



The Village Voice

Volume 20, Number 11 Indian Springs Village, Alabama February 4, 2011

INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday, February 8, 2011 7:00 p.m.
 Tuesday, March 1, 2011 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: Alison Stigers, Editor, 5110 Split Rail Trail, 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 March edition should be submitted by Friday, February 25, 2011. 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

There will be an election in Shelby County on Tuesday, February 8, 2011, asking us to renew a 30 mill property tax used only for our school system. School funding is about two-thirds of our total 44 mill property tax. I support this renewal. We are blessed with the best school system in the state because of the dedication of parents, students, teachers, administrators, government leaders and the investment of our tax money.

The Shelby County school system gets its funding from this 30 mill property tax plus funding from the State and Federal governments. This tax provides about 28 percent of the Shelby County school system's annual budget. A small portion of this tax is used for construction and renovation. The rest is used to operate the school system and various programs. If the tax goes away, so will many vital educational programs critical to our children's education plus teachers, librarians, counselors and other professional and non-professional staff and any new construction.

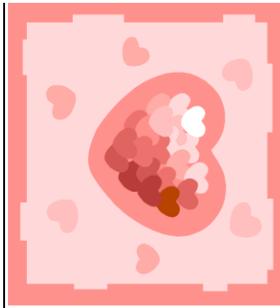
I've read that several groups are against this renewal. To learn about their positions, I attended an information meeting of “The Campaign for Liberty” group in Pelham on January 26 chaired by Marcelo D. Munoz. The group appears to include several non-Shelby County individuals. They spent most of the meeting discussing how to convince residents to vote “no” but do it with false and misleading information. As one example, they were laughing over the fact that they were able to distort a local newspaper opinion poll with phony votes to make it appear that many residents were against the renewal. They mentioned possibly using a computer application to create more false “no” votes, and posting on-line comments from fake individuals. They said some residents would look at the phony poll and comments, not check the facts, and just vote “no”. Sounded like “dirty tricks”.

I asked how this tax money is used by the schools and was told they do not know and have never talked to anyone in the school system to find out. It was clear they want to eliminate ANY tax even if it seriously damages our schools, hurts the future of our children and reduces our property values.

Let's be realistic. We are in a recession and development has slowed, but Shelby County will grow again. Its population is projected to nearly double over the next thirty years. We are the fastest growing county in the state. Families want to move here for its quality of life and our excellent school system. To handle the projected population growth, our school system will need to gradually hire more staff and build new facilities. That takes real investment and we must renew this tax to continue to pay for it.

I don't like to pay taxes any more than anyone else and I'm a fiscal conservative, but when the state is again considering “proration”, we don't need to thoughtlessly cut an additional 28% out of an already lean Shelby County school budget and cripple its ability to educate.

I urge you to get out and vote “YES” on November 8, 2011 to renew and continue our current school property tax. Your ballot will show a collection of five small taxes adding up to 30 mills.



