

ISV Children's Fund Successful

Councilwoman Patricia Crapet

"Joy to the World...and give me everything else!" read the words on my Christmas night shirt. It sounds cute, and is most likely reminiscent of the oft-times materialistic side of many of us. Sure, it's fun to get lots of nice presents for Christmas and other special occasions, but, after all, what can anyone give us that we can't just go out and buy for ourselves? Considering the number of credit cards that we all have, not much, unless there really is a Santa Claus!

Since becoming involved with the Indian Springs Village Christmas Fund ISVCF), many villagers have come to understand a little more about what "joy" should be all about. True joy is not what you receive during your lifetime, but instead, what you give to others, whether it be in the form of a donation, helping hand, kind word, or just a warm smile.

Since the last issue of *The Village Voice*, more villagers have joyfully responded to the needs of those less fortunate than themselves. Several local school children and their families were given a Christmas that they would not have had without the generous donations of these villagers: **Pete Wilson, Onnie Dickerson, Dr. Larry Mackall, Roy and Betty Duncan, Ashley Weems, Quenton and Jackie Johnson, Albert and Peggy McGuffey, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Webb, Bart and Connie Trammell, Jack and Verna Dean, Bill and Shirley Renshaw, Ralph and Carolyn Bodie, Robert and Judith Konecny, Graeme and Ann Wilson, Marcia Tripp, Carroll and Patricia Potter, Jeff and Mona Holmes, Patricia Smith, and Jim Loper and his landscaping company, Jim Loper & Company, Inc. Jerry and Brenda Pate, son, Randy, and daughter, Ashley, adopted one of the children from the list, purchasing all that was needed for his happy Christmas. An anonymous Village couple adopted a whole family of five, including the parents, providing many unaffordable necessities that this family could otherwise not have had. Also giving generously for a second year were **Doug and Carolyn McWhorter**. Doug, an attorney, is a co-worker of Mayor Hub Harrington.**

A well-deserved "thanks" also goes to the smart shoppers who descended on **K-Mart in Inverness** to buy the wish-list items. **Olivia Weingarten, Hub Harrington, Onnie Dickerson, Larry Mackall, Art and Jackie Johnson, and Tricia Crapet** prowled for the best bargains, spending several hours on a wintry Monday night making sure that Santa's list was checked twice. A warm note of appreciation to the manager at K-Mart, **Mr. Linn Richards**, who was happy to give our shoppers a 10 percent discount on all purchases.

Thanks, again, to all who helped spread a little "joy" in and around ISV this year.

A Letter to the Citizens of ISV

We wanted to extend our thanks for your participation in helping our needy families during the 1995 Christmas season. Your assistance allowed us to serve every family that was on our list this year. Community support is always a blessing.

There are not words that express our deepest thanks. If there is something we can do to repay the favor, please let us know.

In sincere appreciation,

Miss Mary Strickland, Counselor
Mrs. Evelyn Blake, Principal
Oak Mountain Elementary

Accolades

By Councilwoman Patricia Crapet

A special thanks goes to those villagers who have donated money, furnishings, and other items for use in the Town Hall. **Jack and Rita Mendel** made a generous donation to go towards renovation expenses. **Hub and Kathryn Harrington** donated furniture for the parlor, including tables, chairs, and a sofa. **Russ and Lindsey Allison's** donation of a large bookcase/wall unit for the town office will be used for housing ISV's Code of Alabama Law books, among other things. **Hardy and Deborah Gibson** have donated several items for the kitchen, as well as lamps for the office and parlor. **Mr. and Mrs. Walter Stockli's** donation of a new microwave oven is sure to be appreciated by everyone, especially the Sheriff's deputies.

These much needed donations will be used time and again by the town and sheriff's staffs, as well as by visitors and guests. Anyone wishing to make donations to the town hall, please contact **Bee Little (985-9988)** or **Patricia Crapet (802-2753)**.

The Village Voice gratefully acknowledges generous donations from **Jack and Rita Mendel** and **Billy and Pam Longshore**. Our community newsletter is totally funded through the generosity of ISV citizens and from proceeds from the ISV Aluminum Can Recycling Program.

ISV Tags Still Available

Indian Springs Village tags, with our unique and beautiful logo, are available at **Neil's Pharmacy**, located at 1573 Cahaba Valley Road. The cost of the tags is a mere \$8 each.

Show your community spirit and experience a feeling of pride when you meet your fellow citizens in parking lots and on the streets and highways.

