

# The Village Voice



Volume 21, Number 7 Indian Springs Village, Alabama October 7, 2011

## INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday, October 18, 2011 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 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  
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### 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](mailto:alison@indianspringsvillage.org).

*The Village Voice* is published the first week of each month. Articles for the November edition should be submitted by Friday, September 30, 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*

We should all be proud of the fact that two schools in Indian Springs Village have been awarded a 2011 Blue Ribbon by the U.S. Department of Education. Our Lady of the Valley School, a private school, and Oak Mountain High School both received this prestigious award for their excellence. Out of 132,000 public and private schools in the U.S., 305 schools received this award this year and two are located in Indian Springs Village. This level of excellence is not unusual in Indian Springs Village. Our town is home to seven exceptional private and public schools that have achieved a number of awards for their performance and results. Quality education for our children is the result of the dedication of parents, teachers, students and administration. Excellent education is an ongoing process.

A reminder for everyone that our annual Founder's Day will be celebrated this year on Tuesday, October 18, 2011 at 6:00pm. at the Town Pavilion. There will be some good barbeque and pastries and a birthday cake for our town's 21st birthday party. Someone please bring the candles. Please come out and meet your fellow neighbors and friends and enjoy the evening.

We will be holding a public hearing on November 15th to consider two changes to our zoning ordinances. We want to clarify the wording in a provision concerning “non-conforming lots” and make sure that certain legal provisions and procedures are being followed correctly. We will be holding additional public hearings over the course of the next year as we review and consider changes to our town's ordinances. We would appreciate your comments and input during this process. All notices of meetings are posted at four locations around the town including the Town Hall, the Marathon convenience store on Highway 119, the fire station at Caldwell Mill Road and Highway 119 and the Winn-Dixie Supermarket.

## ISV Founders' Day

We will have our town's birthday party on **Tuesday, October 18, 2011 at the Town Pavilion starting at 6:00 p.m.**, and everyone's invited to come and enjoy meeting our friends and neighbors. There will be some outstanding barbeque, drinks and pastries and, of course, birthday cake for all of us to enjoy. I hope that as many of you as possible will bring cakes, pies and pastries to share. These home-baked goods are always the highlight of any ISV event.



*Celebrate our Town's 21st Birthday!*

# Town Council Meeting

August 2, 2011

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. Mayor Zerkis called the meeting to order and the City Clerk called the roll. All council members were present. The Mayor reviewed the meeting agenda. Stewart Dudley arrived at 7:15pm.

The Council reviewed the June 21 meeting minutes. Bell-Guercio motioned to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Robins. The motion was accepted unanimously. The July 5 meeting minutes were reviewed. Robins made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Bell-Guercio. The motion was accepted unanimously. The July 19 meeting minutes were reviewed. Bell-Guercio made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Mendel. The motion was accepted unanimously.

The Council reviewed the June financial report. Mendel made a motion to endorse the report, seconded by Robins. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Robins reported on the water leaks at Town Hall. The water system is over 100 years old and needs to be replaced. Robins presented a quote from Davis Plumbing for the replacement of the water system at a cost of \$4,880. Bell-Guercio made a motion to waive the rules, seconded by Robins. The motion was accepted by unanimous roll-call vote. Bell-Guercio made a motion to accept the bid from Davis Plumbing for the water system repair, seconded by Mendel. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Zerkis reported that the visitation for former North Shelby Fire Chief Winston Boutwell was held last night followed by the funeral this morning. Mayor Zerkis presented a proclamation to the Council honoring Boutwell's service. After review, the Council decided to present the proclamation to Boutwell's family.

Mayor Zerkis noted that it is time to begin planning next fiscal year's budget. Mendel will send a copy of the current budget to the Council.

Robins reported that the city sign at the intersection of Caldwell Mill Road and Valleydale Road is missing. He received a quote from Adkins Signs to replace the sign for a cost of less than \$500. A new sign will be ordered.

Stauss has listed the City's Kubota tractor for sale in The Village Voice and on Craigslist. Stauss also reported that the City Clerk has requested information from Nexchecks regarding online payments. Mayor Zerkis asked if we could piggyback on the County's online payment system. Rasco will follow-up later in the month.

Zerkis and City Engineer, Frazier Christy, attended a meeting presented by FEMA and their consulting engineers. Updated maps of the area were presented and the new maps show an increase in flood prone areas in the City. These maps will be announced in a few months but not be official until the end of 2012. Zerkis plans to meet

with Pelham Mayor Murphy and both city engineers to determine what possible engineering solutions they can derive to jointly improve the flooding issues and possibly apply for grants. FEMA said that lower housing density could reduce the rate of future water runoff, and also suggested reviewing and revising the town's subdivision and flood ordinances. A discussion followed.

