

The Village Voice



Volume 21, Number 9 Indian Springs Village, Alabama December 4, 2011

INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday, December 20, 2011 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 3, 2012 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 contact
Patricia Crapet. 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 January edition should be submitted by Friday, December 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*

It's December and we have had our first threat of snow and sleet. It's been a wonderful fall season. A real Indian summer with mild temperatures and beautiful colors. Now the leaves are down and the blowers are working overtime. It's rake and mulch time. The ISV Garden Club has cleaned up the flower beds around the Town Hall. It's on to all the good December holidays with opportunities to be with family and friends.

Our own ISV holiday party will be right after our Council meeting on Tuesday, December 20 in the Town Hall. Please visit and bring some treats to share with your neighbors, along with good cheer.

The road contractor for the state has finally fixed the pavement at the intersection of Highway 119 and Arrowhead Lane. No more potholes. That was work long overdue. They also did some work at Highway 119 and Valley View Road. I'm very glad for the improvements.

At the November 15 Council meeting, the Town Council approved two changes to the zoning ordinance. Over the next few months we will be looking to make changes to our flood control and subdivision ordinances to improve the management of storm water. This will apply primarily to new construction. When those changes are drafted, public hearings will be held by both the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Town Council to ask for comments.

A reminder that, if you are having construction done on your property, you very well may need a building permit. Please contact the City Engineer, Frazier Christy (939-1119), for further information. Your contractor will need a business license. He/she needs to contact our City Clerk, Kelly Rasco (981-1808), to apply for that license.

On behalf of the Town Council, and volunteer staff of this town, we wish you very happy holidays!

Steve and Pat Zerkis

Town Council Meeting

October 18, 2011

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met at 7:05 p.m. at the Town Hall Pavilion. Mayor Zerkis called the meeting to order and the City Clerk called the roll. All council members were present except Brian Stauss and Stewart Dudley. The Mayor reviewed the agenda.

The Council reviewed the October 4 minutes. Bell-Guercio made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Mendel. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Wayne Jones reported for the PAZ. A new ordinance proposed by Kevin Miller passed the committee and is being referred to the Council. The first reading will be at the next meeting.

Mayor Zerkis reported he had researched video surveillance systems for installation at the Town Hall. The approximate cost for a system and installation is approximately \$1,000. Zerkis described one of the systems he reviewed.

Robins thanked Nick Gaspers of Shane's Rib Shack and his catering staff for providing dinner.

Mendel postponed the financial report review until the next meeting.

Mayor Zerkis asked the City Clerk to get pricing on a locking bulletin board.

Mayor Zerkis opened the floor for public comment. Ron Luster, one of the city founder's presented a banner that was used in Indian Springs when incorporation efforts began.

Zerkis thanked everyone for attending the Founders' Day celebration.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Rasco, City Clerk

Town Council Meeting

November 1, 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 then called the roll. All council members were present except Stewart Dudley. The Mayor reviewed the agenda.

Mendel reviewed the issues discussed so far with the financial setup of the Children's Fund. He also stated that a charter document would be required, regardless of how we proceeded. A discussion followed. The Council agreed that the Children's Fund should preferably be a separate entity from the City and that an application for a federal EIN needs to be completed.

The Council reviewed the October 18 minutes. Bell-Guercio made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Robins. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Mendel presented the September financial report. He noted that it reflects the end of the fiscal year. He added that the budgets had been adjusted. A discussion followed. Mendel motioned to endorse the report, seconded by Stauss. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Mayor Zerkis reported for the PAZ. This is the first reading of the proposed ordinance to change the zoning

ordinance, specifically, to change the E-1 minimum acreage requirement to one acre. The ordinance will be considered at the next applicable meeting.

Robins reported that the street sign at Spring Garden Street (south) is damaged. He has contacted the sign contractor to install a new 6 x 6 post and repaint the sign and bracket. Mendel reported that the sign at Brook Green and Mountain Vista is also damaged as well as the Citizens Patrol sign at the same intersection. Robins added that there is a street sign damaged in Indian Highlands. The neighborhood association president plans to ask if the neighborhood will pay for a decorative ISV sign or have the standard metal street sign installed at no cost. A worn stop sign also needs to be replaced. Robins will contact Shelby County.

Robins discussed possible Eagle Scout projects with Justin Stoessel. Stoessel is considering the installation of security cameras at the Town Hall. A discussion followed. Mayor Zerkis would also like to consider upgrading the existing security system. More discussion followed.

Mayor Zerkis asked Robins what the cost was to replace the loop at the traffic light at 119 and Caldwell Mill. Robins responded that it was approximately \$1,400, but he had not yet received the bill.

