



The Village Voice

Vol. 7, No. 10 -

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

- January 13, 1998

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

By Gene Weingarten, Mayor

A proposal to build walking and bicycling paths in Jefferson and Shelby counties has come under intense criticism by citizens of Indian Springs Village. The proposal, labeled "The Birmingham Area Bicycle, Pedestrian and Greenway Plan," would build a path from U. S. Highway 280 to I-65, along Highway 119 and following Bishop Creek through private property. Because the route through private property could be taken without the consent of the property owners, your town council found it necessary to prepare a resolution addressing this issue. The resolution is as follows:

RESOLUTION OF THE INDIAN SPRINGS TOWN COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the Indian Springs Village Town Council in open council sessions has had discussions and comments from the citizens of Indian Springs concerning a proposed bike path and walking trail through the town of Indian Springs;

WHEREAS, the public comment of the citizens of Indian Springs Village has brought forth the sentiment that such bike path and walking trail would take private property, destroy or impact natural habitat and water systems, and would significantly change the nature, character and quality of life in Indian Springs Village;

WHEREAS, the proposed bike path and walking tract would significantly impact Bishop Creek, require destruction of natural habitat and call for permanent maintenance, upkeep supervision and policing; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Indian Springs Village have found no benefit to the citizens of Indian Springs Village or to the Indian Springs community as a whole.

NOW THEREFORE, be it Resolved that the Indian Springs Village Town Council opposes the acquisition or construction of such bike and walking path along Bishop Creek within the town limits of Indian Springs Village.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Mayor and Town Clerk are hereby directed to notify all County, State, and Federal authorities of the opposition of the Town of Indian Springs Village, its Council and its Citizens to the planning, acquisition or construction of any bike and walking path along Bishop Creek within the town limits of Indian Springs Village.

INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING Indian Springs Village Town Hall

Tuesday, January 20, 1998 7:00 p.m.

Agenda

- I. Mayor/Council Committee Reports
- II. Ordinances and Resolutions
- III. Citizens' Forum

Editor's Notes

The Village Voice is the official organ of Indian Springs Village, AL, established October 16, 1990. The mission of this newsletter is to foster a spirit of community and co-operation. It is the vehicle for reporting the monthly deliberations of the mayor and the council in town council meetings; additionally it provides these officials and other villagers a means of communicating--it is a "voice." Expenses are covered by the efforts and donations of ISV volunteers. Deliveries are made at no charge by volunteer couriers.

Address letters to the editor to: Dr. Ruth Goodwyn, Editor, 151 Choctaw Lane, Indian Springs, AL 35124 (988-0896), or e-mail: rutg@juno.com. Questions about circulation should be addressed to Councilwoman Patricia Crapet, 370 Valley View Road, Indian Springs, AL 35124 (voice mail 802-2753). Managing Editor and chairperson of the cookbook project is Bee Little, 867 Valley View Road, Indian Springs, AL 35124 (985-9988). Reporter for the Homestead neighborhood is Bonnie Murphy, 5164 Hollow Log Lane, Birmingham 35244 (991-2535).

The Village Voice is published the second Tuesday of each month. Articles for publication in the February, 1998 edition should be submitted by Tuesday noon, February 3rd. The editor reserves the right to edit all materials submitted for publication. The Village Voice welcomes signed letters to the editor; they will be published if space permits. Letters may be edited for length and other considerations; however, the meaning will be preserved. All opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors of articles, unless otherwise indicated. Any opinions the editor 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
ISV aluminum can recyclers for their support
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Mildred Wyatt for the masthead drawing
Tricia Crapet, Johnson - Rast & Hays for production

Library Grass Roots Campaign

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

During the first week of March citizens will see the beginning of construction for the new North Shelby Library. The remains of the old Finch house on Cahaba Valley Road will be razed, kudzu cleared out, and the site prepared for groundbreaking. Interestingly enough, much of the old house has been carried away by local residents--windows, boards, etc. A NO TRESPASSING sign remains on the property, and residents must first sign an agreement at the library, 7030 Meadowlark Drive, containing a "hold harmless" clause before setting foot on the premises.

