



# The Village Voice

Vol 2. No.8

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

November 3, 1992

## INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Indian Springs School Town Hall  
Tuesday, November 10, 1992, 7 p.m.

### Agenda

Mayor, Council, and  
Committee Reports  
Citizens' Forum

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 Great 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 December, 1992, edition should be submitted by Tuesday noon, November 24. 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  
Eldred Wyatt for the masthead drawing

## INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE CELEBRATES THANKSGIVING

### The Village Voice Celebrates People

Your editor is often chided by her friends for being a pessimist. One of her favorite quotes has been, "No matter how cynical you get, it's impossible to keep up." Evenhanded with her criticisms, she even thought of her own work on the newsletter as self-serving. She had always felt a lack of communication and cooperation in the area except when community interests were threatened. Then with incorporation and with people she did not even know promising ongoing and positive leadership, she hoped a sense of community could be achieved. In the beginning, her enthusiasm for her contribution ebbed and flowed as the desired newsletter format could not be sustained. Many requested contributions of copy were not forthcoming, and few Villagers took advantage of the ease of communication being offered.

Even so, issue after issue seemed to write itself as there were always matters that needed to be communicated. Now, more and more Villagers contribute copy in print or with calls. The old girl sees a sense of community that makes cynicism hard to continue. She hopes that readers have begun to feel what she feels, sense what she senses, and to celebrate this community, not just at Thanksgiving, but all year round. This community's abundance is not in its conspicuous affluence; it is in the caring and sharing of its people with each other.

Let us give thanks for neighbors who are not too self-involved to care for each other in good times and in sorrowful ones, for the dedication of local leaders who serve without perks and pay, and for tolerance of diverse opinions. Happy Thanksgiving from *The Village Voice* and a recovering cynic!

## A THANKSGIVING FOOTNOTE

Juyuan Ji, an instructor and doctoral candidate at UAB, says that in mainland China, his native country, the Chinese say, "God has given everything good to the Americans." Because of his own enthusiasm for the U.S., he was relatively unpopular with the governing powers when he returned home after an earlier teaching stint. Ji advises his UAB students to, "...appreciate their freedom and opportunities. Criticise and improve, but don't complain."

# FOUNDERS' DAY

## A Beneficial Celebration

Financially, the Saturday, October 17, Craft Fair and Garage Sale could be called a **modest** success; but, socially, it was a **rousing** one. The spirit of fun and friendship was strengthened and about \$300 was made.

The cold, windy weather sent everyone scurrying to the used clothing tables in search of warm sweaters, caps and gloves that went rapidly from tables to torsos. [The weather became quite pleasant later.] At the town booth the big sellers, in addition to **Julie Schenk's** canned "possum", were **Eunice Huntress's** mystery novels and **Bill Ramsey's** bags of golf balls. Almost all of the items contributed by **Don and Anita Jones** sold, including a double-bed mattress. The jubilant shopper who bought the mattress and many of the items sidled up to several workers and asked where she could find a double bed for sale to go with the mattress. She was a genuine garage-sale addict and a really pleased one.

Resourceful Olivia Weingarten came up with the idea of selling cakes and cookies left over from the covered dish lunch and did a brisk business. Our garage-sale addict came by and bought a pound cake. Nora Boyett had presided over the lunch tables after Jim drove back home to get an additional large table that was needed. Nora kept things organized and moving. She and others had to keep one vigilant canine visitor at bay. He was an endearing, if pesky, shaggy brown medium-sized dog with pleading eyes who established residency early in the day and would not be evicted.

Eleven exhibitors set up tables and offered a wide variety of items for sale--used clothing, new hand-made and hand-decorated clothes, strollers, toys, furniture, hand-crafted Christmas ornaments, new sample shoes, trinkets (rings, pens, small desk items, etc.), household items, and one beautiful handcrafted doll house.

**Sandy Luster** did a great job of organizing, executing, supervising, and cleaning up afterwards. The Village thanks Sandy and Ron for the use of Lusters' Field for the Founders' Day event as well as for the organizational energy and skills.