Stauss reported that a resident of Cahaba Oaks subdivision had complained about coyotes. Stauss plans to contact Critter Control for a cost estimate. Stauss asked Robins if he had an update from Gary Ray of ALDOT on the missing Adopt-A-Mile and mile marker signs. Mayor Zerkis also noted that the County missed some sections when they recently paved Old Mill and Mountain Park Drive. Robins will follow up.

Mayor Zerkis discussed sign permit fees. He has reviewed some other area cities fee schedules. He has also sent a message to the City Engineer to get an estimate of time spent on reviewing sign permits.

Stauss reported that he received a phone message about a change to the sign at OLV.

Mayor Zerkis stated that he had received a letter from the director of Indian Springs School stating that the school is retiring the educational bond.

Zerkis has received letters from three of the four Oak Mountain schools for annual grant requests. A discussion followed concerning stipulating the use of grant money for school sign upgrades and repair of fire hydrants on school grounds.

Zerkis received a letter from the USPS Pelham branch complaining about copies of *The Village Voice* being placed in mailboxes. They proposed a delivery method that will not work for us. A discussion followed.

Mayor Zerkis gave an update on the fire hydrant project. Chief O'Connor received a written bid for \$5,700 per hydrant. Zerkis is contacting other contractors for bids.

Mayor Zerkis opened the floor for public comment. A resident asked if we could project on a screen the proposed ordinances at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Rasco, City Clerk

Military Teen Helps Military

Teens *submitted by Melanie Kieve, Assistant Director of Development, Indian Springs School*

Candace von Hoffman knows what it's like to be a military kid. The daughter of an Air Force Reserve colonel and Alabama Air National Guard lieutenant colonel, she has seen her parents leave for deployment for months at a time since she was an infant, and she understands the joys and challenges of military family life.

At age 16, von Hoffman is taking her experience and using it to help others living a similar path. The Indian Springs School sophomore has been selected to serve on the Air Force Reserve Command Teen Leadership Council, a national council formed to give Air Force Reserve senior leaders an insight into the concerns of Air Force Reserve youth and families, particularly those whose parents have been deployed multiple times.

Von Hoffman is one out of only 20 Air Force teens nationwide selected to participate on the Council. She began her one-year term this month.

As a member of the Council, von Hoffman will:

- participate in Yellow Ribbon Events, regional gatherings for military families that help them prepare for deployment, acclimate after deployment and realize the range of resources that are available to them
- identify and accomplish at least one project per year to strengthen Air Force Reserve Youth Programs (she is planning a "Dive-In" movie event in June at the Maxwell Air Force Base near Montgomery to draw attention to resources available to Air Force teens)
- serve as an ambassador for the Air Force's Family Readiness programs serving younger children
- speak on behalf of Air Force Reserve teens at special events
- be a resource for other Air Force Reserve teens and families within their own community
- be an advisor to senior Air Force Reserve leaders on the concerns of military youth

With multiple deployments and frequent family moves, the children of military families need each other, von Hoffman says. That's where the Council comes in, offering services to help Air Force children realize that "we can find a piece of home wherever we are because we have each other," she adds.

As the nation approaches Veterans Day, von Hoffman is especially pleased to be a part of a program that positively impacts military families. "I'm in love with the idea of giving back to people who give to us, who work so hard to protect our country and who I respect so much," she says. "I am honored to do what I can for them and their families."

Von Hoffman is the daughter of Col Cauley von Hoffman, commander of the 908th Maintenance Group, 908th Airlift Wing, at Maxwell Air Force Base (and herself a graduate

of Indian Springs School) and Lt Col Mitch von Hoffman, Director of Operations for the 100th Fighter Squadron at the Montgomery Air National Guard Base.



(l-r) The von Hoffman family - Gracie, Mitch, Candace, Kathleen and Cauley von Hoffman

ISV Children's Fund

Can you believe Christmas is just around the corner? Each year the ISV Children's Fund provides Christmas gifts and clothing to needy students in the Oak Mountain school system. Since the Children's Fund was created, the residents of Indian Springs Village have provided Christmas for countless children through both their financial generosity and the gift of shopping time. We are grateful for your past and continued support! If you would like to donate to the fund, please make your check payable to ISV Children's Fund and mail to 2635 Cahaba Valley Road, Indian Springs Village, AL 35124. If you are interested in participating in the shopping trip, contact City Clerk Kelly Rasco, and provide your name and contact information. Kelly can be reached via email at Kelly@indianspringsvillage.org or via phone at 981-1808. As soon as the date and time are set, you will be contacted.

