

JANUARY 2012

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
2 CENTER CLOSED HAPPY NEW YEAR	3 9:15 – 9:45 Wii Fun Time 10-11 Aerobics 11 Bible Study 10-2 Bingo & Board Games 12 LUNCH	4 9-12 Bridge 11:30- 3 Rummikub 12 LUNCH 1-2 Ballroom Dancing with Curt	5 10-11 Aerobics 10-2 Bingo & Board Games 11:15 New Beacon Blood Pressure and Sugar Testing 12- LUNCH	6 9-10 Zumba Gold 10-11 Intermediate Line Dancing 11-12 Beginning LineDancing
9 9:30 – 10:30 Tai Chi 9:30- 12 Mah Jongg 10:30-3 - Canasta	10 9:15 – 9:45 Wii Fun Time 10-11 Aerobics 11 Bible Study 10-2 Bingo & Board Games 12 LUNCH	11 9-12 Bridge 11:30- 3 Rummikub 12 LUNCH 1-2 Ballroom Dancing with Curt	12 10-11 Aerobics 10-2 Bingo & Board Games 12- LUNCH	13 9-10 Zumba Gold 10-11 Intermediate Line Dancing 11-12 Beginning Line Dancing 7 pm Heardmont Dance
16 CENTER CLOSED	17 9:15 – 9:45 Wii Fun Time 10-11 Aerobics 11 Bible Study 10-2 Bingo & Board Games 12 LUNCH	18 9-12 Bridge 10-11 Computer Class 11:30- 3 Rummikub 12 LUNCH 1-2 Ballroom Dancing with Curt	19 10-11 Aerobics 10-2 Bingo & Board Games 11 Harrison Regional Library 12- LUNCH	20 9-10 Zumba Gold 10-11 Intermediate Line Dancing 11-12 Beginning Line Dancing
23 9:30-10:30 Tai Chi 9:30- 12 Mah Jongg 10:30-3 - Canasta	24 9:15 – 9:45 Wii Fun Time 10-11 Aerobics 11 Bible Study 10-2 Bingo & Board Games 12 LUNCH	25 9-12 Bridge 11:30- 3 Rummikub 12 LUNCH 1-2 Ballroom Dancing with Curt	26 9-1 AARP Driver safety class 10-11 Aerobics 10-2 Bingo & Board Games 12- LUNCH	27 9-1 AARP Driver safety class 9-10 Zumba Gold 10-11 Intermediate Line Dancing 11-12 Beginning Line Dancing
30 9:30-10:30 Tai Chi 9:30- 12 Mah Jongg 10:30-3 - Canasta	31 9:15 – 9:45 Wii Fun Time 10-11 Aerobics 11 Bible Study 10-2 Bingo & Board Games 12 LUNCH			

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.

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.



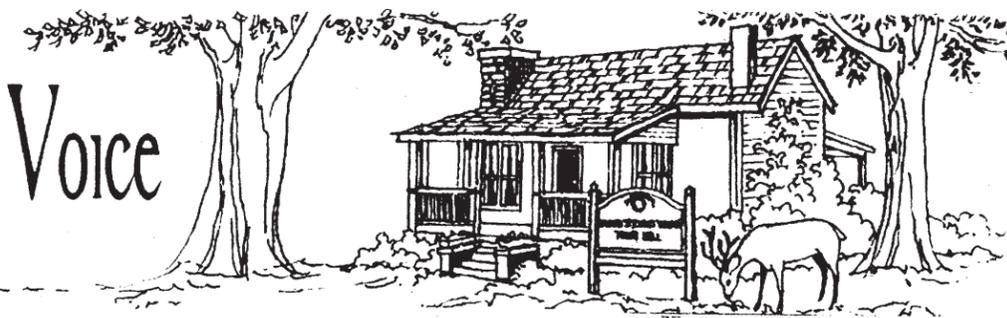
New Courier Needed for *The Village Voice*

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.