Town Council Highlights

December 19, 1995

Councilwoman Patricia Crapet

The Town of Indian Springs Village held its first meeting in the newly-renovated ISV Town Hall on Tuesday, December 19, 1995, at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Hub Harrington presided, with council members Ron Luster, Patricia Crapet, Johnson, Gary Dennis and Stewart Dudley in attendance.

Town Clerk Paul Stephens reported revenues for the month were: beer taxes, \$613, and road funds, \$711. The amount in the general fund was approximately \$7,000 and the amount in the road fund was \$34,615.

The only order of business for the evening was the abandonment of a spur in Indian Highlands. The spur, which was originally intended to connect with Cahaba Oaks, was abandoned on Woodfern Drive. The council voted unanimously in favor of the abandonment.

Delicious refreshments were served to all in attendance at the meeting.

Town Hall Available for Bookings

Councilwoman Patricia Crapet

The Indian Springs Village Town Hall is now available to citizens for social and civic affairs and meetings. The facility, which has a maximum occupancy of 50 persons, has the comforts of home, including a full service kitchen.

Some of ISV's citizens have already begun to utilize this wonderful community resource, with two functions booked for January.

On Wednesday, January 10, the Cahaba Valley Garden Club held its monthly meeting. Members of the club who are residents of Indian Springs Village are Pauline Clark, Frances Wiley, Jennie Pittman, Anne Stapleton, and Olivia Weingarten.

The Special Equestrians, whose program is housed at Indian Springs School, will hold their annual meeting on Friday, January 20. Villager Rita Mendel reports that the membership of Special Equestrians is excited about having a facility such as the Town Hall made available to them.

If you are interested in using the Town Hall for a function, please call Bee Little (985-9988) or Tricia Crapet (802-2753) for information and scheduling.

Help Wanted!

By Councilwoman Patricia Crapet

The Village Voice needs volunteer couriers who will deliver our community's newsletter on Miller Circle, Old Mill Trace, and in the Cahaba Oaks Subdivision. Since these are not "through" roads, these routes are very easy to do via the vehicle of your choice.

Retiring from service as couriers are **Jane Martin** and **Betty Rivers**, who have both delivered our community newsletter for a number of years. We sincerely thank them for their dedicated service.

The Village Voice welcomes new courier **Herb Calliout**, of Hollow Log Lane in Homestead. Former courier **Lew Rusinko** has passed the torch to Herb, who has graciously accepted the responsibility of the largest route in our town.

If you are interested in becoming a courier, please call Olivia Weingarten (988-5417) or Patricia Crapet (802-2753). Delivery only takes a few minutes, once per month, and is a great way to serve your community on a continuing basis.

Newcomers

By Councilwoman Patricia Crapet

Indian Springs Village extends a warm welcome to Tim and Deborah Nelson, 2644 Buckboard Road, in Homestead. The Nelsons come to Indian Springs Village from Hoover. Tim is in the home health care business.

Leaving ISV for Atlanta are Lew and Nancy Rusinko, longtime residents of Homestead. Lew, who was the courier for *The Village Voice* in the Homestead subdivision, was one of the driving forces responsible for the election and subsequent annexation of Homestead and the adjacent Winn-Dixie Marketplace into Indian Springs Village. We will all miss Lew and Nancy and wish them well in their new home.

In Sympathy

Sincerest sympathy is extended to Lindsey Allison and family in the loss of her grandmother, Dorothy Dorer of Hoover. DiDi, as she was called by her great-grandchildren, was a frequent visitor to the Allison home, and was well-loved by many of the Allison's neighbors. A woman of exceptional style, wit, and humor, Mrs. Dorer is survived by two daughters, Donna Leigh Jackins of Hoover and Judy Wycoff of San Francisco, as well as several grand and great-grandchildren.

This Old House, ISV Style

By Councilwoman Patricia Crapet

History Is Made in ISV

The Indian Springs Village Town Hall officially opened its doors to the public on Sunday, December 17, 1995. Approximately 250 guests attended the Open House celebration, which was held with the usual small-town flair that is so indigenous of functions in Indian Springs Village.

Visitors to the McClellan House were treated to the very best in ISV home cooking while closely inspecting this latest endeavor in ISV's short history. The positive response was overwhelming. Everyone loved the facility and thought the renovations could not have been better. The house was now truly a "home" to our town and its citizens.

