympathy goes to her son, Roy E. Eich, and other family members.

ISV UNIT, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Ann Bishop to host October Meeting
October 17, 7 p.m.

150 Valley View Drive

All prospective members welcome; call LaVerne Ramsey, 988-0059 or 241-1136, for any additional information. The November 21 meeting will be at the home of Kathryn Coleman, 89 Pawnee Drive. The League of Women Voters and the Village are grateful to Ann and Kathryn for their hospitality. The national focus of the League in these two meetings will be health care.

At the September 22 general meeting of the Greater Birmingham League of Women Voters, Villager Dr. Norma Rogers, Shelby County Superintendent of Schools, stood out among a distinguished panel assembled to talk about education. Her ideas are innovative and her plans, ambitious. All of us, especially parents, should listen with open minds.

Another outstanding panelist was Bill Smith, who has temporarily left his family business to campaign statewide for education reform. *The Birmingham Post-Herald* says Smith's A+ group is "seeking to

build grassroots support for education reform by including citizens in the decision-making process in Montgomery. Now, the decisions include lawmakers, lobbyists and special interest groups....”

SPECIAL NOTICE

Wanted to buy--Tennessee Walking Horse
Call Bill Thompson 988-0634

HIGH DRAMA ON THE HIGHWAY

It was shortly after 9 o'clock on September 21 when a feline juvenile was spotted dodging and weaving through heavy morning traffic on Highway 119. Springing into action, the brave Mayor of Indian Springs Village, Hub Harrington, snatched the tiny kitten from a nearly certain death. Witnessing this heart-stopping rescue and cheering for the dauntless chief executive were Adopt-A-Milers Eleanor Bennett, Nora and Jim Boyett, Jackie Johnson, Sandy Luster, Emily McAdory, Virginia Rancont, Margaret Roy, Debra Wagner, Anne Wilson, Jim Wyatt, Patricia Crapet and Dr. Peter Peacock.

Meanwhile, high in the hills overlooking the valley and unaware of the drama unfolding below, a special mobile unit manned by Art Johnson, Lloyd Wagner, and Graeme Wilson scouted Indian Crest Drive, intent on removing signs from power poles and scooping up enough litter to fill several bags.

The kitten? Well, Mayor and kitten were inseparable for the remainder of the Litter Walk. Finally, we persuaded the mayor that his adoption of the feline might be unwise, as his spouse would likely destroy him (the mayor, that is). Then our councilman with a heart of gold, Dr. Peacock, stepped forward to welcome the orphan into his household. We didn't hang around to see how his spouse might react.

Don't miss the continuing adventures of **LITTER WALK ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19 at 8 a.m.** We meet in Dr. Peacock's driveway at the corner of Cahaba Valley Road and Indian Trail (unless Mrs. Peacock locks the gate against further family expansion). Rain date will be October 26.

Virginia Rancont

PROUD PARENTS

Harry and Carol Caldwell, 985 Valley View road, have a new baby, Phoebe Gray Caldwell, born August 15, 1991. Phoebe has a big sister, Jenna, who is two years old.

RESPONSE TO EDITOR'S APPEAL SPELLED RELIEF

Indian Springs Villagers always seem to respond in a way that reaffirms our conviction that we have the best neighborhood in the state. When your editor appealed in the September newsletter for funds to relieve the stress that getting *The Village Voice* printed caused, generous residents responded with individual contributions from \$10 to \$200. Patricia Crapet, who summarizes the council meetings, gathers personal news, and handles circulation, put a warm glow over the phone wires when she called to report the almost immediate response. Several contributions were from Villagers who have been unable to attend council meetings for a variety of reasons--one cares for an elderly parent--but all were very supportive of the communication link. Ms. Crapet and I are as appreciative of the encouragement as we are of the funding. We wish to acknowledge the generosity of Dr. Rowell S. Ashford and his wife Rosemary, Harry and Carol Caldwell, Jack and Verna Dean, David and Joanne Engel, Madaline C. Johnson, Fred and Frances Lewis, Charles Lindamood and Lynn Davis, Jean Owens, and Bill and Barbara Thompson. Thank you!

From Life's Little Instruction Book:

- 195- Determine the quality of a neighborhood by the manners of the people living there.
- 274- Leave everything a little better than you found it.
- 322- Don't say you don't have enough time. You have exactly the same number of hours per day that were given to Helen Keller, Pasteur, Michelangelo, Mother Teresa, Leonardo da Vinci, Thomas Jefferson, and Albert Einstein.
- 352- Just for fun, attend a small town Fourth of July Celebration.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY,
INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE!**



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