

The Village Voice

Vol 2, No. 9

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

December 1, 1992

INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

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

Mayor, Council, and
Committee Reports
Citizen's 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 on 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 to volunteer couriers.

Address letters to the editor and appropriate news releases to: LaVerne Ramsey, Editor, 530 Indian Springs Drive, Indian Springs, AL 35124. Newcomer information should be reported to Patricia Crapet (985-9205).

The *Village Voice* is published the first Tuesday of each month. Articles for publication in the January, 1993, edition should be submitted by Tuesday noon, December 29. The editor reserves the right to edit 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:

Donors who subsidize printing expenses
Patricia Crapet for circulation (985-9205)
Ruth Goodwyn for editorial consultation
Indian Springs couriers for hand delivery
Anita Wyatt for the masthead drawing

Indian Springs Village Prepares for the Holidays

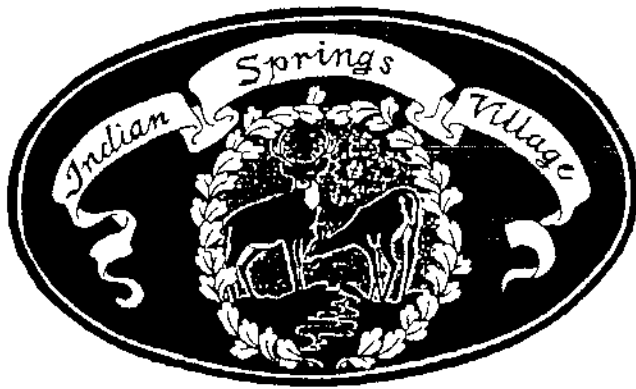
As Christmas and Hanukkah approach, the Village looks forward to another celebration of faith, home, hearth, and neighborhood. Once again, the mysterious elves are watching. They observe all year long, but are most pleased when the Village dons its holiday garb. They will be taking notes so that *The Village Voice* can recognize the residents who please them most with the holiday spirit shown in their seasonal decor. We were reminded last year that the elves value participation over competition. They have observed, however, that once the spirit is caught, Villagers tend to compete with themselves from year to year in creating more artistic decorations for their homes.

Make it a holiday tradition to drive through the Village each year once by day and once at night. It is a beautiful sight. The elves will be looking again for traditional themes as well as originality, the enchantment of lights, and unique mailbox decorations and driveway entrances. They were thrilled last year when someone decorated a street post on the Cahaba Valley Road. The elves think it would be great if every street had its own elf decorate its street sign.

Hints on how to spot elves: When elves are walking along the Village streets, they cannot pass litter without removing it. They always show frustration when they pass a defaced traffic sign, no matter how many times they have seen it. Elves smile with pleasure when they see roadsides that have been well maintained by Villagers who tend beyond their own frontage. Elves are not self-absorbed; they are usually watchful for their neighbors' welfare. Their numbers are growing so rapidly that even the most careless observer should spot one this week!

Holiday Shopping in the Village

Anita Jones had the idea and executed it--the perfect stocking stuffer--an Indian Springs Village automobile tag. The continental oval tag was designed especially for the Village by resident **Julie Wyatt Schenk**. The design has brown deer against a blue sky in a white wreath, all embossed on a dark green aluminum tag with standard tag mounting slots. Our black and white mock-up is a poor substitute for the charm, color, and shape of the real thing.



At \$8.00, it's the ideal gift for every Villager's car, tractor, RV, or wagon. The profits go to the ISV general fund. Checks should be made payable to Indian Spring Village.

Available through:

Anita Jones--933-2525 or 988-3886

Rita Mendel's Carousel Tack Shoppe, AL 119

Neil's Pharmacy

Welcome Newcomers

Allen and Anne Marie Bailey are at home at 8013 Woodfern in Indian Highlands. Allen is a claims manager with Nationwide, and Anne Marie is a legal secretary with the IRS. Their son, Mark, lives in Montgomery and is a zoologist. The Baileys are originally from Birmingham and transferred back after a job assignment in Jackson, MS.

The Mayor Goes to Bat; Gets Immediate Response

The following is the text of Mayor Hub Harrington's letter to Perry Hand, Director of the Alabama Highway Department, about the proposal to four-lane AL Highway 119:

"It has come to the attention of the residents of the town of Indian Springs Village that, at the request of the Birmingham Regional Planning Commission, you will be reconsidering the decision which would have delayed for at least four years any expansion to Highway 119. As you are aware, Highway 119 is the main thoroughfare through our town, and any action that would be designed to increase the traffic and invite greater speeds along Highway 119 is adamantly opposed by the residents of our community. At our most recent town council meeting, a resolution was introduced voicing opposition to the widening of Highway 119 and requesting the mayor and council to officially oppose any such project. Every citizen at the town meeting strongly favored adoption of the resolution, and it was unanimously adopted by the town council. By this letter, I am informing you of that

action and formally requesting that the town of Indian Springs be included in any discussions which contemplate expansion projects on Highway 119.