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

The Village Voice



Volume 21, Number 10 Indian Springs Village, Alabama January 6, 2012

INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday, January 17, 2012 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, February 7, 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 February edition should be submitted by Friday, January 27, 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*

2011 was a good year for Indian Springs Village. Among the things that make a community an attractive place in which to live is the quality of its schools. This year, two of our schools were awarded a National Blue Ribbon Award: Oak Mountain High School and Our Lady of the Valley Elementary School. Only five schools in Alabama received this award. From what I can tell, Indian Springs Village is the only city or town in the U.S. with two 2011 Blue Ribbon award winning schools. The Blue Ribbon Award is considered the highest award an American school can receive. This is the second time Our Lady of the Valley has achieved this award. Oak Mountain Elementary School has also received this award in the past. Can a school receive this award year after year? No, just once every five years. In all, we have seven outstanding schools within this town.

We have begun to address several storm water flooding and management issues that property owners are facing. As part of the project to widen Cahaba Valley Road, the State also installed significant improvements in culverts and drainage ditches in and near the road to improve drainage and water flow. The town has taken a big first step in improving control over storm water runoff by increasing the minimum lot size for new development. In 2012, we will work to revise our storm water and subdivision ordinances to better define storm water retention controls for new development.

We’ve developed a new sign ordinance and made changes in our zoning ordinance in 2011. I anticipate other ordinance and standards changes will be considered where needed.

There is always on-going work to keep up the town and make needed improvements. We saw five streets repaved in 2011 and look forward to having more completed in 2012. A number of street signs were replaced. Our nineteenth century farm house town hall continues to get its share of maintenance and repair. In 2011 it was exterior repairs, painting and plumbing. In 2012, it will be new flooring. It’s the best town hall in the county and we plan to keep it that way.

We are working to keep and maintain the character of Indian Springs Village as described in our Comprehensive Plan. It’s a green, friendly and family-oriented community with a minimum of taxation and government. It’s a great place to live.

A Happy New Year to everyone.

Town Council Meeting

November 15, 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 agenda.

The Council reviewed the November 1 minutes. Robins made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Mendel. The motion was accepted unanimously.

The Mayor presented the grant requests from the Oak Mountain schools. Bell-Guercio made a motion to give a \$4,000 grant to each of the four Oak Mountain schools, seconded by Mendel. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Mayor Zerkis presented two proposed ordinance changes for discussion and public comment. He then gave a detailed explanation of the first proposed change involving non-conforming use. There were no comments from the audience. Mendel made a motion to accept the change as posted, seconded by Bell-Guercio. Zerkis, Robins, Mendel, Bell-Guercio and Stauss voted in favor. Dudley was opposed.

The Mayor presented the second proposed ordinance changing the E-1 zoning minimum acreage requirement from one acre to three acres. Residents expressed their opinions both for and against the ordinance change. Mendel made a motion to accept the ordinance as posted to change the E-1 zoning minimum acreage requirement from one acre to three acres, seconded by Bell-Guercio. Zerkis, Robins, Mendel and Bell-Guercio voted in favor. Stauss and Dudley were opposed.

Zerkis presented a PAZ recommendation to change the E-1 zoning minimum acreage requirement from three acres to one acre. Citing the Attorney General's opinion 99-00236, Robins made a motion to reject the recommendation from the PAZ, seconded by Bell-Guercio. Zerkis, Robins, Mendel and Bell-Guercio voted in favor. Dudley was opposed. Stauss abstained.

Mendel presented research and a proposed charter for the Children's Fund. Mendel made a motion that the presented document should be the charter for the Children's Fund, seconded by Robins. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Stauss reported that there have not been any recent coyote sightings in Cahaba Oaks. He contacted Critter Control and they charge \$275 to set and bait a trap and \$175 to relocate a trapped coyote. He also reported that OLV Church approached him about making changes to their monument sign. His discussion with the church included current signage being in compliance with the zoning ordinance.

