



The Village Voice

Vol 2, No. 4

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

July 7, 1992

**INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**
Indian Springs School Town Hall
Tuesday, July 14, 1992, 7 p.m.

Agenda

I. Mayor, Council, and Committee Reports

II. Jimmy Jones, No Airport in Wilsonville Committee

III. Citizen's Forum

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

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS— AUGUST 25, 1992

On June 17, Mayor Hub Harrington called for the posting of the notice of municipal elections. Mayor Harrington and the current council have not served four-year terms because ISV's incorporation happened near the middle of the municipal election cycle. If opposition candidates qualify by July 21, 5 p.m., the present mayor/council must stand for election. If an election is necessary, it will be held August 25 in the same polling place as previous municipal elections, Fire Station #2 at Highway 119 and Caldwell Mill Road. There are Villagers who dislike going through another election so soon, but every municipality not allowed by the legislature to be on a different cycle (Birmingham, for instance) will be holding elections at the same time. Anyone qualified to serve deserves the opportunity to run for election. Election packets are available from Paul Stephens or Jim Wyatt, ISV Town Clerks. Municipal elections are not partisan.

Indian Springs Village is, by definition, a town since it contains fewer than 2,000 inhabitants. In a town or city of fewer than 12,000 inhabitants the mayor sits with and presides over the council. It is only in cities of 12,000 or over that, operating under general law, the mayor is not a part of the council but exercises veto power over certain actions of the council.

According to the *Handbook for Mayors and Council Members* published by the Alabama League of Municipalities, "The general municipal election is held on the fourth Tuesday in August of each presidential election year with a runoff, if necessary, to be held three weeks later....The term of office of mayor commences on the first Monday in October following the general municipal election and lasts until the first Monday of October four years later." The *Handbook* and *Selected Readings for the Municipal Official* are available through the League of Municipalities for \$15 and \$20 respectively, P.O. Box 1270, Montgomery, Alabama 36102.

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: LaVerne 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 August, 1992, edition should be submitted by Tuesday noon, July 28. 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

The end of all political effort must be the well-being of the individual in a life of safety and freedom.

—Dag Hammarskjöld

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL

Patricia Crapet, Place #2

On Monday, July 20, at 7 p.m., the Shelby County Planning Commission (SCPC) will hold its monthly public hearing at Inverness Elementary School. One of the cases scheduled concerns property which is a half mile east of our town's borders, but which lies within the ISV police jurisdiction. The owners of this property have already been found not to be in conformance with the Shelby County Zoning laws by operating a commercial used car lot on property zoned for E-1 residential use. The owners of this parcel are seeking to have this commercial use grandfathered by claiming that the property was a car repossession lot when zoning took effect in 1982.

At a review board hearing on June 9, which Jim Wyatt and I attended, the owners of this property presented no proof whatsoever that there had been any type of commercial activity on this lot previous to 1987. According to the property owners, this property has been used commercially since 1954 by persons who lived on the premises only incidental to their businesses being located there. They also claimed that most of the leasing agreements had been "handshake" arrangements. In contradiction, the committee had several letters from neighbors around the property who stated that the house had been frequently used only as a residence. The attorney for the property owners suggested that the burden of proof rests solely on the SCPC to prove that the owners' claims are false, and that the owners need not present any further proof of these claims.

A dangerous precedent could possibly be set in this case. I urge all citizens who do not wish to see Highway 119 and the Indian Springs area degenerated further by commercial entities to attend this important hearing. It is crucial that large numbers attend the review hearing to oppose this claim for spot zoning.

Second Annual July 4th

The second annual July 4th in Indian Springs Village was a celebration not only of independence in the historical sense, but also of dependence—the dependence of neighbors on neighbors in cooperation for a common result. The day was an exercise in friend-

ship, generosity, and a "many hands make light work" attitude. The Fun Run/Walk kicked off the day with **Lloyd and Deb Wagner** in charge. This run was on the Indian Springs School grounds with no killer hills. **Ellen Ling, Tom and Joyce Woods** were there to help. Birmingham Track Club member, **Dr. Bob Cummin** of Birmingham, volunteered as race doctor when he heard about the ISV event. Dr. Cummin had to forego the Oak Mountain Run that the track club sponsored, and we appreciate his efforts to promote exercise and health.