Nancy Donahoo, Library Director, expects construction of the much larger library to be completed in nine and a half months, with December 1998 as the projected goal for packing up and moving into the new building. Being the slowest month for library reference questions and book circulation, December seems a good time to ask patrons to check out books, videos, and other materials in advance of the move to return them to the newly-opened library.

Still over 1 million short of a 2.4 million campaign launched in 1997, the library is beginning a grass roots campaign with the hope that all families served by the district will contribute to the building fund. Ms. Donahoo explained that if every one of the 7,000 families pledged at least \$500 extending over a period of five years, that \$100 per year (or \$25 per quarter) would amount to 27 1/2 cents per day per family and would raise 3 1/2 million dollars. "Every penny is important," she emphasized, adding that \$100 pledges at \$20 a year for five years would be welcomed, or any amount residents can give. Money donated to the library is tax deductible.

A total of 35,000 residents (7,000 families) in the library district are being asked to donate to the building fund because voluntary contributions and gifts are the only sources of revenue available for construction. The library is not attached to any town or municipality from which it can receive tax dollars, and since it serves the northern part of the county, encompassing Indian Springs Village, Heatherwood, Inverness, Meadowbrook, Greystone, Shoal Creek, and surrounding areas, it is important that it retain an unconnected status.

Support groups, such as the Friends of the Library organization, contribute to the building campaign. The Holiday Tour of Homes, the main fund-raising event sponsored by the Friends, this December netted only a portion of the \$5,000 profit made when last year's tour was in Indian Springs Village.

The library has not raised the \$15 per year assessment since opening and has no current plans to do so. Funds from the assessment pay for books and other media. By contrast, the Hoover Public Library in 1994-95 received \$60.73 per person from the City of Hoover, which amounts to library expenditures of \$242.92 for a family of four.

History, Growth, and Services

The library at the Australian Embassy in Washington, D.C. was called by personnel at the North Shelby Library as a last resort

when Chelsea Middle School students posed questions about Christmas Creek, Australia, to which no one had found answers.

The Alabama Public Library Service in Montgomery had been contacted by NS Library personnel, and employees there had spent hours on the Internet on the same questions which finally the Australian Embassy answered. This anecdote emphasizes the lengths to which the NS Library staff will go to help their patrons. "If you ask a question we will go 150 percent to make sure you get the answer," declared Ms. Donahoo, Library Director. Patrons may telephone (995-9931), FAX (980-5505), or E-mail (nscl@bham.mindspring.com).

The staff at North Shelby Library exceeds the state standards for quality and quantity of personnel. The director and three other professional librarians have the master of library science degree. Three on the staff are paraprofessionals with college educations; there are 17 clerks, pages, and other associates. Clerks have been trained also in reference work and Internet searches.

Director since March 1995, Nancy Donahoo served as the director of the Mildred B. Harrison Regional Library, Columbiana, 1984-1990. A Birmingham native who began her career as a page at the Birmingham Public Library while in college, she graduated from Birmingham-Southern and the University of Alabama's Graduate School of Library and Information Studies, the only library school in Alabama accredited by the American Library Association. In her 14 years as a library director, this is the sixth building project Ms. Donahoo has undertaken.

Your editor can remember, years ago, when a sign was erected at the intersection of Caldwell Mill and Cahaba Valley roads stating "Future Site of the North Shelby County Library." This was the first site given serious consideration; for several reasons it never came to fruition. In December 1986 two acres of land on Meadowlark Drive behind Lloyd's Restaurant were donated by Charles W. Daniel for the present library.

What had emphasized the need for a library to serve the unincorporated areas of North Shelby County was the tremendous book circulation from the Shelby County bookmobile located behind Lloyd's Restaurant. The circulation statistics convinced Karl Harrison, attorney and bank president long associated with the Mildred B. Harrison Regional Library, of the need, and the library was built under the direction of the Harrison Regional library, Columbiana, which is the headquarters for the Shelby County Public Library System of now 10 libraries: Alabaster, Calera, Columbiana, Helena, Harrison Regional, Montevallo, North Shelby, Pelham, Vincent, and Wilsonville.

