



The Village Voice

Vol 2, No.7

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

October 6, 1992

INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Indian Springs School Town Hall
Tuesday, October 13, 1992, 7 p.m.

8:00 p.m. Social/Refreshments

Honorable Dr. Peter Peacock

Special guest - Shelby County Probate

Judge Thomas E. Snowden, Jr. will

swear in Councilman Art Johnson

Mayor, Council, and

Committee Reports

Citizen's Council

Council meetings are scheduled for the
second Tuesday each month)

INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE BEGINS THIRD YEAR

Celebration of Founders' Day

ADMISSION FREE

CRAFT FAIR AND GARAGE SALE

Saturday, October 17

8 a.m. until the daylight fades...

Lusters' Field--Highway 119 and Indian Trail

(Rain date, October 24)

LITTER WALK AS USUAL 8 a.m. (See Page 3)

POT LUCK COMMUNITY LUNCH

The First Annual Really Big Covered Dish Lunch

Lusters' Field Noon Until...

All Villagers, shoppers, sellers, artists, and craftsmen are welcome to participate in the community spread by bringing some contribution to the shared feast. Be sure to identify your containers if they are not disposable. Those staying for the day may want to bring coolers and extra snacks as well.

Patricia Crapet and Sandy Luster with other volunteers have planned this event which will last all day and give everyone a chance to participate to some extent. Villagers who wish to sell unused household items to profit themselves or the Village are invited to come set up early enough for shoppers to start at 8 a.m. **Items donated for the Village should be brought as early as possible, but will be accepted at any time of day. Look around for books, glassware, lamps, decorative "setabouts", pictures, tools, small items of furniture, etc., that no longer suit you.** Money will also be accepted to defray the cost of incidental expenses of Founders' Day. There will be volunteers to handle the sale of items donated to benefit the Village. **Space for personal garage sales, arts, crafts or other novelty items will be \$10 per family.** Each family will need to bring chairs and display tables, but the fee is tax deductible. Space will be available on a first come basis.

Bag any aluminum cans and bring them along; a collection point will be designated.

Unsold items that are not reclaimed will be donated to a charitable organization; a pick-up will be arranged for the end of the day. Nothing may be left in the field at the end of the day.

Volunteers Needed!

Call Patricia Crapet (985-9205) or Sandy Luster (987-7918) to volunteer your time or to lend folding tables, etc., for lunch.

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 November, 1992, edition should be submitted by Tuesday noon, October 27. 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

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL

Update on Missing Pets

The phone has rung off the hook about the article on the Village's missing pets. This problem seems to run a lot deeper than first imagined. Signs noting even more lost dogs seem to pop up almost daily, with some owners offering very substantial rewards for the return of these beloved creatures. Rumors are rampant about theft of pets for uses in satanic rituals or laboratory experimentation. There is also talk of ransoms for reward money and illegal puppy mills.

The Birmingham News and local television stations ran a news story recently about a Pell City man who was arrested for operating a makeshift breeding mill for dogs at his home. The puppies were being sold at flea markets. The conditions in which these pets were kept were deplorable and inhumane. The Shelby County Humane Society (SCHS) has confiscated 140 dogs from this illegal operation. Because of space constraints, these dogs are now impounded in three different locations: Columbiana, St. Clair County, and Atlanta. SCHS has an inventory list of all dogs rescued from this operation. If you have lost a dog, please call SCHS at 669-3916 and ask if they have a dog of your pet's description or breed in any of these shelters. These dogs are being held indefinitely by SCHS as evidence in the case, which is now awaiting trial. If your dog is being held, you will not be able to take it home until after the case is heard in court. It is a long shot, but at least you will know where your pet is.

-Patricia Crapet

HIGHWAY 119 ZONING UPDATE

The September *Voice* recounted the frustration felt by several diligent Villagers because of the slowness of the Shelby County Planning Commission and its review board to react to complaints in the ruling on the Siragusa property on Highway 119. See the September *Village Voice* article "Update:SCPC Meeting" by Patricia Crapet. Finally, according to the September 15 issue of *The Birmingham News*, the Shelby County "commissioners voted unanimously to authorize the county attorney to take legal action against James P. Siragusa in an attempt to force him to stop leasing his land for a used car lot." Kent Faulk's byline article also stated in summary that Siragusa planned to fight the zoning enforcement as he feels the land is legally grandfathered for commercial use. This property is not in the Village, but in its present state it does have a negative visual impact on our area.

Do not believe in miracles, rely on them!

-Unknown

DURBINS REDOUBLE RECYCLING EFFORTS

Collections of bags of aluminum cans from the drive ways of ISV were very poor on Wednesday night, September 2. The Burtons on Highgate Hill saved the evening and, together with the few other participants, were responsible for the \$13 collected from the sale of the cans to subsidize *The Village Voice*.

