



# The Village Voice

Vol 2, No.6

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

September 1, 1992

## INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Indian Springs School Town Hall  
Tuesday, September 8, 1992, 7 p.m.

### Agenda

- I. Mayor, Council, and Committee Reports
  - II. Citizens' Council
- (Council meetings are scheduled for the second Tuesday each month)

### 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 October, 1992, edition should be submitted by Tuesday noon, September 29. 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 VILLAGE WINS, NO ONE LOSES

### Art Johnson Takes Council Place #4

In the race between Art Johnson and Lloyd Wagner the Village was the clear winner. To have two people of this caliber eager to compete for leadership in this particular council place is indicative of the ISV spirit. Even though there are no specific duties for each council place, Dr. Peter Peacock has established a tradition that Place #4 takes environmental responsibility. That makes the leadership results of that council member the most visible in the Village.

Both Wagner and Johnson have been active in efforts to improve the quality of life, fellowship, and property in the Village. In the future both of them have even more valuable contributions to make. The elves wish to thank them for abstaining from using signs and any campaign literature that could become litter. Their campaigns have proven that those expensive efforts are unnecessary, and we hope it has set a precedent that will be honored in years to come.

Congratulations to Art, who will sit with the council the first regular meeting in October. To Lloyd, the Village is grateful for your spirit and participation. Art counts on your help as he takes on the traditions of Place #4. There will surely be times when he will wish the responsibility were yours and he could simply help!

Your editor had written up to this point (leaving the candidates' names blank) Tuesday night, August 26, when Lloyd Wagner phoned to make a statement of appreciation for everyone who voted, especially those who supported his candidacy and helped him in his campaign to serve the town in an elected position. He had congratulated Art after the votes were counted and wanted the *Voice* to assure everyone in the Village that he and Debra would continue to work for its benefit.

Art Johnson, who got off to a good start by remembering the Tuesday deadline for copy for *The Village Voice*, immediately sent a statement. "Jackie joins me in sending warm thanks to all who supported my candidacy. We extend a special expression of goodwill to Lloyd Wagner, who conducted a strong and dignified campaign, and to his supporters who share our love and hopes for Indian Springs Village. We look forward to working with all Villagers to make our town the jewel of North Shelby."

## COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL

### Patricia Crapet, Place #2

#### Where Are Duke and Judge?

Something terrible is happening in and around Indian Springs Village. It is unthinkable to most of us, yet it has happened to some of us. Members of our families--irreplaceable treasures that greet us daily with unconditional love and affection, always patiently awaiting our return from unknown places--are suddenly missing from our homes.

Not knowing the fate of a devoted pet can be very painful. In the last few weeks many residents in our area have been grieving over lost family pets. Most are purebred dogs who rarely venture past the security of their own yards. For these pets to have simply wandered off is an unlikely scenario. Many are long-time residents (in dog years) that would hardly have run away from home or gotten lost.

Statistically, more families lose their pets in summer than at any other time of year. The fate of these beloved animals may never be known. Ann Speakman of the Shelby County Humane Society says that many of these pets are stolen and sold in venues such as flea markets or held until a reward is posted. Other less speakable fates such as laboratory experimentation could possibly await these faithful friends.

Be aware of where your pet is and take note of any suspicious activity in your neighborhood. Do you know where your pet is right now? The **Zitos** and the **Bennetts** only wish they knew where Duke and Judge are.

#### ROAD TO SOUTHLAKE?

**Jack Van Pelt**, whose property is on the high side of Indian Crest Drive, is considering a donation of part of his land (approximately opposite Willow Ridge) for the construction of a road that would connect Indian Crest Drive with Valleydale Road at some point near Southlake Shopping Center. The precise location of the outlet to Valleydale would depend on a number of variables not worth considering unless it can be ascertained that the community wants the connection. **Chief Boutwell** sees it as favorable to fire protection and other people see it as a much shorter route to go north than the alternatives of Caldwell Mill Road and I65. The Villagers who live nearest the proposed road would be most affected by additional traffic, and no

one plans to proceed without some feedback from them. **Lloyd Wagner** has volunteered to field the comments on this proposal and wants to hear from anyone who has an opinion, preferably in writing. Address your comments, positive or negative, to Lloyd Wagner, 5301 Mountain Park Circle, ISV, 35124.