Jones reported for the PAZ. There was no quorum at the last meeting so they had a work session. A subdivision application was received from the Slaughters.

Robins reported that Jimmy Rhodes will replace the missing signs and damaged post at Brook Green Lane and Mountain Vista at a cost of approximately \$100 for paint and installation. Econo Signs will charge \$70.80 for making and shipping the metal street signs. Scott Holladay of Shelby County Highway Department will inspect the recent County paving in ISV for any missed areas. The County will replace the faded stop sign in Indian Highlands. The intersection of Arrowhead and Highway 119 has been reworked by Wiregrass. Robins left a message for Gary Ray of ALDOT about the missing signs on Highway 119.

Mendel reported that the October financial report will not be reviewed at this meeting because of the lengthy agenda. A change to the September report will be included with the November report.

Stauss reported he ran an ad in *The Birmingham News* to sell the Kubota and he has received several calls.

Dudley reported that many traffic speed cameras have been installed in the State. A discussion followed that included comments about establishing an enforcement capability for Indian Springs Village. Dudley said that a study group should be created.

Tricia Crapet, Town Hall Curator, reported that she, Mayor Zerkis and the City Clerk met with Ginger Street regarding redecorating the Town Hall. The pricing will be presented at the next meeting.

Home break-ins in both the town and surrounding area were discussed and Mayor Zerkis urged everyone to be cautious.

Mayor Zerkis adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Rasco, City Clerk

Town Council Meeting

December 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 called the roll. All council members were present except Stewart Dudley. The Mayor reviewed the agenda.

The Council reviewed the November 15 minutes. Bell-Guercio made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Stauss. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Mendel presented the October financial report. He noted a change to the previously approved September report adding a check to Davis Plumbing for \$356.

Alabama Wildlife Center

Upcoming Events

submitted by Janet Byars, Administrative Assistant, Alabama Wildlife Center

Wild About Chocolate:

2/11/12, Saturday, 6:00-9:00 p.m. at The Harbert Center (2019 4th Ave. N., free parking in deck directly across the street).

An elegant and philanthropic evening for you and your special guests. Perfect Valentine's date! Enjoy an unique social event that offers a lavish chocolate dessert buffet provided by many of Birmingham's finest restaurants, bakeries and confectioners (list of participants at www.awrc.org), a silent auction and live auction with Ken Jackson. Cocktail attire. Cost: \$75 in advance; \$100 at the door.

COST OF PROGRAMS AT AWC: 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

2/19/12, Sunday, 2:00 p.m. – Great Backyard Bird Count -- Citizen Science You Can Do!; Greg Harber, Guest Speaker. The GBBC is an annual event enjoyed by many. What's not to like? We get to watch birds – our favorite activity – and be a citizen scientist, too! We'll take a moment to outline the purpose and the methodology of the bird count, and then go into the field to conduct our survey. Afterwards we'll return to the auditorium to enter our data online. This will be a good opportunity for teachers and educators to learn how they can teach their students to be scientists, too!

Get Wild! Programs: a free, monthly, family-oriented program promoting bird conservation and stewardship hosted by Alabama Wildlife Center Educators.

2/4/12 & 3/3/12, Saturday, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Volunteer Orientation:

3/4/12, Sunday, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m., 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. 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).

Business License Update

Thank you to all the businesses operating within Indian Springs Village. We appreciate your decision to conduct business here and encourage our residents to contact you. As of December 30, ISV has granted 2012 business licenses to the following new businesses: Alabama Credit Union, Metro Mechanical, Rockwell Homes, The Whiting-Turner Contracting Company, Trinity Contractors and Southern Choice.

