



The Village Voice

Vol 2. No.1

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

April 7, 1992

INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Indian Springs School Town Hall
Tuesday, April 14, 1992, 7 p.m.

Agenda

- I. Mayor/Council Committee Reports
- II. Ordinances: Zoning, Signs, Abandoned or Junked Vehicles, Property Maintenance, and Business Licenses
- III. Citizen's Forum

(Council meetings are scheduled for the second Tuesday each month)

ZONING ORDINANCE SET FOR PASSAGE

For several months we have been involved with the drafting of our zoning ordinances to comport with the existing zoning ordinances and map of Shelby County. In addition we have prepared ordinances pertaining to the regulation of signs, abandoned or junked vehicles, and maintenance of property. Each of these ordinances is designed to provide stability, improve property value, and further the goal of incorporation, which is to preserve and protect our community. These various ordinances were presented in final form at the last council meeting, and copies have been made available for your information. If you would like to review these ordinances before the council meeting, please contact **Gary Dennis** or **Tricia Crapet** and make arrangements to secure a copy. We are planning to introduce these ordinances at the April meeting, and urge you to attend this important meeting. If you have any comments or suggestions, we welcome your input and ask that you contact me or one of the council members well in advance of the meeting which will be held on April 14.

A draft of the proposed business license ordinance was presented for the first time at the March council meeting. I have received some constructive comments and suggestions concerning this ordinance, which we should be able to refine for presentation in June. This ordinance is designed to raise revenues for the town and poses no burden or costs, or increased taxes to any individual.

As you are aware, we will shortly be having elections for local, county, state and federal offices. Several candidates have contacted me, expressing their desire to attend one of our town meetings and introduce themselves to us. This presents an excellent opportunity for us to meet the candidates and get to know them in a one-on-one situation. I have, therefore, offered this forum to any candidate who makes such a request.

If their schedules permit, it is anticipated that Mike Campbell, the incumbent District Attorney, and challenger Billy Hill will both be in attendance at the April meeting. Other candidates will be attending future meetings, and I urge you to be present as often as possible during the campaign season, as advance notice of a candidate's appearance may not always be practical.

I look forward to seeing you at the April meeting of our town council.

-Hub Harrington, Mayor

Editor's Notes

The *Village Voice* is the official organ of Indian Springs Village, AL, established October 16, 1990. The primary purpose of this newsletter is to report the monthly deliberations of the mayor and the council in town council meetings as well as to give the mayor and council members the opportunity to communicate with the electorate. In addition, your editor's hope is to foster a spirit of community and cooperation along with fun and fairness. Good neighbors need less legislation. Expenses are covered by the efforts and donations of ISV volunteers. Deliveries are also made at no charge by volunteer couriers.

Address letters to the editor and appropriate news articles to: LaVeme Ramsey, Editor, 530 Indian Crest Drive, Indian Springs, AL 35124. Newcomer information should be reported to Patricia Crapet (985-9205).

The *Village Voice* is published the first Tuesday of the month. Articles for publication in the May, 1992, edition should be submitted by Tuesday noon, May 26. The editor reserves the right to edit all materials submitted for publication. The *Village Voice* will publish letters to the editor if space permits. Letters may be edited for length and other considerations; however, the meaning will be preserved. All opinions are those of the author, unless otherwise indicated. All articles not attributed to other writers are written by the editor. Any opinions she expresses are her own and should not be attributed to the mayor or the council.

Editor's Appreciation to:

The many donors who subsidize printing expenses
Patricia Crapet for circulation (985-9205)
Dr. Ruth Goodwyn for editorial consultation
Indian Springs couriers for hand delivery
Mildred Wyatt for the masthead drawing

THE VILLAGE VOICE BEGINS SECOND YEAR

Comments from the Council -Patricia Crapet

Being in charge of public relations and communications for Indian Springs Village is sometimes not an easy task. The hours are long, and the pay...well, that's another subject! Still, on a daily basis, I find that being a council member and overseeing these areas of Village affairs is extremely fulfilling.

If it were not for the help of many Villagers, I would be hard pressed to accomplish the goal of keeping residents informed through a friendly, non-partisan publication. On the first anniversary of *The Village Voice*, I would like to express appreciation to those who are responsible for our community's newsletter and to thank them for a job well done.

