



The Village Voice

Vol 2, No.2

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

May 5, 1992

INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Indian Springs School Town Hall
Tuesday, May 12, 1992, 7 p.m.

Agenda

I. Candidates for Shelby County Commission, Don Armstrong of District Nine and Lindsey Allison of District Seven; Shelby County District Attorney, Robby Owens; Circuit Judge, Stella Tipton

II. Mayor, Council, and Committee Reports

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

Mountain Brook - a Role Model for Beauty and Service

The Indian Springs Village Council has passed a sign ordinance which is modeled after the one that has kept Mountain Brook beautiful. Charles F. Zukoski was one of the incorporators of Mountain Brook in 1942 and its first mayor, serving four terms. He was a senior officer of the predecessor bank of AmSouth and a prominent area civic leader. Zukoski, still involved in civic affairs and the pursuit of ideas, is now 92 years old and a resident of the retirement home at Kirkwood. He reminisced about the early days and gave some advice for our benefit. Mountain Brook was about twice our size and became infinitely more complex because of the services added over time.

Zukoski advised, "Your task, as was ours, is one of solidifying your community into a more collectively concerned and caring one, able to deal with what will be needed to be done. This you have begun to accomplish with incorporation and with the election of your officials. There are some principles and practices which we of Mountain Brook followed, and still follow, which may have application for you.

"One was to establish the practice of having the mayor and council serve without compensation other than the satisfaction of serving the community. Since you will grow, however, you will need, I think, to do some of the other things that we did.... You will be guided, of course, by when and how your city grows."

In 1942, Mountain Brook was a community of scattered residential areas and two small business centers. Mr. Zukoski explained, "Efforts to provide to its people police, fire, sewage disposal, waste pick-up, sub-division control, zoning and other necessary public services through a private association had failed, and through the taxing power after incorporation, we could make them available." Mountain Brook officials still serve for no compensation other than "the satisfaction of serving the community". However, they did "establish, for the first time in Alabama, the city manager form of government, with a paid professional as manager of the actual running of the city's affairs, subject to overall policies established by the council and subject to the mayor's supervision."

In ISV, we are lucky to have had in place the services that Mountain Brook lacked. Most of our services are provided by private companies, another municipality, the county, and the state either for compensation or through taxation. Our town business is relatively simple by comparison to other nearby municipalities, but it is time intensive, with no paid help. For example, a 100 page zoning ordinance is no small feat for the mayor, a volunteer legal staff, and a number of sidewalk kibitzers, your editor included. It may be that the most important purpose of incorporation is the new zoning ordinance. It will give our Village the power to retain its rustic beauty, unrivaled by any other community, even Mountain Brook.

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: LaVene 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 June, 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 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



League of Women Voters, Shelby County Unit

May 21--Shelby County Unit LWV Meeting
7:00 p.m., Thursday
Topic: Alternative Sentencing
Speaker: Dan Reeves, Circuit Clerk and Register,
Eighteenth Judicial Circuit, Columbiana, AL.
Hostess: Kathryn Coleman
89 Pawnee Drive

Mr. Reeves will discuss an alternative correction plan being developed in Shelby County to force certain types of prisoners to pay the costs they have placed on the community. Under current sentencing practices, it is impossible to fund the building and operation of the prisons that are needed. The annual cost for the usual daily census of 60 to 80 prisoners in the Shelby County jail is \$1.2 million. The county has legislative authority to create a program similar to a successful one in operation in Madison County. These alternative sentencing programs are only for non-violent offenders.

Guests and prospective members are welcome. For additional information call LaVerne Ramsey, 988-0059, or Kathryn Coleman, 988-0368.

VOTER REGISTRATION/ REIDENTIFICATION

Tuesday, May 12, 6:30 p.m.
Indian Springs School Town Hall

ISV League of Women Voters members who have become deputy registrars will be on hand to register and reidentify Shelby County voters before the town council meeting starts. If this time is not convenient, call one of your listed neighbors for a mutually acceptable time. It will take only a few minutes. The following Villagers have been deputized: **Kathryn Coleman, Emily McAdory, Virginia Rancont, and LaVerne Ramsey.** Any Shelby County voter who wishes to be a deputy registrar can call Faye Etrass in the Shelby County Registrar's office at 669-3913.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Inverness Elementary School
May 14, Thursday, 7 p.m.
Valleydale Road

The Shelby County School Board candidates will be featured. Shelby County Commission districts 6, 7, 8,

and 9 candidates, District Attorney candidates, and Circuit Judge candidates are all invited to introduce themselves to the voters. The event is sponsored by the North Shelby Neighborhood Forum in an effort to give voters a personal opportunity to meet and question the candidates.