February 2011
 Heardmont Park Senior Center
 5452 Cahaba Valley Road, Birmingham, AL 35242
 Phone: 991-5742 Fax: 991-5657 Email: heardmontpark@hotmail.com
 Hours: Monday—Friday 9:00a.m.—3:00p.m.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
<p><i>Start your new year with new friends ~ join us for fun !!!!</i></p> <p>9:30-10:30 Tai Chi 10:30-1 Dominoes 10:30-3 Canasta</p>	<p>10-11 Aerobic Workouts 10:30—1 Lunch Bunch to Cracker Barrel & Target 11-12 Bible Study 12 Lunch</p>	<p>9-12 Bridge Club 11:30-3 Rummikub 12 Lunch 1:30-3 Community Grief Support</p>	<p>10-11 Aerobic Workouts 11-11:45 New Beacon Blood Pressure Clinic 10-2 Bingo Bunch 12 Lunch</p>	<p>9-10 Zumba 10-11 Intermediate Line Dancing 11-12 Beginning Line Dancing</p>
<p>9:30-10:30 Tai Chi 9:30-12 Mah Jongg 10:30-1 Dominoes 10:30-3 Canasta</p>	<p>10-11 Aerobic Workouts 10-2 Bingo Bunch 11-12 Bible Study 12 Lunch</p>	<p>9-12 Bridge Club 10-11 Computer Class 11:30-3 Rummikub 12 Lunch 1:30-3 Community Grief</p>	<p>10-11 Aerobic Workouts 10-2 Bingo Bunch 11 Harrison Reg Library Program 12 Lunch 12 Presidential Trivia</p>	<p>9-10 Zumba 10-11 Intermediate Line Dancing 11-12 Beginning Line Dancing</p>
<p>9:30-10:30 Tai Chi 9:30-12 Mah Jongg 10:30-1 Dominoes 10:30-3 Canasta</p>	<p>10-11 Aerobic Workouts 10-2 Bingo Bunch 11-12 Bible Study 12 Lunch 1-2 Advisory Council Mtg.</p>	<p>9-12 Bridge Club 11:30-3 Rummikub 12 Lunch 1:30-3 Community Grief Support</p>	<p>AARP is offering free tax help on Tuesdays & Thursdays. Call now for your appointment</p>	<p>9-10 Zumba 10-11 Intermediate Line Dancing 11-12 Beginning Line Dancing</p>

Town Council Meeting

December 21, 2010

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. All Council members were present except Stewart Dudley.

The meeting minutes for December 7 were presented to the Council for approval. Stauss made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Bell-Guercio. The motion was accepted unanimously.

The November financial report was presented to the Council for review. Mendel made a motion to endorse the report, seconded by Bell-Guercio. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Mayor Zerkis reported for the PAZ. The committee is working to update the sign ordinance. Zerkis and Jones recently met with City Engineer, Frazier Christy, to discuss changes to the zoning ordinance.

Stauss reported for the ZBA. The attorney for the music instruction business has contacted him to inquire if a zoning variance or special exception use request will be required for his client to continue teaching. A discussion followed. A letter is being sent with all home-based business license renewals asking that they confirm they are in compliance with the zoning ordinance. A mass variance request will likely be held for all businesses involved.

A work session to discuss the landscaping project and building maintenance will be held at a future date.

Robins spoke with Gary Ray of ALDOT regarding clean up after the completion of the Highway 119 turn-lane project. The contractor will not be on site until January. Ray will have the debris and construction signs removed, as well as have the speed limit signs uncovered.

The Children's Fund provided Christmas gifts and clothing for 23 kids this year. Shopping this year were Shelby King, Margie Robins, Hayden Belisle (Oak Mountain Elementary school counselor) and Belisle's husband, Clay. Thanks to all who participated for their monetary donations and shopping time.

Stauss noted that the corners of the glass tabletop on the conference table are chipped. We need to have town hall users not move the table. He will check in to repair/replacement options.

Stauss stated that the Kubota has been for sale for four months and that we may need to consider a price change. The Council agreed to wait until spring for a price change.

Mayor Zerkis thanked the Crapet family for sponsoring Santa Claus' visit to Town Hall. This year was the largest turnout ever.

There is a dump truck with an advertising sign parked at Caldwell Mill and 119. Zerkis has discussed this with the truck owner and it should be moved soon.

Mayor Zerkis adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Rasco, City Clerk

Town Council Meeting

January 4, 2011

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met at 7:00pm at the Town Hall. The Mayor called the meeting to order and the City Clerk called the roll. All Council members were present except Herb Robins and Stewart Dudley.

The meeting minutes for December 21 were presented to the Council for approval. Stauss made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Bell-Guercio. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Wayne Jones reported for the PAZ. At their upcoming meeting, the committee will consider adopting the new building code and review a reverse subdivision request for the Bankware property. The committee is also considering having Hatch Mott MacDonald draft needed ordinances for signs and subdivisions. HMM will present a proposal to the Council at an upcoming meeting.