Fastest runner for the second year in a row was **Iain Wilson**. About two minutes later, **Roy Adams** of Fort Benning, **Bill Steorts** of New Orleans, and **Lloyd Wagner** decided to share second and crossed the line together in a friendly non-competitive gesture. They were followed by **Jack Mendel, Dr. Bob Cosby** of Birmingham, and **Lindsey Allison**. **Chris Glenos** of ISV and **Michelle Johnson** of Mountain Brook ran in together. **Lynn Davis** and her sister, **Barbara Davis**, who was visiting from Reston, Virginia, strolled in unabashedly last.

The decoration committee was already hard at work on the Indian Springs School entrance. Busy with balloons and bunting were: **Mary Louise Beck, Patricia Crapet, Karen and Sandy Luster** and the many hands they pressed into service. The picnic grounds and the speakers' platform were also appropriately decorated with flags, balloons and bunting. The atmosphere created was worthy of a movie set for a patriotic occasion in a small town.

Parade Master **Councilwoman Patricia Crapet** registered parade participants: **Russ and Lindsey Allison, Judge-elect Mike Joiner, Dr. Norma Rogers, John Cutts, James Lynch, Jim and Margaret Roy, Commissioner and Mrs. Don Armstrong, Tom and Joyce Woods, Congressman Ben Erdreich, Sheriff and Mrs. James Jones, Probate Judge Thomas Snowden, Fire Chief Boutwell** and crew. The best-decorated truck was **Charlie Brown's** 1940 Ford pickup. The most unusual vehicle was a 1947 Seagrave fire truck owned by **Allen Eisenburg** and entered by **Janie Snider**. The best-decorated car was the 1979 VW beetle of the **Bert Gavin** family. Honorable mentions go to **Billy and Mary Ann Cooke** for their 1965 Rolls Royce Silver Cloud and to **Larry and Donna Parker** of Vandiver for their 1939 Chevrolet coupe. The **Michael Crapet** family's 1934

Ford Fordor sedan is worth noting as well as Probate Judge Tommy Snowden's antique Ford that had two front ends. The judge took some ribbing about his auto's being appropriate for a politician.

The parade of cars that left the Indian Springs Baptist Church took a circuitous route and gave practically every house in the Village a treat with the much expanded route. ISV sends grateful appreciation to **Travis Abney** at **Sears, Vestavia**, for donating 25 flags especially designed for use in automobile parades.

Meanwhile, at the school grounds, the slower participants had gathered, led by our flag bearers on horseback, **Jack** and **Rita Mendel**. **Ralph Bodie** arrived, flying a flag from his golf cart.

The best decorated horse was **Eleanor Bennet's** quarterhorse **Cheffy**. The rider was part of the decoration; Eleanor wore a pioneer dress and sunbonnet. **Ginger**, the patriotic pet of **Don** and **Anita Jones**, was the best in her class. Our apologies to the delightful children who were so much in the spirit of the day with their miniature cars, roller blades, and other means of locomotion; we failed to get your names. We hope that you ran into **Gene Weingarten** who was giving away crayons and color books.

Mayor Hub Harrington began the ceremony and introduced the dignitaries who attended. The following list may be incomplete: **Congressman Ben Erdreich**, **Probate Judge Tommy Snowden**, **Sheriff James Jones**, **Commissioner-elect Lindsey Allison**, and **Commissioner Don Armstrong**. **Peter Kirchikov**, a Ukrainian and a visiting professor at UAB and his sons, Iliya, 15, and Anthony, 2, attended as guests of **LaVerne Ramsey**, **Anne Wilson**, and the **League of Women Voters**.

Lloyd Wagner introduced the keynote speaker, his friend **Lt. Col. Roy Adams** of Fort Benning. Lt. Col. Adams, in a brief inspirational talk, reminded us of the price of freedom when he told about specific acts of sacrifice and heroism by U.S. soldiers in defense of their country and fellow soldiers. He said our soldiers were willing, "...to pay any price, bear any burden, to right any wrong."

Recorded music was provided by **Ron Luster, Jr.**, and **Jimmy Bowling**.