The transformation from old house to town hall was anything but smooth. Emotions ran the full gamut of highs and lows, from exhilarating and fun to sometimes depressing and burdensome. With many people to thank, and lots of stories to tell, here are a few highlights for your amusement.

How It All Began

Having been appointed by Mayor Harrington to oversee and coordinate the project and having had some personal and professional experience dealing in such matters (but mostly because I am usually available when not everyone else is), my first step was to ask for volunteers to be on the committee. A core group of individuals organized several committees, such as those for decorating, construction, clean-up, grounds keeping, and planning.

Clean-up began almost immediately following the initial purchase of the house and property in February, 1995. Clean-up was handled by the ever-ready Pot-hole Crew. **Jim Boyett, Paul Stephens, Bart Trammell, and Jim Wyatt** began work on the grounds immediately, trimming trees, removing old structures, and burning debris. Town Hall neighbor, **Hubert Joiner**, took on the job of lawn maintenance. **Jim Loper**, ISV resident and award-winning landscape architect, volunteered his services for grounds planning.

Next, the town's needs were assessed for the space available in the house and on the surrounding three acres. The house needed to have a key wall removed to make way for a meeting room large enough for approximately 50 persons. The kitchen, decorated in "early metal" cabinets from a variety of time periods, desperately needed updating. Cosmetic work was needed, both inside and outside, and space for the Shelby County Sheriff's Department North Shelby Substation was also to be addressed.

The next step was to enlist the assistance of volunteers

who had the resources and expertise to handle renovating a 93-year-old house. **Robert Grant**, a homebuilder who lives on Foxfire Circle, was the first villager contacted regarding assisting in the construction aspects of the project. Robert eagerly accepted the assignment before even seeing the house.

Love At First Sight!

Upon meeting Robert for his first visit to the site and explaining what needed to be done, I gave him the opportunity to "bow-out" gracefully. "Oh, my gosh!" (or something to that effect) were the first words to be heard from an astonished Robert as he poked around in the attic for the first time. Fearing the worst, I inquired what the problem was, to which he responded, "Real wood!" He was hooked for sure!

Interior renovations were to begin with the removal of a key load-bearing wall. For those of you who don't know what a load-bearing wall is, quite simply it holds up the house! This was going to be a tricky situation at best, and Robert's framing crew was not showing quite the same exhilaration as their employer. After all, they were accustomed to building, not demolishing. After some discussion it was determined that there should be an inspection of the floor and foundation underneath the house before removal of the wall could even be considered. Sure enough, a determination was made that the floor should be braced from underneath. So...which lucky guy would crawl under the house to pull off this feat? After another "discussion," one lone volunteer emerged.

Even this seemingly simple task became difficult. Crawling does not describe what "Sarge" had to do. It was more like slithering! Clearance was such that when lying flat on his back, his nose was literally touching the floor joists above. Not to be deterred, (or just mainly to get the heck outta there!) "Sarge" successfully braced the floor and quickly exited the dark, confining crawl space.

Surprise, Surprise!

Uh-oh...Robert's phone number was prominently displayed on the digital beeper. From the mobile phone, the urgency in his voice was unmistakable: "You gotta see this! Get over here...!" I don't remember where I was, or where I was headed, but I imagined that there was something terribly wrong. "Beam me up, Scotty"....

What a sight! The atmosphere of the house had suddenly and completely changed, as if we had gone to a place back in time. To everyone's excitement, the removal of highly unflattering paneling had revealed original walls and ceiling, constructed of tongue and groove wood, beautifully and perfectly preserved for 93 years. The true character of this house had emerged, and, through a unanimous consensus, the remodeling suddenly turned into at least a partial restoration.

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Time Marches On

Weeks and months rolled by. Though it seemed as if there were no activity at the house, intermittent work was being performed by electricians **Duke** and **John Farmer** and carpenter **Mike Smelcer**. Central heating and cooling (HVAC), as well as insulation, were also installed while the town waited impatiently for its storm reimbursement funds from FEMA.

The decorating committee, comprised of **Bee Little**, **Sandy Luster**, **Dorothy Carlisle**, and myself, was busy collecting bids and samples and selecting finishes. Skillful guidance came from **Angela Dickerson**, senior designer at **Cobblestone Design**. Owner **Dennis Goodwin** allowed the committee access to distributors warehouses and showrooms for selection of flooring. Villager **Rita Cochran**, of **Kathy's Designer Kitchens**, provided the best price and layout for the cabinets, while fellow villager **Bubba Byrd**, owner of **Creative Surfaces**, donated the Corian countertops.