**Joyce Wood**  
1345 Indian Crest Dr.

*"All progress has resulted from people who have taken unpopular positions."*

-Adlai Stevenson

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Two months ago, on August 7, Judge, my yellow lab was taken. I suspect that he was taken by a person in my neighborhood who had threatened to kill Judge someday. I had known Judge for six years, and in that time he had brought me more joy than I ever could have imagined. His loss has left a void in my heart and life that will never be replaced by another dog. People deal with grief in different ways, and I always thought that getting another dog would help heal the pain. At least that is what I had always told other people. Well, when it hits home you must sort things out in your own manner. I just don't see myself replacing Judge. It hurts too much to even look at other people's dogs.

I had told my wife that I wanted to leave this neighborhood immediately. But her stabilizing force has helped me to get through this painful time. We have also been helped by the unending thoughtfulness of others in our neighborhood. People have continued to hope for us that Judge might by some miracle return to us. They have called us at all times of the day to report seeing a dog that looked like Judge and to ask us to come to see if it could be. Just last week a man named Phillip came through our neighborhood looking for me to tell me that he had taken a yellow lab to the vet on Highway 119. I checked, but it was not Judge. Our next-door neighbor thought she had seen Judge and came one night to get me to take a look. Another couple gave us an earlier picture they had taken of Judge sitting in their yard. The people in this village have been just terrific to us. I thank everyone for their kindness and thoughtfulness. The kind spirit of the people in my neighborhood and the Village far exceeds the hatefulness of the person who took my Judge. It has

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made my decision to remain in Indian Springs a lot easier. Thank all of you. We have a very special place to live.

Sincerely,  
Walter Bennett  
175 Willow Ridge Dr.

Walter Bennett's words speak eloquently to a Village that seems to overflow with animal lovers. **Gertie Jones** is still grieving over the loss of her dog which was killed by a car on Indian Crest Drive. The driver, who was going too fast, did not stop to try to aid the dog or to find the owner. Mrs. Jones wrote this comment for the readers of the Voice, *How much my pet meant to me was made clear when she was unexpectedly taken away. At the same time, I realized the importance of my friends and neighbors. Thank you, Susan Loper, Debra Gibson, John Mik, and Brad [Last name unknown] for being there.*

It has been the editor's intention for some time to remind all of us to slow down on Indian Crest Drive and on all our streets. **Dr. Max Davis** described the traffic on his street, the Cahaba Valley Road, in words that reminded me of the Indianapolis 500. Yes, it is a state highway, but it is also a residential street. We need to slow down on the Village curves we know so well and on Highway 119's straight and narrow; our vehicles can be deadly weapons! The few minutes we save with our speed may be spent on long-term grief and regret. Let us all be reminded and spread the word to potential Villagers--all life is sacred here.

## HUMANE SOCIETIES BENEFIT

### Deer's Run Gifts

105 Oak Mountain Park Road  
Pelham, Alabama 35124

Saturday, November 14, 9-5 p.m.  
Sunday, November 15, 1-5 p.m.

Brothy P. Abele, owner of Deer's Run Gifts and former president of the Shelby County Humane Society Auxiliary, makes beautiful Christmas ornaments and crafts to benefit various humane organizations. She was an exhibitor at

the Village Founders' Day and gives all the profits from her work for the benefit of animals. Mrs. Abele is a widow and a long-time resident of the area whose large acreage was depleted to some extent by the building of I65.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Frances C. Hoff**, 51, died October 18, following a brief illness. Fran lived at 1200 Indian Crest Drive with her husband, Ron Hoff, and her mother, Josephine Cerami. She is also survived by her sons, Ron Hoff, Jr., and Timothy Hoff. Fran's celebrations of Christmas will always be remembered by Villagers. Thousands of twinkling white lights made the Hoff home seem like a fairyland last year. Our sympathy goes to the Hoff's, to Mrs. Cerami and to Fran's two sisters for their loss.