"As community leaders, it is our charge to oppose any activity which would lead to commercialization and degradation of the nature and character of our community. Because Highway 119 traverses an area which is predominately residential, and because it is our intent to preserve the nature of this community, additional traffic traveling higher rates of speed is most unwelcome. There are many other highways and roads in Jefferson County and Shelby County that desperately need upgrading. Highway 119 is not one of these.

"I trust that you will keep me advised of any and all future discussions concerning Highway 119. Thank you for your consideration in this matter."

The mayor added these comments for *The Village Voice*:

The foregoing letter was recently forwarded on behalf of the town. The response was immediate, and we have been assured that no action will be taken that affects our community unless we are involved in the decision-making process. To insure that our voice is heard, Jim Wyatt has been appointed as ISV's representative on the Citizens' Committee of the Birmingham Regional Planning Commission. As he has in the past, Ron Luster will also work with the BRPC, providing an additional source of information and influence and strengthening our ties with this organization.

The best news is that the portions of Highway 119 that are being considered for expansion at this time are located in Alabaster and east of Highway 280, the latter being the lowest priority. At present there are no plans to widen the portion of Highway 119 that runs between Highways 31 and 280.

Our letter was well received by all and served as a reminder of ISV's commitment to preserve the character of our community. This is no easy task and requires the vigilance of all citizens. So that we might be informed of any development that will affect our town and the surrounding area, we request residents to bring any such item to the attention of the council. Do not assume that everyone is equally informed of every development. It is our goal to respond to any threat to our community and we need everyone's help to insure that we are able to do so. Happily, the Highway 119 expansion is not a threat--this time!

-Hub Harrington

Christmas is a time when kids tell Santa what they want and adults pay for it. Deficits are when adults tell the government what they want - and their kids pay for it!

- Richard Lamm

ISV Clean and Beautiful Adopt-a-Mile Litter Walk

Saturday, December 19, 9 a.m.

at the Mormon Church parking lot on
Highway 119

Volunteer Art Johnson is the crew chief

Call 988-3217 for details, Art and Jackie

on

News From Art

On November 21 a hardy group of litter haters braved the cold to clean up Highway 119. We really appreciate the help of a small group of our regular picker-uppers, Nora and Tom, Emily McAdory, Virginia Rancont, Paul Stephens, and Jackie and Art Johnson. We hope that more of you will join in the effort to keep our town free of litter.

Recycling Upcoming Collection Date

On November 9, Wednesday night, before 8 p.m., please bring aluminum beverage cans (white bags if possible) to a place on the side of the drive opposite the recycling collection. Sharon and Bob Durbin and their son David and Jason, are the originators and volunteers for this project. It is, thus far, our only Village recycling project, and the proceeds go to fund the operating costs of *The Village Voice*. ISV wins two dollars a month from the Durbins at 988-5966 for additional information or to volunteer to help them.

Issue of Women Voters Addresses Health Care

Sharon Durbin was hostess to the Shelby County Unit of the National League of Women Voters November 19th. There were many new members as well as old, and the discussion was on the future of health care delivery in this country. The National League has been studying the options for universal health care and working toward a consensus. The plan can be supported by the majority of members. The results will be compiled on the national level and will be made public.

The unit will be studying the availability of health care in Shelby County. **Jean Allarde**, 2115 Cahaba Valley Road, 988-0250, will make assignments to all members for this comprehensive study. It will include all health care facilities and emergency health care, both public and private. Villagers who want to participate or who have helpful information are urged to contact or call Jean. For more information on the issue, call **Kathryn Coleman** 988-0368.

Long Overdue Accolades

Dan Kessler, whose house faces Cahaba Valley Road at the corner of Arrowhead Lane, is one of the longest-term residents of Indian Springs. He no longer maintains as much of Arrowhead Lane as he used to because he has new neighbors, but for many years he kept most of the Lane trimmed all the way up to Indian Crest Drive. Mr. Kessler, you have given all of us who pass your property daily a visual treat and a standard of neatness to emulate. Thank you and **Margaret** for all those years.

Town Council Highlights

The Town Council of Indian Springs Village met on Tuesday, November 10, 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, Gary Dennis, Art Johnson,** and **Stewart Dudley** present.

[The results of the discussion of the possible widening of Highway 119 are covered in the mayor's letter and comments.] A resolution was introduced to the council by Mayor Harrington officially referring enforcement of a possible zoning violation at 125 McGuire Lane to the ISV Zoning and Planning Board. The resolution, which passed unanimously, asks that the board conduct a thorough investigation of the matter.

Mayor Harrington presented the final draft of the proposed court order regarding the settlement of the ongoing lawsuit with Pelham. After reviewing the details of the settlement with all those present, the council unanimously passed a resolution authorizing ISV's attorney, Kathryn Sumrall Harrington, to execute the terms of the agreement on behalf of the town and the other plaintiffs. The proposed order and settlement agreement will now be presented to the city of Pelham for final approval, after which the order will be presented to Judge Rochester for his signature and the entry of the order into the court as record.