The following businesses have renewed their license for 2012: A Winning Streak, ADT, Ahrian Tyler Dudley, Alpha Resources, Attic Antiques, B2 Drafting Services, Bruster's Ice Cream, Custom Pharmacy Solutions, Davis Design, Diversified Executive Services, Earthworks, Ervin Cable Construction, Gardner Landscaping, Gary's Barbershop, Harold Foshee Architects, Harry Caldwell CPA, Head Over Heels Gymnastics, Headstart, Indian Springs Properties, James E. Roberts, Learning By Design, Lisa Wilson, DMD, Marty Byrom LLC, M & M Steel, Midland Valleydale, 119 Realty, Rite Aid, S Enterprises, Sears Home Improvement, Shane's Rib Shack, Small Engine Repair, Smith Paving, Standard Heating and Air, Taylor Publishing, Vulcan Industrial Contractors and Yarbrough Auto.

BW Leasing, Menchie's, Selco Cleaners and The Price Agency are no longer conducting business in ISV. Digital Mason, Haute Kitsch and Signature Minerals remain delinquent for 2011.

As a reminder, if you are conducting or operating a business in Indian Springs Village, including home-based businesses and rental properties, you are required to have a business license. For more information, please go to our website, www.indianspringsvillage.org, or contact City Clerk, Kelly Rasco via email at Kelly@indianspringsvillage.org. Additionally, if you have any type of renovations, upgrades or repairs done on your home or property that cost \$1,500 or more, both a building permit and business license for your contractor are required per the zoning ordinance. This includes roof replacement, landscape installation, home additions and home renovations. For building permit information and approval, please contact City Engineer, Frazier Christy, at 939-1119.

Burn Pile Closed

by Steve Zerkis, Mayor

The Town Council has decided to permanently close the burn pile at the rear of the Town Hall grounds. The burn pile has been used for years to burn tree limbs and brush from the town's property. But, more recently, individuals have used it as a dump for old carpeting, linoleum, scrap metal and such. Sorry, but that area is now closed and no dumping or burning is permitted. The small car bridge is closed to all non-official traffic. By eliminating this burning, we will also be taking a small step in improving air quality in ISV.

Speaker on Water Conservation Is Scheduled for Garden Club Meeting

by Ruth Goodwyn, Publicity Chair, Indian Springs Garden Club

The Johnstons, Edith and Johnny, a couple from Pelham, will demonstrate how to construct and install rain barrels to conserve water for vegetables, flowers and shrubs at the January 26 meeting of the Indian Springs Garden Club. Also on the agenda are the installation of new officers, voted on at the October meeting, the collection of annual dues and the distribution of new yearbooks. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. and the Hospitality Committee will serve refreshments.

The annual Christmas party, held this year at the home of Nola Stans on December 11 beginning at one o'clock, wrapped up the year for Garden Club members. Nola's home was decorated very festively for the occasion. After the enjoyment of holiday food, members played the game of "Dirty Santa," with many gifts traveling from hand to hand before reaching a final claimant. In lieu of a November meeting, members had participated in a "clean-up day" for the Town Hall gardens on Nov. 5, and old and new officers met Nov. 8 to finalize plans for 2012. According to incoming President Liz Alosi, many interesting programs have been scheduled.

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!

Realizing Dreams



OAK MOUNTAIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Jeanette Darby
Principal

Jennifer Galloway
Assistant Principal

5640 Cahaba Valley Road
Birmingham, Alabama 35242
(205) 682-5230 • Fax (205) 682-5235

Dear Indian Springs Village residents,

Thank you so very much for all that you and your neighbors have done to ensure that all of our students at Oak Mountain Elementary will have a wonderful Christmas. Your kindness and generosity over the years has been overwhelming. Over the past six years that I have been the Counselor at OMEs, your generosity has made it possible for us to help dozens of families and around 200 children. This year we were able to provide clothing, shoes, personal items and toys for 11 families and a total of 26 children. We were also able to provide gift cards for groceries for 4 families who requested help with a holiday meal. As you can see, your generosity has touched and blessed so many members of our community.