Mendel gave his interpretation of section 2.0 of the zoning ordinance. There was a discussion about revising this section. Mayor Zerkis reported that City Attorney Russ Allison will review this.

Stauss stated that the City needs to address the possible land devaluation and suggested hiring an independent appraiser to research and report back on the topic. Dudley offered to assist Stauss in researching and presenting three appraisers to the Council who will provide cost estimates of the financial impact of the proposed E-1 zoning change from one to three acres.

The Mayor opened the floor for public comment. A former council member noted that when tornadoes came through in 1994, the USDA came in and told the City they had to clean out the creek and asked if that could be done again. Mayor Zerkis responded that he understands it was not something the City could legally spend money on since the creek is on private property. However, he will look at this suggestion.

Mayor Zerkis adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kelly Rasco, City Clerk

# Town Council Meeting

August 16, 2011

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. Mayor Zerkis called the meeting to order and the City Clerk called the roll. All council members were present.

Planning and Zoning Chair Wayne Jones presented the final plat map for approval for property owned by Ken Bush of GBS Development. Robins motioned to suspend the rules, seconded by Bell-Guercio. The motion was passed by unanimous roll-call vote. Stauss made a motion to accept the final plat map for the GBS Development property, seconded by Bell-Guercio. All council members voted to approve, except Dudley who abstained.

City Engineer Frazier Christy presented the recently updated FEMA flood maps. The planned effective date for the maps is September, 2012. Christy explained the floodway maps and discussed hardscape, detention and related issues. He recommended to the Council that they consider the proposed amended zoning ordinance favorably. A discussion followed.

Marty Martin, a civil engineer representing a city resident, responded to Christy. Martin stated he does not believe development has caused an increase in storm water. He cited reasons he believed the new FEMA maps to be inaccurate. A discussion followed. Christy presented documents and reports showing an increase in runoff if the watershed area is developed. A discussion followed. Martin discussed watershed modeling to determine the impact of the proposed zoning change. Martin made a recommendation to revise and upgrade detention requirements to consider 2 year to 100 year storm events. His long-term recommendation is to utilize the watershed model. A discussion followed.

Dudley presented a letter from recommended property appraiser Richard Malloy. Malloy was not available to attend the meeting, but suggested that the City get a hydrology study.

Robins noted that he had recently spoken with Darrell Meyer of KPS Group who prepared the City's comprehensive plan. Robins relayed his discussion with Meyer, a certified land planner, with respect to property values. Meyer indicated that initially property values would be high on smaller lots but, over time, larger lot sizes would increase in value more than smaller lot sizes. As larger tracts are subdivided into smaller lots and developed, the character of the area is changed and property values are effected in a negative way. Robins then read the City's mission statement and sections of the comprehensive plan. A discussion followed.

Mendel and Zerkis commented on an opinion of Non-Conforming Uses (Article III, Section 2 of the Zoning Ordinance) received from Mark A. Pickens, Attorney at Law. He suggests revising section 2.1 – Non-Conforming Lots of Record. A discussion followed.

Mendel motioned to adopt the revised zoning ordinance, seconded by Robins. Zerkis, Robins, Mendel and Bell-Guercio voted in favor. Stauss and Dudley were opposed.

A resident pointed out a possible issue concerning the elapsed time period between the recommendation by the PAZ and the final action on the zoning revision by the Council. Mayor Zerkis said that he would look into it.

Mayor Zerkis adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kelly Rasco, City Clerk

## **Town Council Meeting**

September 6, 2011

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. Mayor Zerkis called the meeting to order and the City Clerk called the roll. All council members were present except for Brian Stauss. The Mayor reviewed the agenda.

Planning and Zoning Chair Wayne Jones noted that the ordinance passed at the last meeting was done so on the 91st day. Another ISV ordinance requires that any item forwarded to the Council by the PAZ must have final action by the 90th day. Jones will again present the ordinance to the PAZ at their next meeting and then forward to the Council. Mayor Zerkis gave the recommendations on revising the non-conforming use language in the zoning ordinance to Jones for the PAZ. Jones noted that the sign fees will be determined by the PAZ. Jones will ask the PAZ to reconsider the 90-day action requirement. It should not apply when the Council is actively researching an item to determine the best decision. A discussion followed. A resident interrupted the discussion and Robins asked that he hold his comments until the Mayor opened the floor for public comment.