#### UPDATE:SCPC MEETING

On Monday, August 17, the Shelby County Planning Commission (SCPC) had its monthly meeting at the Inverness Elementary School. After lengthy discussion on the tired topic of the car lot on the Siragusa property on Highway 119, the SCPC voted unanimously to refer the case to the Shelby County Commission for enforcement of the current zoning regulations. Speaking out in opposition to the zoning violation were several residents of the Oak Ridge and Parkside communities organized by Linda Smith, president of their homeowners association, ISV Assistant Town Clerk **Jim Wyatt**, and myself [Patricia Crapet]. Reasons cited by those citizens opposing continuance of the car lot were degradation of the area and safety hazards. Parents voiced concern for children playing in the area since some of the cars on the lot have been placed on jacks and blocks at various times.

This case had come before the SCPC several times in the past few months and had been flipped to the review board each time. Having attended the last three meetings and review board hearings on the property in question, I think it a pity that the county's red-tape bureaucracy permits matters such as this to continue almost indefinitely, wasting the time of citizens as well as officials. The matter should have been taken care of months ago when this blatant violation of residential zoning was first reported to the SCPC. One member of the SCPC noted that the review board should have sent the matter directly to the Shelby County Commission for enforcement on the first hearing. It is to be hoped now, after nearly a year of violation, the Shelby County Commission will resolve the matter.

-Patricia Crapet

## SHELBY MEDICAL CENTER UPDATE

If you have been out of the country for a few months, without access to English language newspapers, you may have missed your *Village Voice* editor's blitz-like campaign to enlighten the electorate concerning Shelby Medical Center's expansion plans.

To his everlasting regret, SMC's administrator appeared at our town council meeting last November, appealing for ISV endorsement of the "Vision 21" plan and continuance of the hospital's supporting ad valorem tax. At that moment, innocently, the tiger was unleashed: LaVerne Ramsey began searching for facts with which to editorialize the proposal in *The Village Voice*. Somewhat to her surprise, she soon arrived at a strong conviction that because of low hospital bed occupancy rates in the area, the expansion was not justified. Notwithstanding Shelby County's financial shambles and despite the presence of world-class medical facilities in South Jefferson County, SMC proposed relocating its acute care facility to North Shelby and converting the Alabaster site to regional geriatric care.

Vision 21 would cost \$61.3 million, financed with municipal revenue bonds despite the \$28 million then in SMC's investment account. Also, to support Vision 21, SMC asked to continue until 2009 the property tax which has been in place--and escalating--since 1959 when it was needed to build the original facility with Hill-Burton Act support. Your editor wondered if North Shelby residents would transfer their loyalties from the respected Jeffco facilities to a newcomer only a bit closer to home. She wondered about the additional bond debt and the chilling potential for financial failure of SMC's proposed business expansion, including the regional geriatric center. She was so uneasy that she began firing off letters to editors throughout the two counties, expressing her outrage about SMC's right to conduct closed board meetings and about the absence of meaningful financial disclosure. Soon, the *Birmingham News* wrote its own editorial expressing outrage about the closed board meetings.

Then, in June, LaVerne drove to Montgomery to share her misgivings with the state board hearing SMC's first expansion request. Unexpectedly, the board denied the Certificate of Need that is prerequisite to

expansion, citing lack of proven community need and lack of financial accountability.

In her latest assault, LaVerne presented her position to the Shelby County Commission on August 10, asking the commissioners 1) to slash to the legal minimum the mills of tax supporting SMC, 2) to prohibit closed board meetings and demand complete financial disclosure, and 3) to investigate the possibility of selling the tax-consuming hospital to a tax-paying health care provider. She urged a comprehensive study of the county's health care needs and options and asked the commission to withhold support for any SMC expansion efforts until the study is completed. Commissioners were attentive but noncommittal. If we know our editor, there's more to come, so stay tuned.