An Oak Mountain Christmas

by Steve Zerkis, Mayor

Would you like to see a wonderful Christmas performance? The award-winning Bands of Oak Mountain will be performing at the Alabama Theater on December 9 at 7:00 p.m. They will be accompanied by special guest Carrie Tillis, daughter of Mel Tillis and sister of Pam Tillis. Tillis will perform a range of music with Oak Mountain High School's nationally recognized jazz, symphonic and wind ensemble bands. Music before the show will be provided by the Alabama Theater's "Mighty Wurlitzer" organ.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$12 for children 12 and under. Contact the ticket group at tickets@oakmountainchristmas.com for pricing and additional information, or just go to Oakmountainchristmas.com. Tickets are also available at the theater. All proceeds benefit the Oak Mountain band program.

December Happenings

by Cecelia Dean, North Shelby Library Youth Services Department

**** The library will be closed December 22nd through December 26th and will re-open on December 27th. The library will also be closed December 30th through January 1st and will re-open on January 2nd. ****

****You can now register for our programs online. Visit our website at www.northshelbylibrary.org/children.html to view our calendar and make reservations.**

Special Programming

Saturday, December 3rd at 9:00-10:30 a.m.: Breakfast with Santa. Join us for a great time of food, fun and pictures with Santa. Breakfast will be from 9:00-9:30 a.m.. Pictures with Santa and a Christmas craft will be 9:30-10:30 a.m.. Registration required. A \$5.00 fee per adult is due at the time of registration. All ages are welcome.

Saturday, December 3rd – December 10th: Usborne Book Fair. Looking for the perfect gift for the holidays? Look no further. The library is partnering with Usborne to have a library book fair. You get great books, the library gets free books to put on our shelves and we all win. Stop by the Children's Department to place your orders!

Wednesday, December 14th at 1:00-2:00 p.m.: Homeschool Hangout – Holiday Party and Crafts. Join us to celebrate the holidays with yummy food and fun crafts. Ages 8-12. Registration required.

Thursday, December 15th from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.: Christmas Movie Marathon. Join us for a marathon of your favorite Christmas movies. Drop in any time between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and see if your favorite is playing or discover a new favorite. No registration is required. All ages welcome. Refreshments served.

Friday, December 16th at 4:00 p.m.: Craft – 3D Gingerbread House. Join us to make this craft that will make a great addition to your holiday decorations. All ages welcome. Registration required.

Story-Time Programming

Mondays, December 5th, 12th and 19th at 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, December 6th and 13th from 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, December 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th: Mr. Mac (Storyteller Extraordinaire!)

Stories, puppets and lots of music for every member of the family. All ages. No registration.

Thursdays, December 1st, 8th and 15th 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 or visit our website at www.northshelbylibrary.org/children.html.

Teen Happenings

Teen Advisory Council

Monday, December 12 @ 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. 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 for more information or to sign up.

Teen Book Club

Monday, December 19 @ 6:00 p.m.

The Teen Book Club will meet to discuss *The Shadow Project* by Herbie Brennan. "A young English thief stumbles on, and subsequently is recruited for, a super-secret operation that trains teenagers in remote viewing and astral projection techniques in order to engage in spying." A selection for the Shelby County Schools Battle of the Books 2011-2012. 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 for more information.

Craft

Thursday, December 8 @ 6:00 p.m.

Get ready for the holidays by embellishing your own wrapping paper or holiday card. Call or email Kate or Daniel at 439-5512 or nsyouth@shelbycounty-al.com to register.



Alabama Wildlife Center

Upcoming Events

submitted by Janet Byars, Administrative Assistant, Alabama Wildlife Center

Upcoming Programs and Events

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

Volunteer Orientation: 12/4/11, Sunday, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Volunteer Orientation; Introduction to AWC.

This is 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 a parent).

19th Annual Holiday Craft and Bake Sale: 12/10/11, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Turn your holiday shopping into charitable support of AWC's nonprofit mission to help injured and orphaned wild birds! Enjoy free hot cider and meet glove-trained Education Birds up-close! All proceeds benefit the Alabama Wildlife Center.

- Holiday Decorations of Natural Materials
- Nature Themed Ornaments & Gifts
- Homemade Jams, Jellies, Cakes, Cookies, etc.
- Handmade Blankets & Throws
- Bird Feeders & Houses

• New this year: frozen casseroles and soups—great for the holidays!

Audubon Teaches Nature: (No program for December) 1/15/12, Sunday, 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. An Introduction to Birds of Prey, Southeastern Raptor Center, Guest Speakers. Birds of prey are fascinating and Alabama is home to several species. We are amazed by their specialized adaptations and hunting prowess. Due to popular demand, we are offering programs at 1:00 p.m. and again at 3:00 p.m. Seating is limited and pre-registration is suggested. You may pre-register online after December 11th by visiting www.awrc.org. Remember to bring your camera!