**Ron Hoff** had this message for Fran's friends and neighbors, *Your deeds and special words of kindness have been a comfort to me. And when any group of people does the thoughtful things you do, it's hard to find words warm enough to thank each of you.*

**Roderick Page Donnelly**, 62, who lived for a long time on Indian Crest Drive, was a resident of Jasmine Hill when he died on October 15. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Ida Marie Donnelly; to his daughter, Leann Bailey; and to his mother, Dorothy Donnelly.

**A Message from the Wright Family**  
*The family of Geraldine Wright would like to express thanks to The Village Voice for the memorial in the newsletter. Also we would like to thank all of the neighbors for their prayers, care, thoughtfulness, food, and support. It certainly helps to know you have neighbors who care. Thank you.*

*Eddie, Mark, and Diane Wright*

## ACCOLADES

**Dr. Ruth Goodwyn**, editorial consultant for *The Village Voice* and librarian at Mountain Brook High School, was one of the presenters at the national convention of the American Association of School Librarians. Dr.

Goodwyn presented a program describing the library seminar that she originated. The week-long seminar, called Kaleidoscope, features speakers from the community as curriculum enrichment.

Compliments were received by the **Voice** from Villagers on Highway 119 for **Neil and Betty Agrisano** on Spring Garden Street for their beautiful yard. The neighbors especially appreciate the Agrisanos for keeping the vacant property on the corner of Highway 119 and Spring Garden neatly trimmed and mowed.

The **Allardes** on Highway 119 are much appreciated by the **Durbins**, who collect aluminum cans for the Village, for being among the best contributors. (This compliment was cut in the last issue of the **Voice**.)

## BLOCK PARTY

**Kathryn and Homer Coleman**, who always go an extra mile for others, invited **all** the residents on Pawnee, Indian Forest, and Choctaw to a neighborhood block party. On Sunday, September 27, all the children of the area had the last swim of the summer before the **Colemans** closed the pool. The **Colemans** prepared the entree, and the neighbors brought other dishes for a community meal in keeping with the cooperative fun that is becoming a Village tradition.

## IRANIAN VISITOR HONORED

**Sharon Durbin** invited the neighbors on Willow Ridge Drive to meet **Malak McNinch's** mother, who arrived from Iran on October 18. It was a first visit for **Akram Afshar** to the U.S. and to the home where **Malak** and her husband have lived for over ten years. The neighbors, some long-time and some new, enjoyed meeting each other as well as the opportunity to meet **Mrs. Afshar**. Indian Springs Village welcomes **Mrs. Afshar** and sends a spirit of good will back to her homeland when she returns. The mayor could give her a key to the town, but there isn't one; we have no buildings to unlock! **Councilwoman Patricia Crapet**, who has still not recovered from her bout with pneumonia, plans to offer an **ISVT**-shirt.

## GET WELL WISHES

**Jack Dean** of Pawnee gave everyone quite a scare when he drove himself to the hospital and was kept there for heart surgery a couple of days later, September 29. His neighbors report that he is doing fine and recuperating nicely at home with wife **Verna Mae's** skilled care.

**Earl Harper**, on Indian Forest, has had pneumonia. Perhaps as soon as our hard-working councilwoman is completely recovered, she can contract for a group rate on flu shots for the Village as a preventative measure!

## COMING EVENTS

**League of Women Voters  
Shelby County Unit Meeting  
November 19, 7 p.m.**

**Hosts: Kris and Max Davis  
Cahaba Valley Road  
Indian Springs Village**

**Topic: Health Care**

The League of Women Voters meetings are open to the public, and its membership is open to men as well as women. This is the first Shelby County Unit meeting of the current League year and continues a study of health care options for the nation. Questions will be presented for discussion in an attempt to come to a unit consensus, and the League expects to have a national position on health care financing by the end of April, 1993. Information on the options is available from the **LWVUS** magazine and the consensus questions are now in members' hands. Everyone is welcome, but only League members are polled for consensus. This is the way the national League arrives at all its positions--in living room discussion groups.