**-Virginia Rancont**

**Editor's Notes:** After having taken my objections about SMC to the commission meeting attended by Virginia Rancont, I was too busy at work on *The Village Voice* to attend the next commission meeting. If you read *The Birmingham News* metro section on Tuesday, August 25, you may have noticed that SMC's administrator addressed the commission in my absence to defend SMC's practices and rebut my objections. Had I been there as expected, I would have been slightly outnumbered. SMC had packed the commission room with its public relations staff, the hospital board members, staff doctors and various other supporters.

After ten months of enduring my criticism, SMC's long-suffering board still did not choose to make a statement of justification for their plans to build a new hospital when the current one has a projected occupancy rate of only 52.6% as far out as 1995. Instead they chose to have their administrator counter with implications that I am insensitive to the indigent and the working poor and don't understand the hospital system. I am simply for fiscal accountability for the facilities they manage now and against tax support for regional facilities like the geriatric hospital proposed in Vision 21. If such a facility is justified, let a for-profit or another non-profit organization take the financial risks. Shelby County has problems enough with the sewer revenue bonds defaulting. We do not need new debt in this county, revenue or general obligation. County support for a single hospital where one was needed is not unreasonable. However, Shelby Medical Center was given too much power by

past commissions who allowed it to reincorporate as a private corporation.

I asked the current commission to consider the drastic action of selling the hospital because that may be the only route to fiscal responsibility. There are solutions to indigent care other than hospital ownership. The fear of the commission investigating the possibility of a sale appears to be the only reason that the hospital board has put its administrator on the defensive.

If you read *The Birmingham News* editorial page on August 26, you might have seen that the *News* was no more placated than I at the prospect of SMC Board's moving to open at least some board meetings. The editorial stated "...if trustees want to win back public confidence they ought to open virtually all meetings."

## NEXT LITTER WALK

September 19, 8 a.m.

Meet at the Mormon Church on Cahaba Valley Road

(The August Walk was canceled because of rain)

## RECYCLING EFFORTS

Sharon Durbin of 158 Willow Ridge Drive reports modest results for the first Village aluminum can collection on August 19. It was a family affair, with Sharon and Bob and their sons, David and Jason, driving all over the Village to collect the white (or otherwise flagged) bags that had been placed on the opposite sides of the driveways from the Thursday collections for BFI. One house had many cans and others had few, but the efforts garnered about \$25. The Durbins are encouraged enough to continue to make the rounds shortly after 8 p.m. on the first and third Wednesdays. Your editor even forgot BFI that week, but we all have chances to redeem ourselves. The next dates after this publication and before the next issue are **September 16** and **October 7**.

## ACCOLADES

Councilman Gary Dennis was in London on election day and his wife, Rhonda, was home ill, but their thoughtfulness and generosity saved the dispositions of the five hungry Villagers who were election officials stuck at the polls for over thirteen hours. At lunch time a deli tray of delicious food arrived, sent by the Dennises. The tray was generous enough for

the officials and the poll watchers to have lunch, dinner and take-home.

**Bradford Thomas (Brad) Coleman's** proud mother, Kathryn, has added a fifth Boy Scout Eagle Award to the family collection on 89 Pawnee Drive. Brad earned the badge in December, 1991, but waited for the presentation until **Homer (Beau) Beauregard Coleman, Jr.**, could be home from New York. The four brothers, now all Eagle Scouts, then celebrated together. **Homer Coleman, Sr.**, an Eagle Scout himself and winner of many Scoutmaster awards, celebrated by retiring from 23 years of weekly service teaching merit badge skills.

**Samuel Otterson Jones IV** of 189 Choctaw Lane has graduated from the Air Force Academy with the rank of second lieutenant. Lt. Jones received one of 12 Air Force scholarships to medical school and will enter UAB School of Medicine this month. He is the son of **Leta S. Jones** and **Samuel Otterson Jones III**.

**Brandon Bedwell** was one of the participants chosen to perform in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* at Boutwell Auditorium in July. The play was one of the Summerfest events, wonderful locally produced entertainment that gives many Birmingham area children and adults a chance to perform with Broadway stars. **Cheryl Bedwell**, Brandon's mother recommends the Birmingham Summerfest Workshops for any child as "an educational, fun, busy, and worthwhile activity."