The job of editor is performed inexhaustibly by LaVerne Ramsey. Although there are usually only four pages per issue, she makes sure that those pages are packed with important information about the community and local government. Each month, Ms. Ramsey researches and writes much of the information contained in our newsletter and types her articles and those contributed by others into her word processor at home. After the copy is on computer disk she spends one Saturday each month downtown to get the newsletter into the finished format. This copy is then delivered to the editorial consultant (for the second time) for final proofing. Ms. Ramsey then brings me the finished copy for printing and delivery.

Dr. Ruth Goodwyn, Editorial Consultant, gets an A+ for editorial advice and a most professional job of proofing for clarity, form, grammar and punctuation. Dr. Goodwyn, also our town historian, chronicles town events and maintains the official archives of Indian Springs Village. Thanks to her efforts future generations will be able to look back on the humble beginnings of our town.

One of our Village's talented artists, **Mildred Wyatt**, designed the masthead drawing. Mrs. Wyatt, who used her creativity to depict the peaceful, quiet atmosphere of Indian Springs Village, also assists in keeping her husband **Jim**, Assistant Town Clerk, walking the chalk line.

The task of hand delivering *The Village Voice* goes to your neighbors. Believe me, spending time on Satur-

day afternoon going door-to-door can be inconvenient at best. Battling the elements, the traffic, and those pesky wasps and bees in summer are:

Jim and Nora Boyett-

Spring Garden, Alpine

Rusty and Julie Schenk

Indian Trail, Deer Mountain
Signal Trail, Rockford

Dorothy Carlisle and children-

Mountain Vista, Brook Green

Eleanor Bennett and Stephen-

Cahaba Valley Road

Ed Goodwyn-

Arrowhead, Indian Forest, Choctaw,
Pawnee, Auburn

Phyllis and Bruce Monical-

Willow Ridge

Art and Jackie Johnson-

Willow Ridge

Kathy Monacelli-

Skyline Drive

Emily McAdory and Deb Wagner-

Mountain Park, Skyline Circle

Olivia Weingarten and Aleta Lowe-

Indian Crest Drive, Foxfire

Mike Rutherford-

Caldwell Mill Lane & Circle, Bishop Lane

Ralph Bodie-

Wildwood, Highgate

Sandy Conley-

Old Mill Trace, Old Mill Circle

Of course, a great deal of thanks goes to the citizens who donate printing, or funds for printing, *The Village Voice*. Without their generosity, it would not be possible to produce our community newsletter, which is entirely dependant on these contributions (which are tax deductible, by the way).

The Village Voice team welcomes, comments, criticisms, and assistance. Feel free to submit an article of community interest for publication as space permits. Be a good neighbor and offer to help or substitute for your local couriers occasionally. Let them know that you appreciate their efforts. The effort of these dedicated citizens serves our community by furthering communication and promoting community spirit. This community spirit and your appreciation provide encouragement and make their efforts worthwhile. Thanks again team, and keep up the good work!

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REGISTERED VOTER IDENTIFICATION

The consensus of the League of Women Voters members attending the March meeting was that few Villagers had received the Shelby County Board of Registrars' requests for verification of current addresses and other pertinent information. All voters who have not received such a request should call the Board of Registrars at 669-3913. Most of the League members have been able to reidentify simply by calling. The urgent date for reidentification given by Shelby County administrator, Walter Turner, was March 9, 1992. **Reidentify now, even if you are late!** The county will need time to assign and notify voters of the voting place assignments. Since ISV is split between two districts, Villagers may not all share the same polling place.

In addition, the *Voice* urges unregistered voters to call the Board of Registrars for information on where and how to register.

NEXT LITTER WALK, SATURDAY, APRIL 11

Virtue Rewarded

At first, we suspected nothing. A few weeks ago, when Adopt-a-milers **Paul Stephens** and **Jim Wyatt** scooped up dollar bills from the roadside, we said, "Happenstance". But now we are almost certain that the guardians assigned to protect trash pickers have singled out our road gang for special rewards! On March 23, **Anne Wilson** found her own dollar bill, and **Jackie Johnson** plucked a cool "twenty" from the dewy grass. Anyone still skeptical should consider that recipients are always among our most loyal workers. Besides Anne and Jackie, other believers present on March 23 were **Eleanor Bennett**, **Nora and Jim Boyett**, **Delores and Marshall Gilbert**, **Art Johnson**, **Emily McAdory**, **Dr. Peter Peacock**, **Virginia Rancont**, **Margaret and Jim Roy**, **Julie and Rusty Schenk**, **Paul Stephens**, and **Jim Wyatt**. What happened to the reward money? Well, Anne immediately offered to share her dollar. Jackie was last seen disappearing around a bend in Valley View Drive.