In addition to providing gifts and much needed clothing, you have provided hope for families who are in desperate situations. I only wish that you could be here to see and hear how grateful the parents are when I deliver the items that have been purchased for their families. Your generosity has helped single moms feel like they are not alone. Your kindness has helped grandparents who are raising their grandchildren on an extremely modest income provide clothing that will help their grandchildren feel excited to go back to school rather than embarrassed. You are responsible for bring laughter, smiles and joy to children on Christmas morning who otherwise would have faced disappointment. During a time of economic uncertainty, you have given families who are struggling with the loss of jobs and even the loss of their family's home, hope for a brighter tomorrow.

On behalf of Oak Mountain Elementary, and the families that you have so generously supported, I want to express my deepest gratitude. I am so grateful for your kindness and generosity. I hope that you and yours will have a very blessed Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Sincerely,
Hayden Belisle

Hayden Belisle
Counselor
Oak Mountain Elementary School

A National School of Excellence

Mendel gave the October report noting that a CD at BBVA Compass was coming due in January and requested the Council consider re-investing options. He noted a payment to ADEM for \$3,875.98 for storm water monitoring which was above the budget and above previous annual charges. An explanation from ADEM will be requested. Mendel motioned for the October financial report to be endorsed, seconded by Bell-Guercio. The motion was accepted unanimously.

There was a discussion about the use of "Drop Box Archive" for storing ISV information and the limitations of the program.

Mayor Zerkis brought up the ISV Children's Fund resolution which was drafted by Mendel as the Council's endorsement of the charter for the Children's Fund. Mendel motioned to approve resolution, seconded by Robins. The motion was accepted unanimously. Mayor Zerkis appointed the ISV Children's Fund Committee for 2012 with Robins as Chairman, City Clerk Kelly Rasco as Secretary, Mendel as Treasurer. Bell-Guercio motioned to approve the committee members, seconded by Stauss. The motion was approved unanimously.

Stauss reported for the ZBA. OLV has decided not to request a hearing for a sign change at this time.

Stauss reported for the PAZ. A subdivision plat was presented by the Slaughters. City Engineer Frazier Christy is reviewing the proposal.

Robins reported that Jimmy Rhodes has replaced and painted the metal post and installed new metal street signs at the corner of Brook Green Lane and Mountain Vista for \$100. Hayden Belisle, a counselor at Oak Mountain Elementary, and her husband, Clay, are purchasing clothes, toys and books for 24 children through the ISV Children's Fund. The cost will be approximately \$200 per child. Shopping should be completed this week.

There was discussion about a "burn pile" on the back side of the Town Hall property. In the past, downed limbs and tree trimmings from the property were collected over the year and burned in late fall. Apparently, other unapproved dumping has occurred as well. The council agreed that the "burn pile" will be discontinued and any limbs/trimmings from the property will be removed from the property. Any further dumping of any materials on Town Hall property is illegal and will be prosecuted.

There was discussion about an Eagle Scout project involving the installation of security cameras around the Town Hall. Stauss will follow up with the Scout.

Zerkis gave an update on remodeling of the Town Hall. He met with Town Hall Curator Tricia Crapet and interior designer Ginger Street to discuss new flooring for the council chamber, living room and the small meeting room, and refurbishing the hardwood floor in the hallway. Quotes were received of \$1,659.82 to re-carpet the council chamber, and approximately \$4,600 to install hardwood

floors in the living room and small meeting room, and re-finish the hallway floor. Bell-Guercio motioned to suspend the rules, seconded by Stauss. A roll call vote was unanimous. Bell-Guercio motioned to proceed with re-carpeting the council chamber at a cost not to exceed \$2,000 and to install hardwood floors in the living room and small meeting room, and refinish the hallway floor at a cost not to exceed \$5,000, seconded by Mendel. The motion was unanimously accepted. There was further discussion regarding replacing external light fixtures, recovering/replacing furniture and window treatments.