Thanks to P. Alderman who called our attention to the fiftieth birthday of **James E. Alderman, Jr.**, (alias Jim, Freckles, or Buddy) with a tombstone ad in the *Birmingham Post-Herald* on August 26. The Village wishes you a happy milestone, belatedly. Who is P. Alderman, Jim?

## WELCOME

**Denie and Rush Girardeau** of 483 Indian Trail are hereby officially welcomed to the Village! Rush is the owner of Rush Commercial and Residential Painting, Inc. The home formerly belonged to **Steve and Janet Wixon**.

**Dave and Tricia Gibbs** and **Krissy, Nicki, and Jo Southworth** have left nearby Pelham for the spacious house vacated by the Ed Brumfields at 610 Indian Crest Drive. An area native, Dave moved to Georgia with Southern Company Services for many years

back to Alabama in 1989. Krissy, 15, is a sophomore at Pelham High; Nicki, 13, and Jon, 11, are at Riverchase School.

The tiniest new Village resident is reported to have arrived at the hospital on July 3. Dad and Mom, Dr. Edwyn Boyd and Shirley, brought her home to 5316 Mountain Park Circle. Welcome to Abigail Grace Boyd.

## IN MEMORIAM

Villager R. E. Gurley, Sr., of 59 Choctaw Lane died recently. Our sympathy goes to his wife, his daughter and his son-in-law, Anita and Don Jones, both of the same address. It is recalled that he enjoyed the July 4th celebration with the family, including patriotic pet Ginger.

William T. Ramsey, father of William T. (Bill) Ramsey, Jr. of 530 Indian Crest Drive, died on August 13. Mr. Ramsey, 87, was a widower living in Prattville, AL, at the time of his death. The editor and her husband are grateful to the neighbors in Prattville for much help and kindness in the care of Mr. Ramsey during his life and last illness.

## SMALL TOWN TRADITIONS

Ed Goodwyn experienced some wonderful kindnesses during his recovery from surgery. Upon seeing Ruth's thank-you list, your editor concluded that this Village has the best neighbors outside of Prattville. Ruth and Ed thank: "The Boyetts for the good vegetables which helped nourish him back to health; Jim Wyatt and Paul Stephens for mending the corner of the house to prevent a squirrel from nesting in the attic; Fred Lewis for taking the garbage to the street weekly; Sam Jones for taking time from his medical studies to mow the lawn; and Paul Stephens for the gift of life itself, a donation of blood; thanks also for the many visits, cards, calls, and 'get-well' messages." Ed adds that since the donation of blood from Paul, he has a yen for a Budweiser every afternoon, but Ruth did not think that was "acceptable" news.

## TOWN COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met on Tuesday, August 11, in the Town Hall of Indian Springs School. Mayor Hub Harrington presided

over the meeting, with council members Patricia Crapet, Gary Dennis, Peter Peacock, Ron Luster, and Stewart Dudley present. The minutes of the July meeting were adopted as read by Assistant Clerk Jim Wyatt.

Mayor Harrington introduced Art Johnson and Lloyd Wagner, the two candidates for Place #4 on the ISV council. Both candidates spoke on their positions regarding issues facing the town.

Several ordinances and resolutions were brought before the council by Mayor Harrington, including two petitions for annexation. In all, the rules were waived a total of ten times to allow for voting on these resolutions and ordinances. The first petition for annexation included small portions of properties owned by the Tidwells, the Rogers, and the Egans which were not included in the incorporation because of quarter line sections. Also included in the petition for annexation was the property of Dale and Linda Sitton, 8002 Woodfern Drive in Indian Highlands. The ordinance passed unanimously.