-Virginia Rancont

SPECIAL SPRING CLEANUP DAY-APRIL 11

Alabama PALS (People Against a Littered State) will sponsor the third annual "Don't Drop it on Alabama" spring cleanup on Saturday, April 11. (PALS is the state affiliate for Keep America Beautiful.) Alabama PALS hopes to make this Spring Cleanup one of the largest one-day cleanup events in the country. **Dr. Peter Peacock's** Environmental Committee and the Adopt-a-mile regulars have elected to schedule the ISV Litter Walk to coincide with the state-wide event. Dr. Peacock is contacting managers of the fast-food outlets on Highway 119 to encourage them to divert some employees to the highway cleanup on April 11, and we hope at regular intervals thereafter. ISV citizens will want to police their own road fronts prior to the event, for the mother of all Litter Walks. The rain date will be April 18.

-Virginia Rancont

SPRING CLEANUP DAYS- APRIL 25 AND MAY 23

Resolution #92-02-10-16

"BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED by the Shelby County Commission as follows: In order to help promote a cleaner Shelby County and in order to assist the citizens of Shelby County in their "Spring Cleaning" projects at home and in their communities, the following days are set as "Free Days" for residents and community groups of Shelby County: March 28, April 25, and May 23.

"Special hours from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. have been set. These "Free Days" are proposed to be for trash and debris only-not household garbage. There will be no charge to resident and community groups, however, business and commercial fees will remain in effect. This is approved by the county engineer and hereby approved by the county commission."

The preceding was sent to Mayor Harrington by Environmental Manager George W. Holcombe, Jr., but not received in time to give notice in *The Village Voice* before March 28. Call Mr. Holcombe at 669-3737 for assistance on promoting or planning clean up activities. A spokeswoman in his office says that no wire, rubber tires, chemicals, oil, batteries, or toxics are acceptable at the landfill. Items that are acceptable

are old appliances, furniture, brick and building materials, tree limbs, etc.

Directions to the Sheala Landfill: take I-65 South to the Alabaster Exit, go left on Highway 31 South to AL Highway 70. Take a left and watch for the Sheala Landfill on the left.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

SHELBY COUNTY UNIT

April 16-Shelby County Unit LWV Meeting
7:00 p.m., Thursday

Topic: The Democratic Movement in the Russian Commonwealth

Speaker: Peter Kirchikov, a native of Ukraine and fellow at the UAB Center for International Programs

Hostess: Anne Wilson
196 Deer Mountain Circle

Guests and prospective members welcome
For additional information call LaVerne Ramsey,
988-0059

May 21-League of Women Voters
Circuit Clerk **Dan Reeves** of the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit will address **Sentencing Alternatives** and a proposal that could relieve our prison system. Details will be in the May newsletter.

SHELBY COUNTY COMMISSION SCHEDULE

April and May

Because the deliberations of the Shelby County Commission are so important to our well being, our environment, and the appropriate use of our county tax dollars, the Shelby County League of Women Voters' members have committed to attend at least one of the upcoming meetings to observe the current commission at work. It is a good idea for all conscientious voters. If we don't like the effects of past deliberations and current conduct, remember it is an election year and we will have lots of replacement choices. It is also a good idea to take our children for a close-up look at local government.

Shelby County Court House

Columbiana, AL, Alternate Upcoming Meetings

Monday, April 13, 8:30 a.m.

Monday, April 27, 6:00 p.m.

Monday, May 11, 8:30 a.m.

Monday, May 25, or Tuesday,

May 26, 6:00 p.m.

May 25 is Memorial Day and the commission clerk says that the commission sometimes meets on holidays. However, they do not decide until the previous meeting whether to meet or delay a day. Call 669-3740 or 669-3741 after the May 11 meeting for the next date. The pattern above is continued with meetings on the second and fourth Mondays, alternating mornings and evenings.