The Village is still uncovering talent in every direction. At the 1991 picnic, **Olivia** and **Gene**

Weingarten served hot dogs to the whole town. The Weingartens were back at the grill this year, joined by head barbecue chef **Paul Stephens**. The menu was expanded to include barbecued chicken and pork, slaw, and baked beans. Stephens' chief assistant was **Jim Wyatt**. Other helpers were **Ed Beck**, **Ralph Bodie**, **Jim Boyett**, **Fred Lewis**, **Rusty Schenk** and **Lloyd Wagner**. **Ed Goodwyn** claimed special credit for his service as taster. The barbeque crew put in many hours over a hot grill and additional ones at the picnic to be sure that everyone was well served and well fed. **Lola Stephens** was helped with food service by her daughter, **Terry Johnson**, and her sister-in-law from Phoenix, **Sue Wyrosdick**. After having made enough desserts to feed half the Village, **Nora Boyett**, decked out in red, white, and blue, helped to greet and serve everyone. Desserts were also contributed by **Kathy Dudley**, **Eunice Huntress**, **Lola Stephens**, and so many more that no one could keep up with the names. As it was last year, the dessert effort was commanded by Olivia Weingarten. A sad note on one of our generous Village families—**Frieda Hanson's** father died suddenly, but husband **Pat** came to deliver the Milo's famous sweet tea that they had promised. Our sympathy to Frieda's family and even more appreciation for a fulfilling a promise that we would have certainly overlooked.

Mildred and **Jim Wyatt** sold Village T-shirts while the T-shirt designer, daughter **Julie Schenk**, helped her husband, **Rusty**, run the dunking booth. Mayor Harrington took the brunt of the dunkings while most of the Council, except for Stewart Dudley, stayed high and dry.

Villagers, photographer **Debra Gibson** and artist **Susan Loper**, set up a display to show their work. Gibson donated her pictures from the first ISV picnic to the Village archives kept by **Dr. Ruth Goodwyn** and plans to give additional prints from this year.

IN MEMORIAM

The Village joins in condolences to **Roy** and **Patti Connell** of 215 Valley View Road. Roy's mother, **Annie Connell** of Clanton, died unexpectedly on June 6. Mrs. Connell is survived by Roy, five other sons, and one daughter.

Our sympathy goes to **Irving Watkins**, 415 Highgate Hill, and his family and friends on the loss of his wife Shirley on June 9.

NEWCOMERS

Welcome to the Village from Mountain Brook: **Bert** and **Peggy McGuffey** of 4975 Caldwell Mill Lane and their two sons, **Grant**, 3, and **Ford**, 1. Bert is a pharmacist at WalMart and Peggy is a nurse at UAB.

Welcome to the Village from the Tuscaloosa area: **Jerry** and **Janet Moore** of 5312 Mountain Park Drive; **Kristy**, a high school junior, and **Kelly**, a Shelton State Junior College student. Jerry and Janet must meet Bert and Peggy. As coincidence will have it, Jerry is a pharmacist and Janet is a nurse. Jerry is also secretary of the Alabama Pharmacy Board.

Welcome to **George** and **Reida Underwood** of 8012 Woodfern Drive. George is with Alabama Power; Reida is with First Real Estate. **Hank** and **Melissa** are students at the University of Montevallo and Jacksonville State University, respectively.

FAREWELL

Moved from 5312 Mountain Park Drive are our friends Jon, Debbie, Joseph, and Katelyn Sack. We wish them well!

VILLAGE GARDENS FEATURED IN THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

The Birmingham News House and Garden section of June 20 featured **Judy Groover's** beautiful garden at 1115 Indian Crest Drive in an article titled "Made for the Shade". For those who may have missed it, there was a two-page layout including two color pictures of Judy in her garden and detailed descriptions of her rare plants and unique landscaping. Judy and husband **Tom** also were recognized by *The Village Voice* elves as having one of the most beautifully decorated houses during the last Christmas season.

On June 27, **Ginny** and **Ed Lusk's** flower and vegetable gardens at 131 Auburn Road were featured in an article titled "Basking in the Sun". Ginny and her sun-loving flowers were featured in several color pictures and text that ran on two pages. Ginny, president the Birmingham Fern Society, also has a shade garden that has been cultivated as their trees matured. The sun garden's variety is reflective of Ginny's family training in Tennessee as well as her lifelong study. She is a member of the Alabama Wildflower Society, the Horticulture Study Garden Club, and is a master flower show judge.

It cannot go unmentioned that at the corner of Indian Crest Drive and Mountain Park Drive, **Virginia Rancont** and **Emily McAdory** also have gorgeous, rare plants. Theirs is an additional horticulturist's dream garden. Also worthy of praise is the vegetable garden of **Jim** and **Nora Boyett** on the Cahaba Valley Road. Their production is as beautiful as it nutritious. In fact, the last time they shared with your editor, she took pictures before she cooked! If you or your neighbors deserve accolades for exceptional gardening skills and results, *The Village Voice* would like to give recognition. Perhaps as the reputation of the Village's unique gardens and skilled gardeners grows, we will all be inspired. Your editor at least plans to get her lawn mower repaired or replaced.