Stauss reported on the status of the Kubota. Cahaba Tractor personnel have confirmed that the pricing is correct for the condition of the equipment and stated that the tractor should sell in the Spring.

Zerkis stated that business license renewals are in process. A letter asking for confirmation of compliance with the zoning ordinance is being sent to all home-based businesses.

A work session to discuss landscaping and building maintenance will be held February 1 at 6:15.

The dump truck with the advertising sign is still parked at Caldwell Mill Road and Highway 119. City Attorney Russ Allison has sent a letter to both the truck owner and the property owner stating that the truck must be removed.

Matthew Allers of Troop 71 from Our Lady of the Valley was in attendance. Allers attended the meeting to earn his Communications and Citizenship in the Community badges in order to complete the requirements for Eagle Scout.

Mayor Zerkis adjourned the meeting at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Rasco, City Clerk

TOPS Weight Loss Support Group Meetings

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) is a non-profit, non-commercial weight-loss support organization with thousands of associate chapters in the United States and Canada.

TOPS will meet every Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. at St. Francis Episcopal Church on Highway 119 in Indian Springs. For more information, call 620-0602.

Another TOPS group meets at St Francis Church at 10:30 a.m. each Tuesday. For information, call 995-2166 or 408-9340.

February Happenings

by Cecelia Dean,
North Shelby Library Youth Services Department

Special Programming

Mondays, February 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th at 3:30, 3:50 and 4:10 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.

Thursday, February 10th at 4:00 p.m.; "Hoppy Valentine's Day" Card Holder. Need a place to put all those Valentines? Look no further. Join us at the library to make the perfect card holder. All ages. Registration required.

Wednesday, February 16th at 1:00 p.m.: "Homeschool Hangout: Chinese New Year". Celebrate Chinese New Year with an exploration of their traditional musical culture. Ages 8-12. Registration required.

Friday, February 18th from 4:00-5:00 p.m.: "Princess Party". Hear ye, hear ye, Princesses 3 years old and older across the land. You are cordially invited to attend a party in your honor. Wear your finest princess attire and be prepared to have a spectacular time with crafts, games and great food. Registration is required and limited. Call early to ensure a spot.

Friday, February 25th from 4:00-5:30 p.m.

"Family Movie Day: Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore." Watch as an unlikely partnership is formed between cats and dogs in order to vanquish the evil Kitty Galore. All ages welcome. Refreshments served.

Story-Time Programming

Toddler Tales: Mondays, February 7th, 14th and 21st at 9:30 and 10:30 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 prior to each storytime. Ages 19-36 months. Registration required.

Baby Tales Story Time: Tuesdays, February 8th and 22nd from 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.

Mr. Mac (Storyteller Extraordinaire!): Wednesdays, February 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd at 10:45 a.m. Stories, puppets and lots of music for every member of the family. All ages. No registration required.

P. J. Story Time: Thursdays, February 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th at 7:00 p.m. Come in your PJs, have milk and cookies and hear some wonderful bedtime tales. All ages. No registration required.

* For more information, or to register for any of our programs or storytimes, call or email the Children's Department at 205-439-5504 or northshelbyyouth@gmail.com

Teen Scene

Teen Book Pick of the Month: *The Dark Game: True Spy Stories* by Paul B. Janeczko.

From clothesline codes to surveillance satellites and cyber espionage, Paul B. Janeczko uncovers two centuries' worth of true spy stories in U.S. history.