Mendel presented the July financial report and moved that the Council endorse the report as presented. Bell-Guercio seconded the motion. The motion was accepted unanimously. Mendel noted that he met with the auditor on the preliminary audit findings for the 2010 fiscal year, and the City has a clean audit. Mendel said they discussed and tentatively agreed to change the way the Children's Fund is handled. Previously, it has been kept separate from other City accounts, but the auditor suggested changing it to a restricted use ISV fund. Mendel proposed that beginning next fiscal year, the account should be carried as an asset. That would remove doubt about whether or not donations are tax-deductible. Dudley suggested forming a 501(c)3 charitable organization to address concerns over the City providing benefits to private individuals. A discussion followed. The auditor also suggested that the City place inventory tags on capital items. The audit firm will present their FY2010 report at the next Council meeting.

Mendel stated that the funds spent for paving earlier in the year need to be added to the budget and authorized by the Council. This will be done at the next Council meeting.

Mayor Zerkis presented a draft of the 2012 fiscal budget to the Council. A discussion followed.

Mayor Zerkis has copies of all the updated storm water maps from FEMA. They will be available to the Council for review. Zerkis and Frazier Christy, City Engineer, met with Pelham Mayor Murphy and two Pelham city engineers to discuss working together on flooding issues along Hwy. 119. Christy will meet with the Pelham city engineers to further discuss.

Robins reported that the problems with the irrigation system have been repaired by the sprinkler company and plumber. The missing city sign at Caldwell Mill and Valleydale has been replaced by Adkins Signs. Robins will get catering bids from Shane's Rib Shack and Jim and Nick's for Founders' Day.

Dudley noted that the City of Hoover is installing more red light cameras.

Bell-Guercio asked if there was any update on the fire hydrants proposed by Chief O'Connor. Mayor Zerkis said no, but he will contact Chief O'Connor. Bell-Guercio proposed getting prices to install and the City doing the project. This project will improve fire safety for a number of residents and may reduce their insurance costs. The previous estimated cost was approximately \$35-40 thousand.

The Mayor opened the floor for comment from residents. Tricia Crapet, Town Hall Curator, asked how much money was budgeted for capital improvements. Mendel said no projects are currently approved but they can be added to the budget after approval. Mayor Zerkis asked Crapet to present a plan for upgrading the flooring and furniture. Crapet will also contact the carpenter to have him install new thresholds on exterior doors.

Councilman Robins and a resident had a discussion about rules of procedure.

Another resident asked about the non-conforming use paragraph in the zoning ordinance. A discussion followed.

Dudley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m., seconded by Bell-Guercio.

Respectfully submitted,

**There is a BURN BAN in effect in all of Shelby County and several other counties through October 31, 2011. Fires are prohibited.**

## Garden Clubbers Learn Preserving Hydrangeas

*By Ruth Goodwyn, Publicity Chair, Indian Springs Garden Club*

The presentation was scheduled to begin at 7:30 a.m. Saturday, September 24, but President Patsy Strozier re-negotiated to have it moved to the more convenient 9:30 a.m. time so more members of the Indian Springs Garden Club and visitors could attend. It was the demonstration on drying hydrangeas presented by Martha Aldridge of the Snowflake Nursery at Sardis City near Boaz, AL.

Ms. Aldridge drove down from Boaz in a van loaded with hydrangeas of all kinds—plants, potted and dried hydrangeas (Oakleaf and Snowflake) and some eucalyptus plants. Most she sold to attendants after the demonstration, which took place at the Town Hall pavilion with 27 present, including representatives from three other local garden clubs and three husband-wife couples who are Garden Club members (Mayor Steve Zerkis and wife Pat, President Patsy and John Strozier and Jake and Peggy Vaughn).

Set up were three containers with three sources of heat placed underneath. Ms. Aldridge first dipped the flowerheads into the pot containing boiling water and glycerin, which converts them from brittle to more soft and pliable, then into the second pot containing coloring and lastly into the pot of plain cold water to rinse them. They are then air-dried by hanging them upside down, or, as at Snowflake Nursery, by special equipment. The colors may be blue, red, pink, purple or white, like those growing naturally, depending on the pH of the soil. If acid, blue flowers are produced, neutral produces pale cream, and alkaline, pink or purple.

The Snowflake Nursery dries a lot of hydrangeas – especially popular for weddings. The clusters of flowers are usually on two to three foot stems with either natural or artificial greenery and look beautiful in tall vases. Ms. Aldridge also showed an aerial view of the Snowflake Farm as it was when first established.

Afterwards, delicious refreshments were provided by Kelly Rasco, Mickey Farmer and Peggy Vaughn.

The arrival of autumn and cooler weather will be celebrated with a Harvest Supper on Thursday evening, October 27, 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.



# Our Lady of the Valley School Awarded National Blue Ribbon

by Steve Zerkis, Mayor

Our Lady of the Valley School in Indian Springs Village has been selected by the U.S. Department of Education to be a 2011 Blue Ribbon School. OLV is the only private school in Alabama to receive this award this year, and one of only 49 private schools in the country so recognized.