A suggestion was made by Town Clerk Paul Stephens that a petty cash fund be started for ISV. The fund, which would not exceed \$200, was approved by the council and a resolution passed unanimously creating the fund. All monies spent out of the fund will be documented fully, as are all of ISV's expenses.

September revenues reported by Councilwoman Patricia Crapet were the following: beer tax, \$647; road fund, \$653; building permit fees, \$634. The month of October brought in beer taxes of \$622 and road fund revenues of \$623. *The Village Voice* received donations of \$35 and \$101, the latter being the proceeds to the *Voice* from the ISV aluminum can recycling efforts.

Councilwoman Crapet proudly reported that the town had paid off the entire balance of its original loan. Without imposing any taxes on its citizens, the Village

is currently debt free. Town Clerk Paul Stephens reported that the general fund has approximately \$1300 and the road maintenance fund has \$7000.

Councilman Art Johnson reported having attended a tree protection ordinance meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to find and encourage ways to negotiate conflicts between land developers and the environmentalists who are concerned about the environmental impact of loss of trees. The purpose of a tree ordinance is for the protection of trees, the regulation of tree clearings, and the planting and maintenance of trees.

Councilman Ron Luster reported that within the next month the county will announce recommendations regarding the bridge on Indian Trail. Barring any unforeseen complications, construction should not be far behind. Reconstruction of the bridge on Bishop Lane is also scheduled to get under way within a short period afterward.

Newly-elected Shelby County Commissioner Lindsey Allison, an ISV resident, gave a brief update on the activities of the commission. Commissioner Allison announced that the new chairman of the commission for this year is Paul Yeager, with George Dailey as the vice-chairman. Allison also reported having successfully initiated the removal of certain unnecessary expenditures to the county, with commissioner car phones heading the list. After a serious study of county finances, Allison said she submitted a list of items to the commission that she felt could be cut from the budget to save money for the county.

-Patricia Crapet

Editor's Note: Our mayor and his in-house counsel, Kathryn Sumrall Harrington, are to be commended for the countless hours they sacrificed from their law practices to represent ISV in the proceedings to protect the integrity of the Village's original boundaries.

The Communists Stole Christmas

The author, Peter Kirchikov, came to the U.S. in 1991, and missed the January 7, 1992, Christmas celebration in his homeland, the first since 1936. A Ukraine expatriate, Kirchikov spent his first American Fourth of July at the Indian Springs Village celebration this year. He wrote the following piece for The Village Voice. It is an appropriate reminder that it is important to keep religion and government separate and to respect all religious persuasions. The Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 began almost 70 years of religious persecution in the USSR--no belief was sanctioned except atheism.

In 1936 the Soviet dictator and atheist, Joseph Stalin, substituted the New Year's celebration for the traditional Orthodox Christmas. The New Year was the official Soviet holiday, celebrated on the night of January 1. It was a favorite holiday, and married couples preferred to celebrate at home, inviting their parents, relatives, and close friends. They gathered

around the Christmas tree, called the New Year tree in Russia. These groups do not come from other cities and regions to be together as they once did because of the high costs of travel.

According to Stalinist tradition, the Soviet Communist leader or the President appeared on the Soviet TV to address the nation a few minutes before the New Year arrived to bring greetings and to sum up political, economic, and international affairs of the past year. Sometimes the Presidents of the USSR and the USA would exchange New Year's greetings between the countries. After the Soviet leader's address, the Spasskaya Kremlin tower chimes would strike the start of the New Year. The tower symbolized the nerve of the political, official and diplomatic life of the USSR.

The New Year's celebration also includes Grandfather Frost's visits to children in schools, kindergartens, and homes. He is the equivalent of Santa Claus. New Year's parties, carnivals, balls, masquerades, and fancy balls, are held at kindergartens, schools, and offices, as well as at other locations. Gifts are distributed at the schools with the costs paid by the parents. Papers of honor are presented, and recitals and dance competitions are held. At home, cash and presents are given to the children. People have to wait for many hours in the market place lines to buy New Year trees. Black marketers sell them two to three times higher. Garlands, toys, decorations, plastic trees, and candles are popular. Greeting cards are customary.

I recall a unique New Year's tradition in the village of Bulgarian ethnic minority in Odessa, Ukraine, where I grew up. The mistress of the house cooks the New Year pie of wheat flour. It is not sweet. It has different enclosures: coins, plum and pear sticks, straw, wheat grain, seeds, etc. It is a "forecast pie" which is cut into slices. If one picks a coin, it means he will be a financial success in his business during the new year. Grain symbolizes a good year for the crop; fruit sticks, a good year for fruit trees. Before the father or master of the house cuts the pie and starts the meal, he asks blessings of God, a kind of prayer or invocation, then makes a toast. The practice is traced to an old Christian tradition.

Another tradition is to wash all dirty clothes and to shower on New Year's eve to be clean and healthy and free from disease for the next year. It is traditional to imagine a dream of happiness, money, peace and wealth and believe it will come true the next year.

Merry Christmas Sweet dreams, Happy New Year

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