Other Villagers in the News

Lindsey Allison, ISV resident, attorney, mother, wife, has been in the news regularly as a candidate for the Shelby County Commission for our District 7. *The Village Voice* congratulates Ms. Allison on her victory in the June 30 primary and congratulates the Village for drawing a high percentage of voter turn-out compared to the rest of the county. She was endorsed by the *Birmingham News*; the *Post-Herald* was complimentary but failed to endorse anyone in the District 7 race.

Dr. Anne Bishop was quoted several times in the *Birmingham News* Southern Neighborhoods section on June 29. Dr. Bishop's special education office is located at Berry High School where she helps find jobs for handicapped students. Her very important work in job training for these students will be facilitated by a Hoover Civitan Club project. The club is raising funds to buy a bus to transport handicapped people. Dr. Bishop and other Civitan members are soliciting donations from businesses and citizens.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Meetings will resume in the fall. The Greater Birmingham League has chosen study projects for the coming year that involve Jefferson County. The Shelby County Unit of the Birmingham League plans to study existing health care facilities and its growth potential in Shelby County.

History did not begin when you became conscious.

—Leslie Alexander La

Coming Soon— Another What?

Would you believe another Litter Walk? Seems that Shelby County is sponsoring an Adopt-A-Mile program not unlike that of the state, and Indian Crest Drive will be one of the first Shelby County roads to be adopted by its residents. **Art Johnson** is the man with the plan, and folks on and off Indian Crest, in and out of town, will be hearing from him soon. If you can't wait to know more, Art wants you to call him at 988-3217.

Meanwhile, our same loyal gang lined up for duty on Cahaba Valley Road on June 20: **Nora and Jim Boyett, Deloris Gilbert, Jackie and Art Johnson, Emily McAdory, Virginia Rancont, Margaret and Jim Roy, Paul Stephens, Carol Turner, Lloyd Wagner, Anne Wilson, and Jim Wyatt.** It would be lovely to see some new faces in the lineup on July 18, although we do enjoy your drive-by smiles and waves, or whatever those funny little hand signals are. Assembly time during the summer months is 8 a.m. at the Mormon Church on Cahaba Valley Road.

—*Virginia Rancont*

JUNE TOWN COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The Town Council of Indian Springs Village met on Tuesday, June 9, 1992, at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall of Indian Springs School. **Mayor Hub Harrington** presided over the meeting, with council members **Ron Luster, Patricia Crapet, and Stewart Dudley** present.

Before the meeting was called to order, **Olivia Weingarten** presented Mayor Harrington with a gavel, inscribed with "Hub Harrington-First Mayor-Indian Springs Village." Mrs. Weingarten donated the gavel, noting that for the past year the Mayor had called the meeting to order by rapping his knuckles on the podium. Mrs. Weingarten stated that "anyone who works for free ought to have a souvenir."

Candidates for public office were on hand to thank ISV for the strong support during the primary election. **Mike Joiner** and **Lindsey Allison** gave high marks to the Village for such an excellent voter turnout, estimated to be around 80%.

The minutes of the May meeting were adopted as read by **Town Clerk Paul Stephens.**

Mayor Harrington announced that notices calling for the ISV municipal election will be posted on June 17. **[See cover story for details]**

Councilwoman Patricia Crapet reported that she and **Assistant Town Clerk Jim Wyatt** attended a hearing in Columbiana at the Shelby County Planning Commission about property on Highway 119. Ms. Crapet presented a letter to the planning commission from Mayor Harrington stating that the town is categorically opposed to any rezoning or approval of the non-conforming use. **[See Comments From the Council]**

Councilwoman Crapet reported that the road fund for May was \$526, and that the beer tax distribution was \$643. The balance of the ISV general fund was \$3100, and the road fund balance was \$4250.

Assistant Town Clerk Jim Wyatt reported that there is more pollution in Bishop Creek. The problem of raw sewage was reported by **Dr. Max Davis**, who resides on Cahaba Valley Road and through whose property the creek flows. **Jim Hollins**, Director of the Shelby County Health Department, walked along the creek with Mr. Wyatt from Oak Mountain to New Hope Cumberland Presbyterian Church. The creek was free of any pollution until the check point at the church, which is located just downstream from two trailer parks. Mr. Hollins and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), as well as the Cahaba River Society, are investigating the problem.