This award distinguishes OLV for its educational excellence in teaching, curriculum, student achievement, leadership, professional development, parent involvement and community support. OLV is exceptional in that it is a two-time winner of this award, having first received it in 1998-1999. The school will be presented its award in Washington, D.C. by the Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, on November 14-15, 2011.



## Building Permits

submitted by Frazier Christy, Town Engineer

Applicant: Chris Palermo  
Owner: Midland Valleydale, LLC  
Address: 2653 Valleydale Road  
Proposed Use: Set up drives and parking for bank ATM

Applicant: Grace Kline  
Owner: Kevin Miller  
Address: 151 Skyline Drive  
Proposed Use: Covered Porch

Applicant: Bob Wood  
Owner: Charlie W. Scott  
Address: 425 Valley View Lane  
Proposed Use: Replace Electrical Panel

# Out of the Darkness Community Walk

**1000 PLUS TO WALK IN THE BIRMINGHAM OUT OF THE DARKNESS  
COMMUNITY WALK BENEFITING THE AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR SUICIDE  
PREVENTION**

**Walk to Take Place at Heardmont Park on Sunday, November 6, 2011**

**WHAT:** The 6<sup>th</sup> Birmingham "Out of the Darkness Community Walk" is a fundraising walk to benefit the **American Foundation for Suicide Prevention**. There are over 200 Out of the Darkness Community Walks taking place throughout the U.S. this fall. Nationally, more than 56,000 walkers are expected to participate. Last year, more than 200 walks brought together 36,000 participants and raised more than \$4.2 million. Proceeds will fund research, education and support programs both locally and nationally.

Last year the Birmingham Walk ranked 3rd in the nation with 1660 walkers and raising almost \$140,000! This year's walk will take place on Sunday, November 6, 2011 at Heardmont Park.

**WHEN/  
WHERE:** Heardmont Park  
5452 Cahaba Valley Road  
Birmingham, Alabama 35242

- Media parking available directly in front of the Senior Building
- **1:00 – 2:30 pm** Walker registration
- **2:00 pm** Suggested media arrival
- **2:30 pm** Walkers begin walk route on a paved path which will accommodate wheelchairs and strollers. Pets on a leash are welcome

**WHY:** In the United States, a person dies by suicide every 15 minutes, claiming more than 34,000 lives each year. It is estimated that an attempt is made every minute; with close to one million people attempting suicide annually. Suicide is the third leading cause of death among teens and young adults and the second leading cause of death for college students. Additionally, older Americans over the age of 65 account for 16 percent of all suicide deaths. People walk to honor a loved one, walk to support the cause, and walk to raise awareness.

**SPECIAL  
EVENTS:** - 667 pairs of empty shoes will line the pathway of the walk, representing the number of lives lost to suicide in one year in the state of Alabama.  
-A bagpiper will play just prior to the beginning of the walk.  
Weather permitting; a butterfly release will be the concluding event  
National Guard in uniform will be participating

**CONTACT:** Lisa Dunn, Area Director of AFSP, 205-335-1876, [ldunn@afsp.org](mailto:ldunn@afsp.org)  
Ruth Locklin, Walk Chairman, 205-478-2293, [Ruthggh@aol.com](mailto:Ruthggh@aol.com)  
[www.afsp.org/alabama](http://www.afsp.org/alabama)

### About the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention:

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention is the leading national not-for-profit organization exclusively dedicated to understanding and preventing suicide through research, education and advocacy as well as to reaching out to people with mental disorders and those affected by suicide. For more information please visit [www.afsp.org](http://www.afsp.org).

Applicant: Wyatt Building Corp., Inc.  
Owner: Ken Norris  
Address: 788 Indian Crest Drive  
Proposed Use: Addition to Back of House

Applicant: Majestic Homes, Inc.  
Owner: Chalisle O'Menna  
Address: 125 Indian Gate Circle  
Proposed Use: Covered Patio Addition



# October Happenings

by Cecelia Dean, North Shelby Library Youth Services Department

## Special Programming

**Pumpkin Painting Contest.** Decorate a pumpkin, (no carving please), bring it to the Children's Department between October 15th and 30th for display. Judging will be October 31st. Stop by anytime on this day to see the winners. Pumpkins can be picked up on November 1st.

**Saturday, October 8th from 10:00-11:30 a.m.: Lego Club.** The Library will provide the Legos and snacks, the kids will provide the imagination and creativity. Families are welcome to drop in anytime between 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. to build spectacular creations. Creations will then go on display in the Children's Department. Snacks served. All ages welcome. Registration required.

**Thursday, October 13th at 4:00 p.m.: Craft – Friendly Black Cat.** Get ready for the Halloween holidays by making this friendly black cat craft. All ages welcome. Registration required.