PERSONALS

Newcomers

New neighbors are **Edward and Mary Louise Beck** of 114 Highgate Hill, natives of Montgomery, AL, who have returned to the state after 20 years in North Carolina. College-age son, **Pat**, and daughter, **Morgan**, are still in NC. Edward, who likes hunting, fishing and motorcycling, is an engineer with Law Engineering Services. Mary Louise is a creative homemaker who finds time for pottery and reading. They are interested in meeting the neighbors, so let's not disappoint them.

Farewell to Marvin, Julie, and Talia Narz, the original residents of 114 Highgate, who have moved to Vestavia.

Accolades and Ideas

Phillip and Jennifer Rucker of 105 Mallard Circle and **Don and Anita Jones** of 59 Choctaw Lane sent generous contributions to the printing fund for *The Village Voice*. As always, we are grateful not only for the financial support, but also for what it says about our shared goals and sense of community pride. Thank you.

Honors

Dr. Edwyn Boyd of 5316 Mountain Park Circle was elected president of the Pan American Allergy Society. His term begins in March, 1993.

Dubious Honor

Your editor, a Certified Financial Planner at Prudential Securities, was asked by the *Birmingham Post-*

Herald to comp choices. *Post-He* might be since I p probably short ter

Ideas

Jennifer to the ec tions tha director were no young p

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Council share of

Herald to take part in a contest to pick three stocks to compete with several other financial advisers' choices. The picks were featured on April 1 in the *Post-Herald's* business section. April Fool's Day might be an appropriate time for a foolish debut, since I pick stocks for the long term and should probably have passed on the opportunity to compete short term.

Ideas

Jennifer Rucker responded, as did several others, to the editor's request for information on organizations that could be included in our upcoming phone directory. Your editor was disappointed that there were no organizations submitted for school-age young people.

Mrs. Rucker was also interested in adding to her short list of baby sitters. She would like to know of any available sitters in the Village and is also willing to trade child care with other mothers. It occurred to your editor that we could develop a directory of baby sitters in the Village if a trustworthy referral system for listing can be developed. Are there some budding entrepreneurs out there among our high school and college students who want to organize to meet this need? In our directory responses, there have been some live-in grandmothers who might be interested as well.

MARCH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The town council of Indian Springs Village met at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall of Indian Spring School on Tuesday, March 10, 1992. Presiding was Mayor Hub Harrington, with council members Ron Luster, Patricia Crapet, Gary Dennis, Peter Peacock, and Stewart Dudley in attendance.

Mike Joiner, a native of Indian Springs who now resides in Alabaster, was introduced as a candidate for circuit judge in Shelby County. Also introduced as a newly-announced candidate for the county commission was ISV resident Lindsey Allison. Both Joiner and Allison are attorneys and partners in their respective law firms. Other candidates for county office are invited to be introduced at future meetings.

Councilwoman Patricia Crapet reported that ISV's share of the county beer tax for February was \$465.

The Village also received \$522 for road maintenance from the state of Alabama.

Councilman Luster confirmed that Indian Springs Village has submitted all information to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) as required by the Federal Clean Air and Water Act. All Shelby County municipalities have agreed to enter the program under the auspices of the county. Carr and Associates has been retained by the county to determine the locations of the stream test points.

Luster also reported that a new option has been given for the bridge on Indian Trail. In addition to the concrete culvert and the covered bridge previously mentioned at other meetings, an uncovered timber bridge similar to the current one is a choice. The latter would not need different easements.

Councilman Peacock announced that Anne Wilson, an ISV Environmental Committee member, has agreed to be our town representative for the Shelby County Recycling Program.

Councilman Dennis announced that the ISV Town Directory is off to a good start. Dennis asked for additional information by the March 27 deadline.

Councilman Dudley reported that state legislation had been pending which would have created a mandatory municipal sales tax. He says that it was killed for this session.

Mayor Harrington proposed several ordinances to the council including zoning, signs, abandoned or junked vehicles, property maintenance, and business licenses. Harrington asked for a motion to waive the reading of the Zoning Ordinance, which would have allowed a vote to be taken. Councilman Dennis voted against the procedure, saying he had not had the opportunity to read the newest revision. Dennis volunteered to print the hundred-page document and distribute copies of all the ordinances to any of the interested townspeople who were in attendance.