Timing Is Everything

Early November...a Monday morning...sixish. Why is the phone ringing? It's **Mayor Harrington**, who gleefully proclaimed "Good news! The FEMA funds are here...get it while you can!" Not wanting to be the only person this excited at dawn, I phoned **Robert Grant** and **Duke Farmer** to spread the news.

A schedule was worked out for carpentry, installation of sheetrock, cabinets, countertops, paint and flooring. Results came quickly. Within days, the site was busier than a bee hive. Things began falling into place, especially after the sheetrock crew came in. Old man winter had reared his ugly head, so the crew turned on the furnace to help the sheetrock dry.

The next day the building was still ice-cold, and the sheetrock, still wet. The HVAC technicians "forgot" to fire up the heating unit when it was installed during the summer. The furnace was also off at the meter. With the work schedule now off track, all subs had to be contacted before work could resume.

Trials and Tribulations

A date was set and plans made for the grand opening. **Bee Little** and **Sandy Luster** organized the event. The date was published and the "heat" was on for completion. In the ensuing weeks, more things went wrong than went right.

"What do you mean, you have another job to do that day? You can't come back 'til when? We have an Open House scheduled.... Can't you swap days with someone?"

The outside A/C unit had been installed...three times, in wrong locations.

"The attic is full of water," announced electrician **Duke**. "I came in around that new vent pipe to the new furnace."

The bathtub valve broke, causing a clogged tub to overflow during the night. **Nora Boyett** "mans" the plunger.

"We can't lay this vinyl until you get a plumber to move

this toilet," said the flooring installer.

The plumbing company called to cancel. One plumber had the flu, the other had brain surgery. Strange, but true!

"This toilet needs repairing. You can buy a new one cheaper," said the third plumber.

"I can't wire the stove because it won't fit in that cabinet space," said **Duke**. "Got to remove the Corian and re-set the cabinet," said carpenter **Mike**.

"I need to take a quick trip to Orlando today", said the painter, on the morning before the Open House.

"I need..." "I need..." "I need...", chirped every sub.

Calgon...take me away!

24 Hours...and Counting

December 16th, 7:00 a.m.. The dawning of a day that is etched in the memories of all who dared darken the Town Hall door. Anyone who dropped by was put to work. Anyone who passed by was talked about! Only hours away from the Open House, there were still mountains of work to be done.

Fast, furious, and sometimes frantic volunteers busied themselves to the tasks at hand. **Deborah Gibson** organized fellow local artists who brought their lovely works to be displayed for the event, then single-handedly hung over 40 works of art. Participating with **Deborah** were artists **Grady Barrow**, **Dee Bates**, **Betty Grady**, **Mary Jean Henke**, and **Pat McIntosh**.

Outside, **Harry Little** and some of his timber company employees cleaned the grounds and cut the grass. **Jim Loper** arrived with lovely "instant" landscaping, which was laid out with the assistance of **Harry Little** and **Michael Crapet**. Official sign maker **Sammy Montalbano** brought the new Town Hall sign, which was installed by **Paul Stephens** and **Jim Wyatt**. The town Christmas tree, donated by **Dobbs Garden Center**, was delivered by **Jim Boyett**.

Cleaning, shining, and decorating during the 24 hours preceding the party were **Bee Little**, **Sandy Luster**, **Nora Boyett**, **Tricia Crapet** and **Deborah Gibson**. **Cobblestone Design's Dennis Goodwin** and **Nancy Smithson** contributed their time and talent arranging the holiday decorations, including the big red bows made by **Sharon Durbin**. Still painting, patching, caulking, and staining were **Mike Smelcer** and **Michael Crapet**.

As darkness fell on the village, exhausted recruits returned to their homes and families. All that remained were carpenter **Mike**, electrician **Duke**, one bossy red-head, and husband, **Michael**. Bribery will get you everywhere, and so will food and beverage. Keep the conversation light-hearted and fun, and their tummies full, and there is no end to what you can get a few good men to accomplish. And accomplish they did, right up until 2:00 a.m. Sunday morning, when the doors were finally closed with smiles and sighs of "relief, at last".