**Wednesday, October 19th at 1:00 p.m.: Homeschool Hangout: Dental Hygiene.** Join Dr. Sarah Flanagan, DMD to help us celebrate dental hygiene month. Ages 8-12. Registration required.

**Saturday, October 22nd from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.: Movie – Phineas and Ferb: The 2nd Dimension.** Follow Phineas, Ferb, Perry and Dr. D. into an alternate universe where the 2nd dimension Evil Dr. D. has accomplished world domination. All ages welcome. No registration required. Snacks served.

**Thursday, October 27th at 4:00 p.m.: B'Tween the Pages Book Club.** Join us to discuss great scary books you have been reading and create book reviews. Snacks served. Ages 8-12. Registration required.

**Friday, October 28th at 4:00 p.m.: Pumpkin Painting Workshop.** BYOP (Bring Your Own Pumpkin). We'll provide the paint and snacks. Ages 3 and up welcome. Registration required.

**Monday, October 31st – All Day.** Stop by any time today in your costume and get a sweet treat!

## Story-Time Programming

**Mondays, October 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th – 9:30 and 10:30 a.m.: Toddler Tales.** 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.

**Tuesdays, October 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th – 9:30-10:00 a.m.: Baby Tales Story Time.** 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. Ages: Birth

to 18 months. Registration required. Registration will begin one week prior to program date.

**Wednesdays, October 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th at 10:45 a.m.: Mr. Mac (Storyteller Extraordinaire!).** Stories, puppets and lots of music for every member of the family. All ages. No registration. Come to Mr. Mac's storytime on October 26th and get a sweet trick or treat surprise!

**Thursdays, October 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th at 7:00 p.m.: P. J. Story Time.** 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](mailto:northshelbyyouth@gmail.com).

## Teen Happenings October 2011

**Teen Advisory Council – Monday, October 10 @ 6:00 p.m.** Interested in helping the Teen Department be even better than it is now? The Teen Advisory Council is the place for you! The TAC meets the second Monday of each month to work on projects for the Library. In October, we will be working on a Teen Read Week™ Bulletin Board and other projects. Bring your ideas and your appetite! Snacks served and community service hours earned. Call 205-439-5512 or email Kate at [nsyouth@shelbycounty-al.org](mailto:nsyouth@shelbycounty-al.org) for more information or to sign up.

**Teen Read Week and Teens' Top Ten – October 16-22.** The North Shelby Library will celebrate Teen Read Week™ with special displays and programs aimed at encouraging area teens to read for the fun of it. This year's theme is "Picture It @ Your Library." The 2011 Teens' Top Ten will also be announced this week. Stop by the Library to see if your favorite book won!

**Teen Book Club – Monday, October 17 @ 6:00 p.m.** The Teen Book Club will meet to discuss a book chosen by the group at their first meeting in September. Check out [www.northshelbylibrary.com/teens.html](http://www.northshelbylibrary.com/teens.html) for the title and description. Then, grab the book and start reading and stop by to let us know your opinion! Snacks Served. Call or email Kate or Daniel at 439-5512 or [nsyouth@shelbycounty-al.com](mailto:nsyouth@shelbycounty-al.com) for more information.

**Anime Night – Thursday, October 20 @ 6:00 p.m.** Join us in the meeting room for an evening of anime. Exotic treats will be served! We will also work on an Anime/Manga art project for the Teen Department. Call or email Kate or Daniel at 439-5512 or [nsyouth@shelbycounty-al.com](mailto:nsyouth@shelbycounty-al.com) for more information.

**Ghost Story Night – Tuesday, October 25 @ 6:00-8:00 p.m.** Scary tales will be shared while we gather around the campfire and roast hot dogs and marshmallows. This teen event is not for the faint of heart! Registration is required. Call 439-5512 or email [nsyouth@shelbycounty-al.com](mailto:nsyouth@shelbycounty-al.com) for more information or to register.

# Oak Mountain High School Named a National Blue Ribbon School

*Kathryn Acree, Community Editor, 280 Living (reprint)*

Oak Mountain High School has been named a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. Oak Mountain High School was one of 304 schools to be recognized this year with the prestigious award, which honors public and private schools for overall excellence or for their success in closing the achievement gap. The award, established in 1982, is considered to be the highest honor an American school can achieve.

The U.S. Department of Education will honor the entire 255 public and 49 private schools with their National Blue Ribbon School awards at a conference and awards ceremony Nov. 14-15 in Washington, D.C. The Shelby County Board of Education will hold their monthly board meeting at Oak Mountain High School tonight at 6:00 p.m. to honor the faculty and staff of the school.

The Blue Ribbon award acknowledges and validates the hard work of students, staff members, families and communities in reaching high levels of student achievement. The award is the most recent national recognition for Oak Mountain High School, which also made the listings of both Newsweek magazine and The Washington Post's Challenge Index as one of the top high schools in the nation.