The North Shelby unit is part of The Greater Birmingham **LWV**. Their mission statement follows: The League for Women Voters is a national, non-partisan organization whose purpose is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected governmental issues. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. It is financed by membership dues and contributions of interested citizens who realize that the League is the spirit of democracy in action. Membership is open to everyone.

Most of the current North Shelby Unit members are residents of Indian Springs Village. They encourage prospective members from the Village as well as their friends from other areas of the county, both men and women, to attend their meetings. Dues are \$40 a year for individuals and \$60 for a family. Call **LaVerne Ramsey**, 988-0059, for information on the upcoming health care discussion and consensus or for membership information.

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## SHELBY COUNTY

### COMMISSION MEETINGS

November 9, 8:30 a.m.

Shelby County Court House  
Columbiana, AL

November 23, 6:00 p.m.

Shelby County Court House  
Columbiana, AL

## ISV Clean and Beautiful

### ADOPT-A-MILE LITTER WALK

Saturday, November 21, 9 a.m.

Meet at the Mormon Church parking lot on Highway 119

Councilman Art Johnson is the crew chief

## PERILS OF RECYCLING

Sharon Durbin asked me to go with her on the October 21 aluminum can collection rounds. I now have a real appreciation for all the effort that the Durbins are putting into doing this for our town. There are a lot of streets and hills in our community and very few street lights. At one house I was not sure who was going to get the cans, the two of us or two dogs that decided that we didn't belong there. We started at 8 p.m. and finished at 9:30, collecting enough cans to bring in \$19.58. (Sharon wants to remind everyone that we are only collecting aluminum cans and not tin cans such as the ones vegetables come in.)

It has been discussed and decided that one collection a month is enough. The day chosen is the day after each town council meeting, which will be the second Wednesday of each month. There will be a reminder in *The Village Voice*, and we will also remind everyone who attends the council meetings.

I hope that everyone will continue to support the Durbins' efforts in this. Not only is the money a big help for *The Village Voice*, but the recycling effort is good for all of us.

Jackie Johnson

## NEXT RECYCLING DATE

Wednesday Night, November 11

Please bag aluminum cans and, before 8 p.m., place the plastic bags (white, if possible) on the driveway opposite Thursday morning's BFI pick-up.

## TOWN COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The Indian Springs Town Council met Tuesday, October 13, 1992, as regularly scheduled, in the Town Hall of Indian Springs School. Mayor Hub Harrington presided with Gary Dennis, Stewart Dudley, Art Johnson, and Ron Luster present. This marked the first meeting of the second term for everyone except Art Johnson, who was attending his first meeting as a council member. The present council's terms actually began October 5, but Shelby County Probate Judge Thomas E. Snowden swore in the council at this meeting with Kathy Dudley, Jackie Johnson and Sandy Luster holding the Bibles for their spouses and the other members. Patricia Crapet, who was hospitalized with pneumonia, missed her first council meeting ever and is to be sworn in privately by Judge Snowden.

Mayor Harrington reviewed the history of incorporation and the efforts of the first council, especially those of Dr. Peter Peacock who attended his first meeting as a private citizen. For his service to the Village as councilman and his contributions to beautification, Dr. Peacock was awarded a plaque of appreciation. The work spearheaded by Virginia Rancont to banish litter with the Adopt-A-mile program started in Dr. Peacock's environmental committee. Dr. Peacock, in stepping down but not out, promised to continue working for beautification starting with his own yard. Art Johnson has pledged to continue the environmental efforts.

In a repeat of ISV's very first meeting as a town, Rev. Wayne Brooks, pastor of New Hope Presbyterian Church, gave the invocation and Judge Snowden administered the oaths of office.

The reading of two sets of minutes, which resulted from failure to have a quorum at the second meeting, was waived; the minutes were approved as recorded. Mayor Harrington mentioned receiving a letter from a Villager who apologized for not attending council meetings and expressed appreciation for the work that others were doing on behalf of the town.