Zerkis discussed reworking ISV building permit fees and penalties for failing to obtain a building permit prior to construction. He mentioned that some municipalities double or triple the permit fee if an individual proceeds without a permit. There was discussion regarding setting fees/penalties based upon what it cost the City in engineering costs for inspections/notifications. City Engineer Frazier Christy and PAZ Chairman Wayne Jones will draft a new fee structure document for signs, building permits and violations.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Herb Robins for Kelly Rasco, City Clerk

Shooting and Hunting on Your Neighbor's Private Property

by Steve Zerkis, Mayor

I had a call New Year's weekend from a very concerned resident who lives in the Cahaba Oaks area off of Highway 119. This is a residential neighborhood. Apparently, several teen-aged boys from the neighborhood went on her property the evening before and decided to use it for hunting and shooting. We are not talking about bows and arrows, but firearms. According to this individual, shots were fired. She was rightly concerned about her personal safety and that of her family and her guests. A neighbor also saw the boys and spoke with them.

No one has the right to go on another person's property without permission. No one has the right to go on another person's property and shoot and/or hunt. These actions are against the law. These individuals could easily have killed or injured a neighbor. Parents, please talk to your children about respecting the safety and property of others. Firearms cannot be used so irresponsibly. They should be properly secured. As a neighbor, if you see actions like this occurring, please call the Sheriff immediately at 911 or 669-4181.

Chief Michael O'Connor Passes Away

by Steve Zerkis, Mayor

Michael O'Connor, chief of the North Shelby Fire District, passed away suddenly. He had an apparent stroke incident on New Year's eve. A funeral procession carried his body from Brookwood Medical Center to Saginaw on Tuesday, January 3, 2012. The route, which included Caldwell Mill Road and Cahaba Valley Road through Indian Springs Village, was lined with fire equipment from a number of neighboring cities and fire districts. North Shelby's Fire Station No. 2 had a large garrison-sized American flag hanging from a ladder truck over the road at the intersection of Highway 119 and Caldwell Mill Road. An honor guard of fire personnel saluted the passing coffin. At this point, a memorial service is planned to be conducted on Friday, January 6, 2012 at the Christ Church United Methodist on Caldwell Mill Road. Our sincere wishes and prayers go to his family for their loss. His will be a huge loss to all of us.

Michael O'Connor, the longtime chief of the North Shelby County Fire and Emergency Medical District, died this morning at Brookwood Medical Center after suffering from a stroke on New Year's Eve, a fire official said.

O'Connor, who was 56, had been chief of the North Shelby district since 1995, when he replaced the only other man who had served as chief, Winston Boutwell.

O'Connor's death comes just five months after Boutwell passed away.

"Chief O'Connor had over 33 years in the fire service with the North Shelby Fire and Medical District and the former Bluff Park Fire District," said interim North Shelby fire Chief Bart Wilkerson in a news release. "He will be deeply missed."

O'Connor joined the North Shelby department in 1982 as a firefighter and moved up to driver, lieutenant and battalion chief before becoming chief.

He is survived by his wife, Nelle O'Connor, and daughter, Laura, the release states.

The North Shelby Fire District, which has three stations, serves about 32,000 residents within an area south of the Jefferson County line between Interstate 65 and U.S. 280 and north of Oak Mountain State Park.

Indian Springs Village Mayor Steve Zerkis, whose town falls within the district, said O'Connor "was a good, hard-working guy.

"To him, being a fire chief was not something where you sat back in the corner and relaxed and all that," Zerkis said.

He noted that O'Connor made sure his people were trained and certified to be both firefighters and emergency medical service personnel. "He himself was very much a good leader," Zerkis said.

O'Connor was active in the state's fire association and lobbied state legislators for better standards, he said.

"He was very forever running down to Montgomery to button-hole some legislator for the betterment of the whole state," Zerkis said.

Because O'Connor was an athlete who ran marathons, his death "was a major shock to all of us," Zerkis said.