Mayor Harrington introduced a resolution from Alabama Power Company amending the minutes of the March meeting to state the names of all ISV council members voting "yea" or "nay" on the franchise tax ordinance. Even though the minutes reflected that the ordinance passed unanimously and stated which members were in attendance, Alabama Power's lawyers insisted the vote be listed in roll call order. The resolution passed unanimously.

The council adopted a resolution of a resurvey of Chief Winston Boutwell's and Charles Lindamood's properties to eliminate a previously proposed road from the Monchus property to Indian Crest Drive. The planned road location had been between the Boutwell and the Lindamood properties.

The Mayor announced that the ISV Zoning Ordinance will be brought to vote at the July meeting. If passed,

the ordinance will become enforceable five days after it is posted.

—Patricia Crapet

A FORMER SOVIET'S DESPAIR

The imperfect, bureaucratic system of U.S. government, about which we are free to complain, is still the best in the world. **Peter Kirchikov** is a native of Ukraine and currently a Fellow in Russian Studies at UAB's Center for International Programs. Dr. Kirchikov and his two children attended the Indian Springs Village July 4th picnic as guests of the League of Women Voters. He thinks that Americans are the most fortunate people in the world and hopes to be allowed to stay in the USA to raise his children. The following are excerpts from what he shared with *The Village Voice* after speaking in April to the Shelby County League of Women Voters at the home of Graeme and Anne Wilson on Deer Mountain Circle.

"People in the Russian Commonwealth want bread, not long lines and empty shop shelves. They want reforms, but not killer prices. They are afraid the free market reforms are a new experiment against them....More than 73 years of Communist rule in Russia made the people distrust, disbelieve anybody and anything." Kirchikov says that the new so-called free market commodity exchanges which supply food are often run by former Communists and KGB officers who buy food from the farmers and mark it up 10 to 20 times. Soviet collective farmers, long maltreated by Stalin and his successors, did not become masters of the land and have not learned to run farms as businesses. They have had their own problems, unable to find soap, matches and even bread.

Kirchikov says, "The situation in the former USSR is unstable and prevents Western business people from their ventures in the country. A high crime rate also makes it unsafe to start a business in Russia. Another danger lies in the fact that former party functionaries and KGB sometimes cooperate and are very powerful. They now control most of the commercial banks, the finance system, supplies and distribution of foodstuffs, goods, and staples. They are in the key positions of privatization of factories, enterprises, small businesses, foreign trade business, etc." According to

Kirchikov, these former party bureaucrats are in position to profit personally from the new policies. There are two other camps in contention for power—nationalist-separatists, who wish to return to their ethnic identities, and the nationalist-patriots, who want to restore the pre-1917 borders of the Russian empire.

Some slogans in use today tell the story:

"Today's democrats are yesterday's Communists and tomorrow's dictators."

"The aim of the new power is power."

"The revolution is prepared by the Utopians, carried out by the fanatics, and the scoundrels enjoy its fruits."

"Stop the revolution---it has won."

ACCOLADES

Indian Springs Village can claim the best neighbors in the state, perhaps in the world. Where else do you see people picking up litter in other people's front yards? The Litter Walkers pick up trash on the Cahaba Valley Road and other streets once month or more, a chore that is usually left to residents. In our Village many people walk not only for exercise, but also to pick up the litter that degrades our civilization.

Other neighborly gestures are not uncommon. **Jim Alderman** and **Hal Knueppel**, the editor's neighbors on each side, often mow on over past their property lines to make her frontage on Indian Crest Drive neater. They are hereby notified that she thanks them profusely and will not be offended if they meet in the middle. She also wishes to thank the unknown person or persons who pick up her newspapers and puts them neatly on the carport when she leaves town. (The news carriers have seldom responded to requests to stop the papers for a few days or to make a vacation pack, so she feels gratefully unworried when she leaves town with short notice.) There are also neighbors who share flowering plants and delicious vegetables with a generosity unseen since life was slower and people had time to be thoughtful.

There is something unique in this Village. We have serenity, privacy, exceptionally beautiful property, and neighbors who care without being intrusive. If you wish to recognize a neighbor for some special favor to you or for community efforts, there is also a **Voice** that is made possible by neighborly generosity. Use *The Village Voice* to say, "Thank you!"

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