Next Litter Walk, Saturday, May 16

OK, who is the wise guy? Who planted monopoly money beside the road? It's not nice to fool the road gang! Poor pay notwithstanding, a successful Litter Walk was conducted on April 11 by **Nora and Jim Boyett, Delores and Marshall Gilbert, Jackie and Art Johnson, Emily McAdory, Virginia Rancont, Julie and Rusty Schenk, Paul Stephens, Carol Turner, Anne and Graeme Wilson, and Jim Wyatt.** Thanks to the thoughtfulness of those Litter Walk Champions, Nora and Jim Boyett, who picked up a half-mile section of roadside prior to the official Litter Walk, we had enough manpower to clean up a sizeable portion of Valley View Drive. But even that extra effort was not enough for Delores Gilbert; she herded us toward Interstate 65 and wouldn't stop until we had de-littered the on-ramp. Mercifully, nobody suggested Indian Crest Drive. Join us for the next Litter Walk on May 16, 9 a.m., at the Mormon Church parking lot on AL Highway 119. No doubt, litter walkers will be better compensated, and Delores Gilbert absolutely will be muzzled.

-Virginia Rancont

LAST SPRING CLEANUP DAY-MAY 23

Attention procrastinators: The last "Free" day to use the Shelby County landfill for major household clean up is May 23. Special hours are from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Only trash and debris will be accepted--no household garbage. There will be no charge to resident and community groups; however, business and commercial fees will remain in effect.

Call the office of Environmental Manager George W. Holcombe, Jr. at 669-3737 for additional information. A spokeswoman in his office says that no wire, rubber tires, chemicals, oil, batteries, or toxics are acceptable. Items that are acceptable are old appliances, furniture, brick and building materials, tree limbs, etc.

Newcomers

Welcome to newcomers by annexation: Miller Circle residents, **Jerry and Brenda Pate**, and Indian Crest Drive residents, **Franklin and Gertrude Jones** and **Victor and Rose Vetrano**. The editor hopes that these new Villagers will attend the next council meeting together to be formally introduced. Indian Springs Village welcomes them to join in its spirited community cooperation and fellowship.

The family of **Dr. Kenneth Friday** is looking forward to becoming resident Villagers as soon as their 5323 Mountain Park Circle home is completed in August or September. Ken has had a general dentistry practice in Homewood for eleven years. He and wife Carolyn enjoy snow skiing together and family activities with Ben, 6, Daniel, 3, and Mary Ann, 1. Ben will start first grade at Briarwood School in August.

Accolades

Newcomers who were recognized in April, **Mary Louise** and **Edward Beck** of 114 Highgate Hill, have sent a contribution to *The Village Voice* printing fund and a promise to get more involved in community activities. Thank you!

In Memoriam

John D. McDonald, 72, of 291 Valley View Road, a Brookstone resident for about 23 years, died April 14. He was retired from Burlington Northern Railroad after 37 years and had attended Indian Springs Baptist Church. Our sympathy goes to his wife, Genevieve (Geny), and to his family. Councilwoman Patricia Crapet says, "Mr. Mac was a special person...warm, friendly, and kind. He will be truly missed by all of his neighbors, as well as by anyone who knew him."

Louise Graffeo Crapet of 6510 Quail Run, near ISV, died April 21. She was Michael Crapet's mother and the mother-in-law of Patricia Crapet. Mrs. Crapet is also survived by her husband, Joe A. Crapet, and other relatives in the Metropolitan Birmingham area.

Even though Louise Crapet was legally blind for most of her life, she was an attentive and devoted mother to two sons and had helped raise her eight younger siblings after her own mother died. She was a first generation American of Sicilian parents and a lifelong member of Saint Joseph's Catholic Church in Ensley. Our sympathy goes to the Crapet family in their grief over this unexpected loss.