On the subject of the proposed road to connect Indian Crest Drive and Valleydale Road, Lloyd Wagner reported 20 written responses with 19 being negative. Reasons cited by

the Villagers nearest the proposed road were environmental impact, loss of security, and increased traffic. The one favorable response stressed easier access for police and fire protection as well as a closer egress to the north. While thanking **Jack Van Pelt** for his generous offer of the land for the proposed road, the Willow Ridge residents were fairly unanimous in their desire to keep road patterns the same.

Mayor Harrington discussed the long-standing litigation with Pelham over the latter's annexation of part of ISV. Just when it seemed settled that most of the property would remain in ISV, one of the commercial property owners began new and unacceptable bargaining for additional commercial buildings. A final order of new agreement is now being circulated. It states that drawings must be submitted to the ISV Council before any changes in the property are made, and the owner in question has begun to improve the appearance of the property. The mayor is hopeful that the town boundaries will be firm soon.

Revenues from the utilities taxes are expected in January. There has been correspondence from Alabama Power's preliminary evaluation of ISV's requests, but estimates vary widely. The bill for the Clean Water Permit is \$5000 for the first phase, less than it would have been had ISV's pro rata share been calculated.

The general fund balance is currently \$2300, and the road account balance is \$5700. **Paul Stephens**, Town Clerk, expects to pay off the remainder of the town note, \$1500, this month.

Ron Luster reports that the county will begin work on the Indian Trail bridge within 90 days. The Bishop Lane bridge will follow later, and both bridges will be concrete. Luster credits **Shelby County Commissioner Don Armstrong** for getting the work started. Armstrong is the commissioner of the district south of Highway 119. Luster also reported working with the Shelby County road engineer to inventory the ISV roads, classify for the state of repair, and make plans for maintenance. The county engineer was complimentary of the pot hole repairs being made by our volunteer pot hole crew.

Judge Snowden apologized for any problems ISV residents have had in getting an Indian Springs address put on their drivers' licenses. He said the staff in that department had been instructed, but sometimes new staffers had to be told that it was approved.

Councilman Gary Dennis thanked all those present and expressed appreciation for all the help from neighbors and

other Villagers while his wife Rhonda was hospitalized.

In conjunction with a motion to adjourn, the mayor invited everyone to his home to share ISV's second birthday cake and other refreshments in honor of the beginning of the Village's third year as a town. **Kathryn Sumrall Harrington**, the mayor's wife, had missed the swearing-in to prepare for the group. The reception reflected the generosity and abundance with which the Village is blessed.

## HOW GREEN IS YOUR HOME?

Here are a few suggestions saved from the July *Birmingham Post-Herald*:

- Assess purchases and whether items can be reused. Don't accept a store bag unless you'll reuse it.
- Make rags out of old T-shirts, socks and sheets.
- Haul books and magazines to coffee shops, offices and nursing homes.
- Never throw away reusable clothes and household items--donate them to shelters, churches and thrift stores.
- Use fewer paper products. Wipe hands on cloth towel instead of paper towels. Instead of drinking from paper cups, keep a designated glass by the sink. Each family member can use a different colored or different shaped glass.
- If you must use paper, buy all-white kinds (dyes are a river pollutant) without perfumes. Choose recyclable products whenever possible.
- Don't forget to recycle newspapers, glass, metal and plastic items.
- Buy cardboard egg containers instead of plastic foam.
- Make sure drip pans under your stove burners are clean and reflective. If not, cover the pans with fresh aluminum foil.
- Dust the coils underneath the refrigerator (dirty coils are a big energy eater).
- Rinse and reuse aluminum foil whenever possible.
- Use appropriately sized pots and pans when cooking (the bigger the pot, the more energy used).
- Shut off faucets when you soap up or brush your teeth. Catch cold shower water, rain and snow in a bucket for watering plants and washing floors.
- Change filters for heating and cooling systems frequently. This also reduces dust pollution.
- Reduce your junk mail. To keep your name off future lists, write Preference Service at Box 3861, New York, NY 10163-3861.

Source: Scripps Howard News Service

The test of any government is the extent to which it increases the good in the people

-Aristotle

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