Ever since George Washington used them to help topple the British, spies and their networks have helped and hurt America at key moments in history. In this fascinating collection, Paul B. Janeczko probes such stories as that of Elizabeth Van Lew, an aristocrat whose hatred of slavery drove her to be one of the most successful spies in the Civil War; the "Choctaw code talkers," Native Americans who were instrumental in sending secret messages during World War I; the staggering engineering behind a Cold War tunnel into East Berlin to tap Soviet phones (only to be compromised by a Soviet mole); and many more famous and less-known examples. Colorful personalities, daring missions, the feats of the loyal and the damage of traitors are interspersed with a look at the technological advances that continue to change the rules of gathering intelligence. (*From Product Description*)

Hub and Kathryn Harrington

Are Home

by Steve Zerkis, Mayor

Kathryn and Hub flew out to Phoenix to watch Auburn play Oregon for the championship on January 10th. The next day, they and close friends were walking through "Old Scottsdale" and were struck by a car that went through an intersection. All were seriously injured and rushed to a local trauma center. Hub got the worst of it with several fractures in one leg and a number of other fractures and injuries. He needed major surgery. I spoke with him a few days later and he sounded in good spirits considering all he had going through at that point. But it wasn't over. The next day he had a serious complication that is often fatal and required more surgery. The good news is that both Hub and Kathryn were able to come home on Saturday, January 29 for a lot of needed rehabilitation and rest. Kathryn will let us know when Hub is up to having visitors. Bee Little will be arranging meals for Kathryn and Hub and I suggest you coordinate with her if you can help. Her email is beeafp@aol.com or phone at 908-6370. A big thanks to Tricia Crapet for keeping us informed of their situation.

New Courier Needed

Once again we need to ask for a volunteer to deliver *The Village Voice*. The route includes those homes located on Indian Crest from Mountain Park to Arrowhead Lane.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Alison Stigers at 253-1605 or email her at alison@indiand SpringsVillage.org. Thank you.

Garden Club Members Learn About Bees; Flowers

By Ruth Goodwyn, Publicity Chair

Sallie Lee, Jefferson County Agent for the Alabama Extension Service, Auburn University, spoke to members of the Indian Springs Garden Club at the January 27 meeting at the Town Hall. Her topic was “Bees, Flowers, and Plants.”

She began by demonstrating the outfit that beekeepers wear—all white—to keep from getting stung when working with the bees. She emphasized that the main reason bees are so important to humans is their practice of pollination as they move from flower to flower seeking nectar from which honey is made.

One type of bee, the “Africanized bee” or “killer bee” has now made its way into Florida, South Georgia, South Alabama and Texas. While most bees are docile, the killer bee is ill-tempered and considered a threat. She mentioned that bees communicate with each other by a ritual of dancing and will forage up to five miles from the hive.

A recent decline in the number of bees has been of great concern, and she gave possible reasons: the use of pesticides and the lack of food for the bees, such as clover and herbs.

Bees also provide honey, and she noted that people usually prefer locally-produced honey rather than that produced in far-away places, which may have an unfamiliar flavor because the flowers in the region the honey was produced are so different. She had a sample jar of honey from Africa (very strong, excessively sweet) to demonstrate this tendency.

Ms. Lee described the three types of bees. First there is the one queen to a hive, who does nothing but produce eggs, usually about 1200 per day. Of the 60,000 bees that may occupy one hive, besides the one queen, the rest are either worker bees or drones. Worker bees are female who forage for food (pollen and nectar from flowers), build, protect and groom the hive and the queen and die after stinging. The others are drones, males who perform the duty of mating with the queen, but who die after mating and cannot sting.

Bees live on stored honey and pollen all winter. Larvae are fed from the stores during winter, and by spring the hive is swarming with a new generation of bees.

Ms. Lee had hand-outs covering much of the information about bees she had talked about and information about bee-keeping.

After refreshments, a short business meeting was held by President Patsy Strozier. Membership dues were collected (\$10.00/yr.) and 2011 yearbooks distributed. The yearbooks were the work of Kelly Rasco. Two new members were introduced.

The February 24th meeting at the Town Hall will feature Jason Powell from Petals from the Past. His talk will be on antique roses, perennials and herbs.