A Personal Note

Dear friends,
Michael and I would like to express our gratitude to all of the friends and neighbors who expressed sympathy for our family in the loss of Michael's mother. Though our grief will continue for a long time to come, your prayers and concern have been of great comfort during our time of sorrow.

Sincerely,

Tricia, Michael, and Joseph Crapet

Help Wildlife-Patsy Cummings

As a volunteer at Alabama Wildlife Rescue Service, I am a foster parent to orphaned squirrels, bunnies, and possums. I am looking for release sites (preferably acreage away from homes, people, etc.) If you think you can help, please call for more information.

Patsy Cummings

1265 Indian Crest Drive

987-8647 (after 3:00 p.m.)

Shelby County Commission Schedule-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

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.

April Town Council Meeting Highlights

The Town Council of ISV met on Tuesday, April 14, 1992, at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall of Indian Springs School. Mayor Hub Harrington presided with council members **Patricia Crapet, Gary Dennis, Stewart Dudley, Ron Luster, and Dr. Peter Peacock** present.

Several candidates for county positions were present including **Billy Hill** and **Mike Campbell**, candidates for Shelby County District Attorney; and **Don Armstrong** and **Lindsey Allison**, candidates for Shelby County Commissioners in Districts 9 and 7 respectively.*

Councilwoman Crapet reported that ISV's county beer tax share for March was \$469 and that the state road maintenance fund share was \$546. The general fund balance was \$4467, and the road account balance was \$3706. The loan balance was \$5000 with a payment due at the end of April.

Councilman Luster announced that the Indian Trail replacement bridge will probably be the same timber style that is in place now. The crossing is too short for a covered bridge, and a concrete culvert type would require new easements. Fire Chief Boutwell was present and commented that the district fire truck weights are over the limit presently assigned to area timber bridges. Luster and Commissioner Armstrong will be checking into the problem.

Councilman Peacock announced he has received a town sign proposal from the Environmental Committee. The recommended design will be submitted at the May council meeting.

Councilman Dennis commended all who have cooperated on the town directory which is currently in preparation for publication.

Mayor Harrington announced that the litigation with Pelham has reached a stage near final settlement. A draft of the results should be ready at the May council meeting.

The Monchus property on Highway 119 was de-annexed from Pelham and the developers have agreed to annex into ISV and develop according to town zoning requirements. The proposed plat has been presented to Harrington and **Assistant Clerk Jim Wyatt**, who have found it to be satisfactory. The only entrance to the subdivision will be on Highway 119,

and there will be no outlets to Indian Crest Drive or Valley View Road.

Mayor Harrington presented the council with the ISV Zoning Ordinance package. The ordinance is similar to that of Shelby County, but is tailored to ISV and creates a Zoning Board of Adjustments which will handle all requests for variances. The ordinance was passed unanimously. An ordinance for Maintenance of Vacant Properties was also presented and passed without dissent.

A sign ordinance was also adopted unanimously. Temporary signs for real estate sales, political campaigns, etc., must be on a person's real property with none allowed on the right-of-way. Existing business signs have two years to come into compliance with the new ordinance.

The Ordinance for Abandoned or Junked Motor Vehicles passed, setting up a system for removal. It does not apply to non-motorized or antique vehicles.

The Business License Ordinance sets the amounts that the town will charge for business and professional license fees starting January 1, 1993. This ordinance will also provide for revenue from utilities without adding directly to ISV's utility bills. The ordinance was accepted after the council agreed to make future changes in any individual license fees that seemed unreasonable. The rules were waived and the ordinance passed unanimously in order that the utility companies would be assured enough time to review and pass on the validity of ISV's tax claim.

All new ordinances can be enforced after they have been posted for a period of five days.

Councilwoman Crapet presented three petitions of annexation for contiguous properties into ISV. The rules were waived so that the council could vote on the petitions without delay.

-Patricia Crapet

Commissioner Don Armstrong reminds us (as previously noted in **The Village Voice) that commissioners are now elected in nine newly-created districts rather than at large as they were in the previous seven districts. Indian Springs Village falls into District Seven except for the area south of Highway 119, which is in District Nine. A spokesman will be at the May 12 town council meeting to answer any questions.*