The Big Day Arrives

Something about 6:00 a.m. on Sunday morning does not agree with my body clock. I could have sworn that I had just closed my eyes when the dreaded phone rang. Bee needed a key to the house to apply finishing touches to the cleaning and begin receiving homemade goodies from villagers. No gentle prodding from her. "Get with it!" she announced. "The chance of rain is 100 percent, and we are likely to have a mess."

Mike Smelcer arrived unexpectedly to pressure wash the porches and sidewalks, and made a quick repair to the refrigerator, which had leaked water all over the kitchen floor overnight. It was now noon. The doors were locked for the last time in anticipation of what was to be an historic event for the Town of Indian Springs Village.

At 1:30 p.m. Sheriff's deputies were in place, directing traffic and inspecting their new home. Sheriff James Jones seemed more than pleased and remarked that all the deputies would want to be stationed in ISV.

Though it was nearly impossible to keep track of those who brought food, known contributors were: Jackie Johnson, Sandy Luster, Ruth Goodwyn, Rita Mendel, Bee Little, Larry Mackall, Deborah Gibson, Rita Cochran, Sherri McWilliams, Phyllis Monical, and Gary and Sharon Dennis. Beautiful ornaments which will be used for many years were brought by villagers for the Christmas tree.

Whether by luck or ordination, the rain held off until long after the event was over. The Town Hall's debut was a roaring success.

Special Recognition

Words alone cannot express the gratitude that is owed to the following individuals for their invaluable assistance during the renovation of the Town Hall.

Bee Little. No task was too tough for this "worker" Bee. Whether hauling lumber and toilets, making garland out of cedar branches, scrubbing paint and scuff marks while on her hands and knees, painting windows, calling volunteers, or organizing the Open House, ever-dependable Bee, frequently with two children in tow, was oft-times a lifesaver. Always the optimist, Bee kept spirits high with her quick wit and cheerful smile.

Robert Grant. Used and abused by yours truly on an almost daily basis. Robert gave ISV unlimited access to all his accounts for building materials. His home construction business took a back seat all too often when the Town Hall needed framers, sheetrock finishers or the carpenter. Robert never failed to return any of the many beeps and phone calls (even after he had memorized my phone numbers), day or night.

Enthusiastic from day one, Robert provided resources and expertise invaluable to the project.

Mike Smelcer. Last, but certainly not least. Mike, a carpenter of endless talent and ability, is responsible for the beautiful craftsmanship both inside and outside the Town Hall. During the renovations he was the only person that was on the job each and every time he promised. There was nothing he couldn't, or wouldn't, do when asked, even if it were not his job. Once Mike even went to the dump site for our construction debris to find a six-inch piece of old baseboard that had mistakenly been thrown away. Mike worked late into the night several times, much to the detriment of his bachelor social life. The day before the Open House, Mike donated his time to design and build a beautiful podium out of scrap wood for the meeting room. He also assisted in painting, caulking, cleaning, pressure washing, and numerous other menial tasks unworthy of his skills, such as hanging curtains. Though not a resident of ISV, Mike took pride in having worked on this project. For many years to come, the town, and its citizens, will take extreme pride in the many contributions made by Mike at the Town Hall.

ISV Recycling and Adopt-a-Mile

By Councilman Art Johnson

The next collection date for aluminum cans is Wednesday, January 17. Please place bagged aluminum cans near your driveway before 7:30 p.m. on the opposite side from your normal Waste-Away trash. Also, please use white or clear plastic bags with the tops tied with a knot. Watch for recycling reminders along Highway 119, Indian Crest Drive, and the entrance to Homestead on collection day.

During November and December some of our "top recyclers" were Pete and Aleta Lowe on Indian Crest Drive, Dan and Cheryl Rast on Foxfire Circle, and Jerry and Patty Smith and Madeline Johnson on Valley View Road.

On Wednesday, December 22, volunteers Margie and Herb Robbins, Sharon Durbin, Gene Weingarten, and Jackie and Art Johnson rode the streets of ISV to collect 255 pounds of recycled aluminum from villagers. "Thank you" for your efforts to protect the environment and conserve resources.

Weather permitting, the next litter walk will be held on Saturday, January 20, at 8:30 a.m., at the ISV Town Hall parking lot on Cahaba Valley Road across the street from the Mormon Church. Come join your friendly neighbors at the specified time. Will you help? All you need to bring is a pair of work gloves and some friends. Please help keep our town beautiful. After the litter walk, as an incentive and in appreciation, refreshments will be served to those who have participated in this month's Adopt-a-Mile program. If you have any questions, call me at 988-3217.

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