Building Permits

submitted by Frazier Christy, Town Engineer

Applicant: Floyd W. Cooley
Owner: Floyd W. Cooley
Address: 2930 Oak Mountain Trail
Proposed Use: Bathroom Remodel

Applicant: Reliable Sign Services
Owner: Shane’s Rib Shack
Address: 2673 Valleydale Road
Proposed Use: Sign for New Leasee

Applicant: Donna Del Vecchio
Owner: Donna Del Vecchio
Address: 566 Wildwood Lane
Proposed Use: Install Hardwood Floors

Applicant: Menchies
Owner: Leasee Roberto Rodriguez
Address: 2675 Valleydale Road
Proposed Use: Sign for New Leasee

Applicant: Reliable Sign Services
Owner: Alabama Computers
Address: 2659 Valleydale Road
Proposed Use: Sign for new Leasee

Applicant: Matthew J. Ebbert
Owner: Matthew J. Ebbert
Address: 41 Fox Fire Circle
Proposed Use: Detached Garage

Applicant: Bonds Development Company
Owner: Midland Valleydale LLC
Address: 2673 Valleydale Road
Proposed Use: Restaurant

Mercedes Marathon 2011

by Steve Zerkis, Mayor

The annual Mercedes Marathon will take place on Sunday, February 13 starting at 7:00 a.m. in front of the Boutwell Auditorium at Linn Park. It should be a fun event to watch as the runners wind their way through Birmingham. There will be full and half marathons. There should be a lot of good locations available to watch the race. Pat and I will probably be a Linn Park but anywhere along the route should offer a good view. This year they will be running along Highland Avenue which will be the highest point along the race route. Our niece and daughter will be flying down for the event and my niece will be doing the full marathon, so we will be out to cheer her on. Awards ceremonies will be at Linn Park.

My Passion for Books

by Tim Shaffer, Villager

I have a bumper sticker on the back of my car that reads “Fight Prime Time-Read a Book.” For most of my adult life, I have preferred to have my nose in a book than just about anywhere else. Anyone who knows me knows that I am always reading something (truth be told, I usually have about three to five different books going at the same time).

It should come as no surprise, then, that I am often asked what I think of the Kindle or the Nook, or the new digital reader from Borders. I customarily respond that I can’t offer an opinion because I have never used one—in fact, never even looked at one. My initial reticence came from a deep-rooted aversion to fads or trends...that and the fact that I still have a few hundred books in my library that I haven’t read. I also had concerns about the quality of the image, as I likened it to the one I see on my computer screen. I have a 32 inch monitor at my desk and still can’t imagine reading more than four or five paragraphs of text at 72 dots per inch (the standard resolution on a computer monitor—one tenth of what you get with most printed text).

I have to admit, though, that I have softened a bit. As more and more people that I know and respect have purchased a digital reader, I have come to understand that it’s a technology that has many benefits. I have also had to give more thought to why I still prefer a paperback or hardcover (other than the fact that I may just be a Luddite). Here’s what I love about books: just about everything.

- I love the weight of the book in my hands and the sound the pages make when I turn them.
- I love the smell of a book, especially one of the really old books with leather bindings. My son has inherited this trait as well. I have been known to go to a bookstore or book sale with him, hunt him out with book in hand, crack open a book and simply say “Smell this!!”
- I love the texture of the paper in a book, particularly the slightly denser and rougher feel you often get with a hardcover.
- I love knowing that someone else has held this same book...many someone elses, in fact. It gives me a sense of community with other readers. When I have a book and I lend it to someone else, I feel a sense of sharing, that the person to whom I have given the book is a kindred spirit. For me, giving a book is far more rewarding than recommending a book. I can’t honestly say how I would feel about e-mailing a book.

A friend of mine strongly believes that cooking is one of the most effective uses of all five senses—the smell and taste of the food, the visual presentation, the mixing of textures and the selection of the perfect music to complement the meal. For me, reading a book provides a similar experience. It’s more than visual. It’s tactile and aural and olfactory.