It was explained that the petition for annexation of Indian Springs School will take place in sections because the school lies within the police jurisdiction of three municipalities. Each annexation of property changes the location of a municipality's police jurisdiction, which is considered to be the half way point between the boundaries of the municipalities involved. A motion was made to hold a special council session on August 18 to expedite the additional petitions from the school. Both the first petition and the special session motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Harrington introduced five resolutions for declaration of the election of sole candidates for office. According to Alabama statute, when any candidates for public office have no opposition, the mayor and town clerk will provide a statement of certification that only one candidate qualified for this position. This procedure officially deems the sole candidate elected to the office to which he qualified to run. All five resolutions passed unanimously, with each candidate abstaining from the vote on his own position. Certificates for election will be issued to the following: Place #1, Ron Luster; Place #2, Patricia Crapet; Place #3, Gary Dennis; Place #5, Stewart Dudley; and Mayor, Hub Harrington.

A resolution introduced by the mayor to use the much less expensive paper ballots as allowed by state law for

independent municipal elections was passed unanimously.

A resolution was passed to compensate the election officials with \$25 each instead of the state minimum of \$8 for their long work day at the polls August 25. Election officials are **Ralph Bodie, Frances Lewis, Jean Owens, Rusty Schenk, and Lib Smith.** All attended a required training school and are expected to work the twelve-hour election day as well as remaining to tabulate the votes.

A resolution which was not a requirement by law was adopted to approve the issuance of bonds by the Indian Springs Village Educational Building Authority. There will be a public hearing on August 26 at the school. The bonds will be issued to fund construction and equipment projects of Indian Springs School and will not be a financial liability of ISV.

Mayor Harrington made staggered-term appointments to the ISV Zoning Board of Adjustments. The appointees are: Chairman **Russ Allison**, 3 years; **Bruce Monical**, 2 years; **Gene Weingarten**, 2 years; **Ralph Bodie**, 1 year; and **Gerald Templeton**, 1 year.

The Zoning and Planning Board has nine appointees: Chairman **Peyton Lacey**, **Dr. Ruth Goodwyn**, **Bill Morrow**, **Fred Lewis**, **Rose Lipscomb**, **Charles Lindamood**, **Herb Smith**, **Dave Engle**, and **Mike Rutherford**. **Chief Winston Boutwell** of the North Shelby Fire District will serve as an ex-officio member of the board.

Councilwoman Crapet reported that July receipts were \$610 for the road maintenance fund, \$729 as a beer tax distribution, and \$312 as a bi-annual alcoholic beverage tax distribution. The town's debt was reduced by a payment of \$2000, leaving a loan balance of \$1500.

**-Patricia Crapet**

## **SPECIAL SESSION**

On August 18, the ISV Town Council met at 7 p.m. at the Indian Springs School Town Hall. Mayor Harrington presided with council members Patricia Crapet, Dr. Peter Peacock, Ron Luster, and Stewart Dudley present. The reading of the minutes of the previous meeting was waived.

Mayor Harrington offered to the council the petition for annexation of a portion of Indian Springs School. The map of this latest annexation shows that the Town

Hall, where council meetings are regularly conducted will now be officially in ISV. There was a unanimous vote to suspend the rules in order to act immediately. The annexation ordinance was passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.

**-Patricia Crapet**

## **INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE FOUNDERS DAY CRAFT FAIR AND GARAGE SALE**

One man's junk is another man's treasure, so bring your junky treasures to the First Annual ISV Founders' Day Craft Fair and Garage Sale.

Bring your household's saleable items, arts, and crafts to the town's original **One Day Sale**

**Saturday, October 17, 1992  
(Rain Date October 24)**

**Luster's Field, Highway 119 and Indian Trail**

**8 a.m. until...**

**Free to the public**

**Booth Fee is \$10 per family**--tax deductible, bringing your own tables and chairs

**POT LUCK LUNCH**--From noon until the food is gone. Bring a dish for the community spread along with your own snacks.

**Donations** for the special ISV Town Booth (money and saleable goods) will be gladly accepted. Unsold items from all booths will be donated to a local charitable organization if owners do not wish to take them back home. All items must be removed from the field at the end of the day.

Proceeds realized by ISV will go to the general fund to be used for special projects. Among other offerings will be Julie Wyatt's Pure Alabama Possum Sun-Dried and Road Tenderized in potted meat-sized tins. (Gifts for Yankees)

**Volunteers Welcome!**

For information, please call: Patricia Crapet (985-9205) or Sandy Luster (987-7918)



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### **Editor's**

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