"America's long-term economic prosperity and civic engagement depends on our children receiving a world-class education," said U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. "National Blue Ribbon Schools are committed to accelerating student achievement and preparing students for success in college and careers. Their success is an example for others to follow."

"Oak Mountain High School has been a model of excellence in education at all levels," said Superintendent Randy Fuller. "We are very proud of them and want to congratulate the faculty, staff, students and community."

Oak Mountain is the first high school in Shelby County to earn the distinction. Five other Shelby County schools have been recognized over the years with the Blue Ribbon School Award, including Riverchase Middle School, Valley Elementary, Elvin Hill Elementary, Oak Mountain

Elementary and Inverness Elementary. Nationally, a total of 6,500 schools have earned the honor over the past 30 years.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private schools based on one of two criteria: 1) Schools whose students are high performing. These are schools ranked among each state's highest performing schools as measured by their performance on state assessments or, in the case of private schools, that score at the highest performance level on nationally normed tests; or 2) Schools with at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds that improve student performance to high levels as measured by the school's performance on state assessments or nationally-normed tests.

Before selecting National Blue Ribbon Schools, the department asks for nominations from the top education official in every state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, the Department of Defense Education Activity and the Bureau of Indian Education. The Council for American Private Education (CAPE) nominates private schools. A total of 413 schools nationwide are nominated, based on the number of K-12 students and the number of schools in each jurisdiction. The schools are invited by the Secretary of Education to submit an application for possible recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School.



*Superintendent Randy Fuller and Principal Joan Doyle.*

## **Please note the following change in the ISV Town Hall rules:**

**\*\*\*! PLEASE NOTE:** We are getting complaints from Indian Springs School because invitees to ISV Town Hall functions are mistakenly going to the SCHOOL Town Hall instead of coming to OUR Town Hall!!!! PLEASE put the address **"2635 Cahaba Valley Road"** on your invitations to your ISV Town Hall function!!!! Make sure that your "out of area" friends KNOW where to go for your event! **\*\*\*!\*\*\*!**

## Control Over Your Dogs

by Steve Zerlis, Mayor

I hate to bring up a difficult subject, but this summer we had a tragic situation in which dogs belonging to one resident got loose and attacked two animals belonging to another resident. Those animals died as a result of the attack. The attacking dogs were shot by the second resident. Two families in town lost four pets in a few hours.

The key here is that the dogs got loose and began to roam the neighborhood, found some other animals and those animals were attacked and killed. This should not have happened, but it did. As dog owners, we are responsible to keep our dogs on our private property. State law is very clear about this. Your dog can run free on your own property but cannot be off that property unless it is under the direct control of the dog owner. "Under control" means being on a leash or under direct voice control. I know most dogs are sweet and gentle, but occasionally something happens and they can attack. Unfortunately, they can't just roam.

Residents also expect to be able to walk or bike our streets without a dog chasing them, or worse yet, biting. As pet owners, we cannot allow our pets to attack and/or bite anyone who walks past their house. Pet owners are responsible for the destructive actions of their pets. If your dog harms someone, you may be held responsible. Please make sure your pet stays on your private property and not on other people's property or public roads. Again, it's Alabama state law. Thanks for your help.

## Coyotes

by Steve Zerlis, Mayor

I've had several residents say that they have seen coyotes around town recently with the most recent sighting of a pack of coyotes in the Cahaba Oaks area. We are going to find coyotes all throughout Shelby County and most of the state. These animals travel often in family groups. A pack seen in one neighborhood may be seen in another neighborhood a mile away the next day. They are looking for something to eat. That something can be the dog or cat food you leave outside, or a small pet that cannot defend itself. Coyotes are rarely aggressive toward people or larger animals. That doesn't mean they may not attack you or your children. If they feel threatened or feel that you may be a threat to their offspring, they may attack to protect themselves and their family. If they are sick, they may also attack.

How do we get rid of coyotes? We can't, at least not easily. Coyotes are hard to trap. They are smart animals and don't easily fall for a trap. They have adapted well to suburban, and even urban, living. They also follow the rules of nature. If several are taken away from an area, coyotes from surrounding areas will move into their territory and replace them, and they will breed more to increase the population.

So what can we do? Don't give them food. If they can't find food, they will keep traveling. Please don't leave out cat or dog food, or leave your garbage in unsecured containers. They are not staying in your neighborhood because they like the landscaping. They are looking for something to eat and, if they can find it, they will keep coming back. Small pets are an easy target. Most cats can climb trees to get away. Small dogs are not so capable.