The mayor presented the council with the Franchise Ordinance for Alabama Power Company. This ordinance gives APC the right to supply electrical power to our town, as well as the right to use current easements when repairing or maintaining equipment in the area. The mayor asked for a motion to waive the rules and the reading of the ordinance, thus allowing a vote to be taken by the council. The motion to waive and the vote to pass the ordinance were unanimous.

-Patricia Crapet

Villager Profile

At War With Alabama Power

Kathryn Coleman is an attractive brunette, one of the new breed of young grandmothers. She looks nothing like grannies used to look, but she does remind one of the early pioneer women in her tenacity. I first became aware of her fight and later her plight when she called the Village's attention to the unanswered questions that have been raised about magnetic emissions from power lines.

When questioned about how her long adversarial relationship with Alabama Power began, she described the beautiful 160 acres she and her husband **Homer** bought for eventual homesites for them and their four sons. The land is strategically located in Bibb County convenient to their roots in Shelby and Jefferson Counties, but also close to Tuscaloosa because one adult son works there. When purchased, the property already had one power line easement across it, but it was on the far side, not near the planned homesites. They went often to see the beautiful green acres to keep an eye on them as well as to visualize their retirement dreams.

Imagine their astonishment to have Alabama Power, as Ms. Coleman describes it, cut a 100 foot wide, one-half mile long swath across their property entrance and set up a power line. Ms. Coleman, properly outraged, says she was told by Alabama Power officials that the Law of Eminent Domain gives them an unmonitored right to put in easement for power lines anywhere. When she was asked about fairness and prior notification, Ms. Coleman said that it seems that Alabama Power thought that the land belonged to Champion Paper Company, a company which had never objected to having lines across the their property. They had notified Champion of their intention and getting no response (perhaps because it was not Champion property), had proceeded with the power line.

Thus the war with Alabama Power in which lawyers on both sides have been the front line troops. Ms. Coleman has been the family general, fighting for what she considers to be her own eminent domain and an environment safe for all her grandchildren. The Colemans, among other people, have fears about the uncertain effects of the magnetic emissions from power lines. The pervasive fears, which were earlier spot-lighted on Channel 6 evening news for three consecutive nights, are that the emissions can cause cancer in young children who are exposed.

In between battles, Ms. Coleman works for the commercial construction firm of Charles and Vinsant, and

Mr. Coleman, a chemical engineer, is Vice-President of Polymer Coil Coaters in Fairfield. For six years, Ms. Coleman was on the Shelby County Zoning Commission. She served as the first female chair after Al Knight resigned to run for the Alabama House of Representatives.

The Colemans' original home on Pawnee burned to the ground in 1989, the result of an electrical fire. They salvaged only a few family pictures and two antique chairs. A treasure that was lost was Coleman's merit badge sash and medals from his Eagle Scout achievements. In adulthood, he was a recipient of the Silver Beaver, the highest honor given to a Scout Leader. It was a testimony to his continuing accomplishments with Scouting (four sons were all Eagle Scouts) that his own former Scoutmaster, Zach Cross, replaced Coleman's lost Scout sash and medals with his own. They are in a place of honor in the foyer, a symbol of friendship, service, and the love of scouting.

The Coleman's rebuilt home is spacious and lends itself to gracious entertaining. The large foyer, dining room, kitchen, family room, and terrace flow into each other so well that they have had as many as 200 people there for barbecue. They are gracious hosts for community events, putting everyone at ease and making it look effortless to have a houseful of people.

The youngest sons, Michael and Brad, still live at home, and John's family lives in Tuscaloosa. Ms. Coleman thinks it amusing that Coleman, Jr., the eldest, called Beau, for his father and General Beauregard, is in Yankee land working for the FBI on Manhattan Island and living in New Jersey with his wife and child.

Kathryn Coleman continues the tradition of the "steel magnolia". She has written letters to every elected official from the governor on down as well as the Alabama Public Service Commission and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management. When asked where she goes from here, she says that no one but the legislature can control Alabama Power or any utility. Do not underestimate Kathryn Coleman; she has eyes on the legislature and an amendment to the laws that allow the utilities what she perceives to be unbridled power.

Conservative, n. A statesman who is enamored of existing evils, as distinguished from the liberal, who wishes to replace them with others.

-Ambrose Bierce