In a successful effort to remind us of the September 16 collection, Sharon Durbin put signs at strategic intersections, and Bob, between walking for exercise and driving around the Village, distributed 150 flyers the family had prepared. Unfortunately, Sharon and Bob had to go out of town because of an unexpected death in the family. Their sons, David and Jason, rose to the occasion and made the collection efforts alone. So many Villagers had responded to the reminders that the boys had to go home twice to unload the truck bed. Two and a half truck loads of aluminum cans added \$50 to the *Voice* fund. The most successful prior effort had been doubled. The Durbins' energetic dedication, and creativity are appreciated by the whole Village. Thank you Sharon, Bob, David, and Jason, and thanks to all the recycling participants. The Village wins on many levels with these efforts.

UPCOMING COLLECTION DATES:

OCTOBER 14 & 28

Place the cans in a white plastic bag, label it ISV, and put the bag on your driveway (opposite household trash) before 8 p.m. on those Wednesday nights.

DOUBLE EFFORTS

On back-to-back Saturdays last month, Villagers gathered for two successful litter walks. Wearing the orange vest on Indian Crest Drive on September 12 were Jackie and Art Johnson, Charles McGregor, Martha and John Melton, Patt and Cappy Potter, Virginia Rancont, Margaret and Jim Roy, Paul Stephens, Fay and Clyde Wood, and Jim Wyatt. Next, on September 19, bagging litter on Cahaba Valley Road (as well as the I-65 northbound ramp) were Nora and Jim Boyett, Art Johnson, Emily McAduy, Margaret and Jim Roy, and Virginia Rancont.

In October, a new coordinator will begin hoisting the signs announcing Cahaba Valley Road's litter walks for the next 12 months. And what better time for you to heed the call of your own vocation as an ISV trash picker? Join your neighbors at 8 a.m. on October 17, Mormon Church parking lot, to welcome and support the new coordinator whose identity will remain a mystery until then.

- Virginia Rancont

VILLAGE PERSONALS

Rhonda Dennis, wife and business partner of Councilman Gary Dennis, mother of three, and a thoughtful and generous Villager, has been hospitalized twice recently. Rhonda is much admired for her business acumen and community contributions, which are in addition to mothering **Brandon**, 19, **Ashley**, 17, and **Katie**, 12. Our thoughts and prayers are with all the family at this traumatic time.

A Note From Rhonda

The love and compassion displayed by the residents of Indian Springs Village during my recent illness has been a source of joy and comfort to my entire family. Thank you for the wonderful food, care of our children, and most of all, your prayers.

NEWCOMER PROFILES

A dynamic duo, who have much to offer Indian Springs Village in energy and talent, has moved into the house at 345 Indian Crest Drive formerly owned by Don and Judy Sharpe. **Cindy Michelson**, well known for her success as founder and former owner/president of Errand Express, and **Dr. Mary Ellen Guy**, oft-quoted UAB professor of political science and author, are good friends who have shared houses before.

Cindy came to Birmingham from Baltimore after college in 1979 as an assistant producer at Channel 6. Her career as an entrepreneur started not long after that. She worked long hours and took many business risks that paid off later when she sold Errand Express. She now devotes herself and her resources to important not-for-profit endeavors. She is currently the executive director of the Literacy Council of Central Alabama, which is an affiliate but not an agency of United Way. Cindy likes to travel and is an avid golfer who usually plays at Pine Tree.

Prior to coming to UAB in 1982, Mary Ellen was a hospital administrator in South Carolina. She is the director of the master's program in public administration and teaches courses in management, ethics, public policy, etc. She has four book credits and is an avid reader, but not just a scholar. She is the president of the Birmingham Kennel Club and has shown pure bred dogs in competition. Her current elderly Shetland sheep dogs are retired from show business and eat and sleep much of the time.

Honors

Bradley Youngblood, son of Joan and Harold Youngblood, 1530 Indian Crest Drive, recently graduated *summa cum laude* from Auburn with a degree in aerospace engineering. Bradley is now a civilian employee at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, FL.

WELCOME

All neighbors of 159 Valley View Lane should make welcome **Stowe** and **Ann Shoemaker** from Pottstown, PA. Ann retired from her career as a high school teacher after 23 years, but Stowe is a self-employed sales representative for industrial equipment. A daughter lives in the area and was very helpful in the relocation.

THE YOUNGEST VILLAGER

Laney Gray Caldwell arrived on September 8 to the delight of parents, **Carol** and **Harry Caldwell**, and sisters, **Phoebe** and **Jenna**. The Caldwells live at 985 Valley View Road.

IN MEMORIAM

Sadie Ayers, mother of **Kay Glenos**, died on September 11 in Trussville. Mrs. Ayers is survived by her husband, Hillary, and Kay's four siblings. On September 29, Kay had outpatient surgery that had been postponed because of her mother's long illness. We send Kay our sympathy for her loss along with wishes for a quick recovery and return to happier activities.