Please educate your family. If they happen to see a coyote, do not go near it. It will probably go on its way if you leave it alone. If they are aggressive and attack, please call the sheriff's office (669-4181) for assistance. If you want to attempt trapping, you may want to contact one of several private animal control services.

## That Big Yellow School Bus

by Steve Zerlis, Mayor

Kids are back in school and their buses are cruising down our streets at least twice a day. I know most of us know this but if you see a school bus slowing and stopping with its lights flashing, STOP. Regardless of which direction you are driving, please stop and stay until the school bus moves again. It's state law, and it's just common sense. Drivers in both directions must stop and wait. I saw an SUV pass a stopped school bus last week. What on earth was the driver thinking? You know how children are. They don't look both ways when getting off a school bus to dart across the street. The only way they look is straight ahead. They will not see a vehicle passing their bus. Please be careful.

## New Paving

by Steve Zerlis, Mayor

The County is paving several streets in ISV. Crews from Dunn Construction have been working during the past two weeks, to mill, tar and lay down new asphalt on at least four streets. So far, they have worked on two streets in the Old Mill subdivision off of McGuire Road, and the two streets in the Mountain Park subdivision off of Indian Crest Drive. Striping crews have been out to paint stop lines. Two of those streets may need some touch-up work, but they are a big improvement over what existed. With tight budgets, I appreciate the effort Shelby County has made to pave these streets. A lot of potholes and crumbling roadways are now gone.





## Spay/Neuter Vouchers

In conjunction with the Shelby Humane Society, the City is providing vouchers for a free spay or neuter surgery for your dog or cat. If you would like a voucher, please contact City Clerk, Kelly Rasco at [Kelly@indianspringsvillage.org](mailto:Kelly@indianspringsvillage.org). The vouchers expire 30 days from the date of issue. Shelby Humane Quick Fix provides the surgeries. For more information, visit [www.shelbyhumane.org](http://www.shelbyhumane.org).



## ISV T-Shirts on Sale

The ISV Garden Club has a limited number of Indian Springs Village t-shirts. Sizes available are Large and 2XL. The shirts are dark green and have the ISV logo on the front. The back says, "Life is good in the Village." The sale price is \$10. If you are interested, please contact Garden Club member Kelly Rasco at 981-1808 or email at [kelly\\_rasco@yahoo.com](mailto:kelly_rasco@yahoo.com).

## TOPS Weight Loss Support Group Meetings

Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) meets every Tuesday morning at 10:30 at the St. Frances Episcopal Church, 3545 Cahaba Valley Road, Indian Springs Village, 35242 Call 995-2166 for info.

The Take Off Pounds Sensibly Weight Loss Support Group meets on Tuesday nights at 6:00 p.m. at Indian Springs First Baptist Church, 3375 Cahaba Valley Road, Indian Springs Village. Call 620-0602 with questions. Please join us! Lose weight with friends!

## Cash for Candy

*submitted by Liesa Allie, office of Dr. Lisa G. Wilson, DMD*

### Local Dentist Takes a Stand Against Sweets this Halloween

One area dentist is redefining the phrase "put your money where your mouth is." This Halloween, trick-or-treaters can bring their excess candy to Dr. Lisa Wilson's office in Indian Springs and receive \$1 per pound! Dr. Wilson is participating in this anti-decay movement by giving away dollars, light-up toothbrushes and other prizes in exchange for cavity-provoking candy.

"Ditch the candy' is what we're saying. Seeing your dentist twice a year and brushing daily are great ways to keep your teeth healthy, but doing away with excess sweets altogether would really give your teeth a healthy boost," says Dr. Wilson. "Kids can still have fun trick-or-treating, and now their piggy banks will benefit as well!"

Global sugar consumption for kids increases by about 2% annually and currently sits at 50 million tons per year, which means parents need to be sure their kids teeth are being cared-for more than ever. Candy, as well as hurting children's teeth, can lead to hyperactivity and weight gain. In some cases, the wrong types of candy can also lead to broken teeth and damaged braces.

Candy will be collected at Dr. Wilson's office the day after Halloween, **Tuesday, Nov.1st, from 3:00-5:00 p.m.** Children will receive \$1 per pound of candy donated and a goody bag from Dr. Wilson. They may also register for door prizes and have the opportunity to write a note to the troops, which will be sent with the candy.

Dr. Wilson began participating in the Halloween Candy Buy Back program in 2009 and, in two years, has sent over 400 pounds of candy to our military troops stationed overseas through Operation Gratitude. Please consider joining the movement this year!

All candy must be unopened. No bites, please!

Dr. Wilson's office is located at 5470 Caldwell Mill Road, just down from Oak Mountain High School. For more information, please contact Dr. Wilson at (205)-995-8084, or by email at [info@drilisawilson.com](mailto:info@drilisawilson.com).