Zerkis said that it was his understanding that some of O'Connor's friends took him to Brookwood Medical Center after he started complaining of severe headaches late New Year's Eve and that, by the time they got him there, he was non-responsive. *(Reprinted from The Birmingham News, Tuesday, January 3, 2012)*

Building Permits

submitted by Frazier Christy, Town Engineer

Applicant: Rockwell Homes, LLC.
Owner: Richard and Nancy Harley
Address: 480 Bent Tree Acres
Proposed Use: New Home

Applicant: The Whiting-Turner Contracting Co. – Andrew Parker
Owner: The American Red Cross
Address: 700 Caldwell Trace
Proposed Use: Remodel for Blood Donation and Office

Applicant: MetroHomes Mechanical, Inc.
Owner: Janet and Ray Northcutt
Address: 5301 Mountain Park Drive
Proposed Use: Remodel HVAC

Oak Mountain High School Hosts Eagle Vision Dinner and Silent Auction

submitted by Kathryn Acree, Community Editor, 280 Living

Oak Mountain High School's PTO will once again host the annual Eagle Vision Dinner and Silent Auction on Saturday, February 25 at the high school. Ticket sales begin on January 9 at OMHS. Dinner will be provided by Joe's Italian catering. A silent auction and student entertainment will be available from 4:30-8:00 p.m. This is the high school's main fundraising event for the year and the entire community is invited to be a part of this wonderful evening.

January Happenings

by Cecelia Dean, North Shelby Library Youth Services Department

**** The library will be closed January 16th and will re-open on January 17th.****

****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

January 2nd – January 21st: Mock Newbery and Caldecott Awards. Make your voice heard during the month of January! Stop by the children's department to vote on the Caldecott and Newbery Awards. If your pick is awarded the medal, you will get a special surprise! Entries must be in by January 21st!

Saturday, January 7th 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.

Friday, January 13th at 4:00 p.m.: Craft – Snowman Bookmark. Let this happy snowman help you mark your place in a great book this winter. All ages welcome. Registration required.

Wednesday, January 18th at 1:00 p.m.: Homeschool Hangout: Greek Mythology. Join us for a lively discussion of Greek Mythology and fun activities. Ages 8-12. Registration required.

Saturday, January 21st at 2:00 p.m.: Family Movie Day – The Lion King. Tricked into thinking he killed his father, a guilt ridden lion cub flees into exile and abandons his identity as the future king. Snacks served. No registration required.

Story-Time Programming

Mondays, January 2nd, 9th and 23rd 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, January 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th 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, January 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th 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 required.

Thursdays, January 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th 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 January 2012

Gaming: Fridays, January 6, 13, 20 and 27 – 3:30-6:00 p.m. Can you *Just Dance* better than the librarians? Are you the month's top scorer in *Super Mario Bros*? Can you hold your own in the *Brawl*? Join us each Friday afternoon for open gaming and mini-tournaments on the Wii. Also, the library will begin offering XBOX and Wii games for check-out in January. Call or email Kate or Daniel at 439-5512 or nsyouth@shelbycounty-al.com for more information.

Teen Advisory Council: Monday, January 9 @ 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 or Daniel at nsyouth@shelbycounty-al.org for more information or to sign up.

Anime Night: Thursday, January 12 @ 6:00 p.m. Join us in the teen department for an evening of anime. The audience will pick what we watch. Exotic treats will be served and cosplay welcome! Call or email Kate or Daniel at 439-5512 or nsyouth@shelbycounty-al.com for more information.

Teen Book Club: Monday, January 23 @ 6:00 p.m. The Teen Book Club will meet to discuss *Okay for Now* by Gary Schmidt. "As a fourteen-year-old who just moved to a new town, with no friends, an abusive father and a louse for an older brother, Doug Swietek has all the stats stacked against him until he finds an ally in Lil Spicer--a fiery young lady. Together, they find a safe haven in the local library, inspiration in learning about the plates of John James Audubon's birds and a hilarious adventure on a Broadway stage." 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, January 26 @ 6:00 p.m. Learn how to make paper beads. Call or email Kate or Daniel at 439-5512 or nsyouth@shelbycounty-al.com to register.