Will I ever buy a digital reader? I don’t know. I’m not ruling it out. After all, I never thought I would find much benefit in sending a text message. I still don’t use that technology much, but understand its usefulness. For now, though, I simply get too much personal joy out of reading a book. And that’s the why I read—for the joy of it.

The Episcopal Church of St. Francis of Assisi will be holding a used book sale on February 25, 26 and 27, 2011, in the parish hall at 3545 Cahaba Valley Road. On Friday, February 25, from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m., there will be a sneak peek and purchase, with wine, cheese and desserts as well as live music. The cost of admission is \$5. The sale will continue Saturday and Sunday (no admission charge either day). Saturday hours are 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., and Sunday hours are from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. All hardcovers are \$1 and all paperbacks are 50 cents. To learn more, call Tim Shaffer at 205-317-5005.

February Computer Class Schedule for North Shelby Library

submitted by Michelyn Reid, North Shelby Library Reference Librarian

All Classes are on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Please call 439.5510 or email northshelbylibrary@yahoo.com to register as space is limited. Go to <http://www.northshelbylibrary.org> and click on Computer Classes for a full schedule.

Tuesday, February 8th
Email for Beginners – 9:00-10:00 a.m.
Word I – 8:30-10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, February 9th
Email for Beginners – 9:00-10:00 a.m.
Word II – 8:30-10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, February 15th
Internet for Beginners I – 9:00-10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, February 16th
Internet for Beginners II – 9:00-10 a.m.

Tuesday, February 22nd
Supergoogle – 9:00-10:00 a.m.
Excel I – 8:30-10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, February 23rd
Excel II – 8:30-10:00 a.m.



**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT
SPECIAL EQUESTRIANS**

SPECIAL EQUESTRIANS

If you like horses, the outdoors, and helping people, we have the perfect opportunity for you. Please join the force of over 200 volunteers that assist with Special Equestrians. Special Equestrians is a therapeutic horseback riding program for people with physical, mental, or emotional disabilities. All levels of experience are available (no horse experience necessary); just attend one of our Volunteer Training sessions on **Thursday February 10th 6-8pm; Saturday, February 12th 9-11am; OR Tuesday February 15th 5-7pm.** Training sessions will take place at our facility on the campus of Indian Springs School. To reserve a spot at the training session or to find out more information, please email: volunteer@specialequest.org, call: 205-987-9462 or visit our website www.specialequest.org

**Indian Springs School
Presents “The Comedy
of Errors”**

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

Indian Springs School will present its Winter Play, William Shakespeare’s “The Comedy of Errors,” on February 17-19 at 7:30 p.m. in the school’s John Badham Theater.

“In this comic farce, two sets of identical twins separated at birth end up in the same town on the same day, and the predictable mayhem of misunderstandings and mistaken identity ensues,” says ISS Theater Director Jim Ellington. “We are pleased to present this play which is not only a classic but also highly entertaining.”

The ISS performance will be an hour-long, one-act adaptation of the play that has been updated to a modern setting. The house will open at 7:00 p.m., and tickets will be available at the ISS Box Office starting at 6:45 p.m. each evening. Admission is \$5. For more information, please contact Ellington at jellington@indiansprings.org or (205) 332-0597.

**Alabama Wildlife Center
Upcoming Events**

by Janet Byars, Administrative Assistant

• **Sunday, February 6, 1:00 p.m.** – Volunteer Orientation; Introduction to AWC

• **Saturday, February 12, 7:00-10:00 p.m.** – *Wild About Chocolate*, the 7th annual Valentine Gala benefitting the Alabama Wildlife Center features a variety of chocolate concoctions from Birmingham’s best restaurants, caterers and bakeries. Also: savory appetizers, beverages including complimentary wine, silent auction, live auction with Ken Jackson and music from The Neo Jazz Collective. Location: The Harbert Center, 2019 4th Avenue, N., Birmingham, AL 35203 (complimentary parking in the Birmingham Parking Authority Deck #3 located directly across the street from the entrance to The Harbert Center). Tickets: \$75 per person in advance (by Friday, 2/11/11 at 5:00 p.m.); \$100 per person at the door. Reserved Table: \$750 for 8 seats (advance purchase only, by Friday, 2/11/11 at 5:00 p.m.). Cocktail attire.