*Photo courtesy of Operation Gratitude.*



## OCTOBER 2011

Heardmont Park Senior Center  
 5452 Cahaba Valley Road, Birmingham, AL 35242  
 (205) 991-5742 and Fax (205) 991-5657 heardmontpark@hotmail.com



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
3 9:30 – 10:30 Tai Chi 10:30-3 - Canasta	4 9:15 – 9:45 Wii Fun Time 10-11 Aerobics 10-2 Bingo & Board Games 11 Bible Study <b>11:15- 11:45 Special Speaker</b> 12 LUNCH	5 9-12 Bridge 11:30- 3 Rummikub 12 LUNCH 1-2 Ballroom Dancing with Curt	6 10-11 Aerobics 11 – <i>New Beacon Blood Pressure and Blood sugar check</i> 10-2 Bingo & Board Games 12 LUNCH	7 9-10 Zumba Gold 10-11 Intermediate Line Dancing 11-12 Beginning Line Dancing
10 9:30 – 10:30 Tai Chi 9:30- 12 Mah Jongg 10:30-3 - Canasta	11 9:15 – 9:45 Wii Fun Time 10-11 Aerobics 10-2 Bingo & Board Games 11 Bible Study 12 LUNCH	12 9-12 Bridge 11:30- 3 Rummikub 12 LUNCH 1 -2 Ballroom Dancing with Curt	13 10-11 Aerobics 10-2 Bingo & Board Games 12 LUNCH	14 9-10 Zumba Gold 10-11 Intermediate Line Dancing 11-12 Beginning Line Dancing 7 pm Heardmont Dance
17 9:30 – 10:30 Tai Chi 9:30- 12 Mah Jongg 10:30-3 - Canasta	18 9:15 – 9:45 Wii Fun Time 10-11 Aerobics 10-2 Bingo & Board Games 12 LUNCH	19 9-12 Bridge 10:00 – Computer Class 11:30- 3 Rummikub 12 LUNCH 1-2 Ballroom Dancing with Curt	20 10-11 Aerobics 10-2 Bingo & Board Games 11 Harrison Regional Library 12 LUNCH	21 9-10 Zumba Gold 10-11 Intermediate Line Dancing 11-12 Beginning Line Dancing
24 9:30 – 10:30 Tai Chi 9:30- 12 Mah Jongg 10:30-3 - Canasta	25 9:15 – 9:45 Wii Fun Time 10-11 Aerobics 10-2 Bingo & Board Games 12 LUNCH	26 9-12 Bridge 11:30- 3 Rummikub 12 LUNCH 1-2 Ballroom Dancing with Curt	27 10-11 Aerobics 10-2 Bingo & Board Games 12 LUNCH <b>Halloween Costume Contest</b>	28 9-10 Zumba Gold 10-11 Intermediate Line Dancing 11-12 Beginning Line Dancing
31 <b>HALLOWEEN</b> 9:30 – 10:30 Tai Chi 9:30- 12 Mah Jongg 10:30-3 - Canasta				

## Alabama Wildlife Center Upcoming Events

*submitted by Janet Byars, Administrative Assistant, Alabama Wildlife Center*

**COST:** Free after paid admission to Oak Mountain State Park: \$1 per child 6-11 & Seniors 62+; \$3 Adults  
 205-663-7930; [www.awrc.org](http://www.awrc.org); follow us on Facebook

**10/23/11, Sunday, Audubon Teaches Nature: An Introduction to the Spiders of Alabama, Mike Howell, Guest Speaker.** Refreshments at AWC from 1:30-2:00 p.m. Program at Oak Mountain Interpretive Center (next door to AWC) at 2:00 p.m. Alabama is blessed with a wide variety of habitats within her borders and filling every available niche are an equally diverse group of animals. Among these are the spiders. Some are found only within the dune system of the northern Gulf coast while others are found only on certain plants. Come learn all about these spiders and more from an expert who literally “wrote the book.”

**10/29/11, Saturday, 10:00am-2:00pm, Owl-O-Ween:** Owl-O-Ween joins Oak Mountain State Park’s Fall Festival for a great day of family fun and learning. Children’s activities and educational programs feature make ‘n take barn owl cookies, story time, raptor presentations, hay rides, bobbing for apples, face painting, Treetop Nature Trail tours and more! Check our website for the schedule of activities and locations.

**11/05/11, Saturday 1:00-2:00pm – Get Wild!: Inside Avian Rehabilitation.** AWC rehabilitators share their favorite rehab success stories with our audience. Get a glimpse inside the profession of wildlife rehabilitation through the eyes of AWC staff and volunteers. You’re sure to find this program insightful and entertaining.

**11/06/11, Sunday, 1:00-2:30pm – Volunteer Orientation; Introduction to AWC:** 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](http://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 a parent).