Villager **Geraldine Wright** of 36 Fox Fire Circle died at home on September 26 after a long illness. The community expresses deep sympathy to husband **Eddie Wright**, their daughter, Diane, and their son, Mark, who is stationed in Montgomery with the military.

ACCOLADES

Just in case she is not drinking enough canned beverages, **Dr. Norma Rogers** sent a contribution for the printing of *The Village Voice* and a note of appreciation for an outstanding job being done by the Village leadership and volunteers.

Much appreciation goes to **Jack Van Pelt** of Indian Crest Drive for his offer of land for a road that would connect Indian Crest Drive with Valleydale Road. However, it appears at present that the sentiment is negative to the presence of the proposed road. Newcomers should be aware that early settler Jack Van Pelt's previous generosity includes the gift of land to build part of Indian Crest Drive, the water tower site, and a home site for the local district firechief. Van Pelt was tireless in his efforts to bring fire protection and water to the area.

STRAW POLL SENTIMENT AGAINST CONNECTION WITH VALLEYDALE

At the September ISV Town Council meeting, there were approximately 20 votes to 1 (with some abstentions) against building a road connecting Indian Crest Drive with Valleydale Road. **Lloyd Wagner**, 5300

Mountain Park Drive, is in charge of surveying the opinions of Villagers, especially those who live nearest the proposed road which would be approximately Willow Ridge. The following letter to Wagner copied to the *Voice* editor represents a view of opposition:

I am opposed to the development of a new road connecting Indian Crest Road with Valleydale. I would like to see access to our area continue to be limited for three reasons, all of which are related to the problems associated with restricted and increased traffic:

1. *Security*—As we continue to see expansion in the suburbs, particularly in the North Shelby area, I believe that we will see a growth in crime. Maybe this will not happen this year or next, but certainly within the next decade. Limited access to an area is a proven deterrent to burglaries and other property crimes. Many of us have sufficient concern regarding security of ourselves and our property that we have installed electronic systems to discourage break-ins, etc. The added traffic of the new road is a step backward in maintaining this security.

2. *Increased Property Values*—I believe that Indian Springs and the Indian Crest area have the opportunity to build the image of a prestige community. This will increase property values and improve the marketability of our homes. This is an opportunity which should not be missed.

Wanda and I have lived in a "gated" community and it does provide a feeling of security. In addition, my observation was then, and is now, that the values of those properties were viewed as well above the average. I would like to see the Indian Crest area move in that direction. I would like to believe that sometime in the future, our area could create an association which would establish and maintain security and limited access at the current three entrances to this hillside. I see it being done at communities such as Graystone and I believe it will become a more desirable feature of new and prestigious communities in our area. We have the potential for this in our future. The opening of a new entrance will increase the difficulty and cost of implementing this "limited access".

3. *Low Traffic*—Currently, I do not feel that traffic is a problem in our area; however, if another thoroughfare is opened between Highway 119 and Valleydale I would expect to see increased traffic. If this traffic were

limited to those of us who live here on Indian Crest, it might not be a problem. However, I see that as the load on Caldwell Mill is increased and the intersection at I-65 becomes even busier, an alternate through Indian Crest will begin to pick up the load. This now local traffic is not desirable to me. Currently, we are not a thoroughfare...for anyone. With this proposed road, we will be.

I certainly see the convenience of being able to reach commercial areas of Valleydale with the proposed new road; however, I believe that this convenience comes with a cost...a cost as noted above, and I believe that the cost is too high.

Andrew G. Carter, Jr.
1655 Indian Crest Drive

A Frugal Village

No government waste in ISV! The ballots for the recent election were copied in the office of Mayor Harrington's law firm and further prepared for use by his secretary. Thanks to them and to Najjar Dennaburg P.C. for their "in-kind" and kind contributions. Councilwoman Crapet reported that, at this time, four of the five poll workers had returned the \$25 election pay to the general fund. We suspect them of generosity, but it could be that they did not want to admit to working for \$1.75 an hour.

TOWN COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met on Tuesday, September 8, 1992, 7 p.m., in the Town Hall of Indian Springs School. Mayor Hub Harrington presided over the meeting, with council member Patricia Crapet present.

Since there was not a quorum, no official town business was conducted and the reading of the minutes was waived until the October meeting.

Mayor Harrington asked for volunteers to help with a proposal for a more comprehensive ISV recycling program. Aluminum cans are presently the only recyclable items being picked up in the Village.

Mayor Harrington announced that Lloyd Wagner has volunteered to be in charge of the annexation effort in the Indian Crest and Caldwell Mill areas. Anyone interested in assisting with this effort is encouraged to contact Lloyd at 987-0236.

Councilwoman Crapet reported that the road maintenance fund received \$569 for the month of July and that the beer tax distribution was \$695. Town Clerk Paul Stephens reported that the balance in the general fund was approximately \$1700 and the road fund balance was \$5300.

-Patricia Crapet

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AGENDA
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II. Council
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