At the Alabama Wildlife Center:

3/05/11, Saturday 1:00 p.m. – “Get Wild”, a free, monthly family-oriented program promoting bird conservation and stewardship. Each program is hosted by wild bird educators and will feature a different topic. The program always includes our monthly conservation tip and may include an introduction to one of AWC’s resident glove-trained Education Birds, a visit inside the workings of our unique rehabilitation clinic, or maybe even a hands-on service project for our wild bird patients. Come get wild and have a learning adventure! Program starts at 1:00 p.m. and lasts 20-60 minutes.

COST: Free after paid admission to Oak Mountain State Park: \$1 per child 6-11 & Seniors 62+; \$3 Adults 205-663-7930 Ext. 4; details available at www.awrc.org.

3/06/11, Sunday 1:00-2:30 p.m. – Volunteer Orientation; Introduction to the Alabama Wildlife Center: recommended if you’re interested in volunteering or are simply curious about AWC. At this free session you’ll learn about our mission and history, volunteer opportunities and ways to support AWC’s work. You’ll meet some of the AWC staff and volunteers, have an opportunity to get answers to your questions and enjoy a brief tour of our facility. Register online at www.awrc.org. If your schedule does not permit you to register in advance, you can simply arrive a few minutes early to complete your registration in person. Quiet children are invited to attend, but please note that the minimum age to volunteer is 18 (16 accompanied by parent).

COST: Free after paid admission to Oak Mountain State Park: \$1 per child 6-11 & Seniors 62+; \$3 Adults 205-663-7930 Ext. 3; www.awrc.org.

3/15/11: (Approximate date, depending on Mother Nature) Baby Season at the Alabama Wildlife Center: Every day, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., visitors can observe the care of Alabama native wild bird patients in the nurseries, solarium and raptor flight cages through one-way glass viewing windows. One never knows from one day to the next who the patients will be.

COST: Free after paid admission to Oak Mountain State Park: \$1 per child 6-11 & Seniors 62+; \$3 Adults 205-663-7930 Ext. 8; www.awrc.org.

3/27/11, Sunday: Audubon Teaches Nature at the Alabama Wildlife Center: Reptiles & Amphibians of Alabama – Critters that Hop, Slither & Crawl. Ken Marion is the Guest Speaker. Refreshments are offered at 1:30 p.m. in the Observation Room at the Alabama Wildlife Center followed by the program at 2:00 p.m. either at the Alabama Wildlife Center or the Oak Mountain Interpretive Center. Weather permitting, an informal nature walk follows the program so be sure to bring binoculars and field guides for a seasonal look at the birds and critters of Oak Mountain State Park. Few creatures are as captivating as reptiles and amphibians – we either find them endearing or fearsome. Ken will introduce us to the reptiles and amphibians of Alabama, explaining what makes a frog a frog, a turtle a turtle and a snake a snake – they are all unique. But, as you’ll also learn, many face environmental pressures and ecological threats. Your children are sure to enjoy this engaging program.

COST: Free after paid admission to Oak Mountain State Park: \$1 per child 6-11 & Seniors 62+; \$3 Adults 205-663-7930 Ext. 4; www.awrc.org.

Daniel Friday, Auburn University cheerleader and Mic Man, holds the flag on the field with fellow cheerleader, Justin Guizar, after the BCS National Championship game. Daniel is a senior this year at Auburn majoring in Mass Communications. He is a third-year cheerleader and first ever third-year Mic Man at Auburn. He is the son of Ken and Carolyn Friday of Mountain Park Circle.

Daniel and his mother, Carolyn.