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. The vouchers expire 30 days from the date of issue. Shelby Humane Quick Fix provides the surgeries. For more information, visit www.shelbyhumane.org.

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!

Indian Springs School's Caldwell Chosen for Youth Leadership

Shelby County *submitted by Melanie Kieve, Assistant Director of Development, Indian Springs School*

Indian Springs School junior Caleb Caldwell has been chosen to participate in the 2011-2012 Youth Leadership Shelby County program.

Youth Leadership Shelby County is designed to encourage young people to be socially conscientious leaders of the future by providing them with the experience, vision and opportunity to lead. The program is offered to a select number of high school juniors.

During the course of the school year, Caldwell and other young leaders will participate in monthly meetings that inform them about a particular topic and encourage them to learn more about their communities, the value of civic engagement, and the importance of developing personal character.

Caldwell, who lives in Indian Springs Village in north Shelby County, was chosen among a pool of applicants based on demonstrated school and community leadership and academic excellence.

Youth Leadership Forum of Birmingham is sponsored by Leadership Shelby County, an independent, non-profit and non-partisan organization that seeks to enhance the quality of life in Shelby County as well as inform, inspire and empower the county's current and future leaders.



DECEMBER 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
	Ballroom Dancing cancelled For December	** Signup suggested for Christmas luncheon on 12/8 Center will reopen TUESDAY, January 3, 2012	1 Birthday Club Day 10-11 Aerobics 11:15 New Beacon Blood Pressure & Blood Sugar testing 10-2 Bingo & Board Games 12 LUNCH	2 9-10 Zumba Gold 10-11 Intermediate Line Dancing 11-12 Beginning LineDancing
5 9:30 – 10:30 Tai Chi 10:30-3 - Canasta	6 9-11:30 – UAB vision screenings 10-11 Aerobics 11 – Tree Trimming Party 10-2 Bingo & Board Games 11 Bible Study 12 LUNCH	7 9-12 Bridge 11:30- 3 Rummikub 12 LUNCH	8 10-11 Aerobics 10-2 Bingo & Board Games 11:30 Christmas Carry In Luncheon **	9 9-10 Zumba Gold 10-11 Intermediate Line Dancing 11-12 Beginning Line Dancing 7 pm Heardmont Dance
12 9:30 – 10:30 Tai Chi 9:30- 12 Mah Jongg 10:30-3 - Canasta	13 9:15 – 9:45 Wii Fun Time 9:30 – Christmas Tree Shop Shopping /Lunch/Signup needed 10-11 Aerobics 10-2 Bingo & Board Games 11 Bible Study 12 LUNCH	14 9-12 Bridge 11:30- 3 Rummikub 12 LUNCH	15 10-11 Aerobics 10-2 Bingo & Board Games 11 – Harrison Regional Library 12 - LUNCH	16 9-10 Zumba Gold 10-11 Intermediate Line Dancing 11-12 Beginning Line Dancing
19 Tai Chi Cancelled Today 9:30- 12 Mah Jongg 10:30-3 - Canasta	20 9:15 – 9:45 Wii Fun Time 10-11 Aerobics 11 Bible Study 10-2 Bingo & Board Games 12 LUNCH	21 9-12 Bridge 10-11 Computer class/cancelled 11:30- 3 Rummikub 12 LUNCH	22 10-11 Aerobics 10-2 Bingo & Board Games 12- LUNCH	23 9-10 Zumba Gold 10-11 Intermediate Line Dancing 11-12 Beginning Line Dancing
26 CENTER CLOSED	27 CENTER CLOSED	28 CENTER CLOSED	29 CENTER CLOSED	30 CENTER CLOSED Center will reopen TUESDAY, January 3, 2012

New Courier Needed for *The Village Voice*

We are looking for a volunteer to assume the Valley View delivery route of *The Village Voice* newsletter. If you would be interested in becoming a courier, please contact Alison Stigers at alison@indianspringsvillage.org.

On another note, when you see that your copy of *The Village Voice* has been delivered, please try to collect it as soon as possible, especially if it has been placed on your mailbox. We'd like to make sure they have all been removed before your mail delivery person comes again.

Many thanks to all the couriers who faithfully deliver the newsletter each month; we appreciate your volunteer spirit and dedication.

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.

Upcoming Scholastic Chess Tournament

February 11, 2012: Birmingham, AL (Oak Mountain Intermediate School)

OAK MOUNTAIN SCHOLASTIC - 5 Rounds Swiss – USCF Rated and “Not Rated” sections. Host Site is Oak Mountain Intermediate School at 5486 Caldwell Mill Road, Birmingham, AL. Prizes: Trophies and Medallions.

Visit the ACF website - www.AlabamaChess.com - for the latest news about Alabama chess tournaments