The North Shelby Library district was created June 28, 1988, by registered voters in the area to be served. The fee assessment of \$15 per family owning homesteaded property and 1.75 assessed value for businesses was established at the same time, as well as a provision for a five-member Board of Trustees. The library district encloses the areas covered by North Shelby County Fire & Emergency Medical District, the Cahaba Valley Fire District, and other nearby areas not in either fire district. Boundaries extend east-west from Leeds to I-65 and north-south from the Jefferson County line to a halfway point between county roads 41 and 43.

Current Trustees of the library are Ann Tharpe, chair, Pat Jehle, Michael Gravois, Hub Harrington, first mayor of Indian Springs Village, and Russell Hood. Serving on the Advisory Board are Lindsey Allison, Indian Springs Village, Katherine D. Arnold, Dr. E. Byron Chew, Alain Gallet, Janet Hall (WBRC-TV6), Representative Mike Hill, Doug Jennings, headmaster of Indian Springs School, Charles Knight, Steve Martin, Dr. Judy Merritt, Rachel Polhill, Bill Sparks, County Superintendent of Education, Donna Judge Spencer, Lucy Trabue Watson and K. B. Weygand.

As the library district's population has expanded, so have patrons' needs. "We have always looked to the community to provide direction and support," stated Nancy Donahoo, who has no doubts that the 22,261 sq. ft. building located on five acres on Highway 119 will become a reality, as residents are being counted upon to contribute the building funds.

The library hopes to open with state-of-the-art facilities. Recently received was a \$17,500 grant from the Gates Library Foundation and a \$50,000 federal grant issued with a matching local funds provision for upgrading telecommunications and computer hardware. By February of this year present computers will have been upgraded and 20 new ones installed in the present library's cramped quarters. All can simply be unplugged and moved to the new site. The library's network will by that time have been expanded to the extent that anyone with Windows 3.1 or Windows 95 can access the library's holdings by home computer-another means to meet the information needs of the public.

Shelby County Historical Society to Meet February 1

Dr. Sam Webb, University of Alabama at Birmingham History Department, will speak on the topic "Two Party Politics and One Party South" at 2:00 p. m., Archives & Museum Bldg., Columbiana.

Christmas Wishes Fulfilled

By Patricia Crapet, Town Council, Place # 2

Once again, the hearts and wallets of village residents have opened to pour out more than enough goodwill and cash to give a Christmas to remember to the needy children of the Indian Springs Village area.

K-Mart in Inverness was once again accommodating to our little group with a special discount on all goods purchased for these children. This year's "Secret Santa" shoppers were Olivia Weingarten, Art and Jackie Johnson, Andy and Wanda Carter, Dr. Larry Mackall, Herb and Margie Robins, Cappy and Pat Potter, and Onnie Dickerson. It was a scene of great activity to say the least! All of the items on the children's wish lists, including bikes and Barbies, were purchased and delivered in plenty of time for Christmas.

Shopping is not the only duty performed by village volunteers. Once all the clothes and toys were in hand, expert gift wrapping had to be performed. Those assisting in this arduous task were Kathy Monacelli, Nancy, Kim and Jenny Johnson, Jamie Wood, Herb and Margie Robins, Art and Jackie Johnson, and Cappy and Pat Potter.

In addition to those generous contributors named last month, the following persons are thanked for their kindness; Jo Ann Weatherly, Cappy and Pat Potter, Gene and Olivia Weingarten, Rowell and Rosemary Ashford, John and Marie Simmons, Art and Jackie Johnson, Michael Roper, Nick and Jennifer Bondi, Jim and Candy Weems, Harold and Elizabeth Swain, Jean Owens, Jim and Rita Cochran, Jack and Rita Mendel, and Amy Sandusky, along with son, Rob, a third grader at Oak Mountain Elementary School. Rob enclosed a hand-written note to say that he had saved his money "for people who can't have Christmas." Thank you, Rob. That is the true meaning of the season, which we have all been reminded of thanks to you and these other contributors and volunteers.

Town Council Highlights

December 16, 1997

By Patricia Crapet, Town Council, Place # 2

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met on Tuesday, December 16, 1997, at 7:00 p.m. at the Indian Springs Village Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Gene Weingarten. Councilpersons in attendance were Patricia Crapet, Art Johnson, and Herb Robins.

The minutes of the previous meetings were adopted as written. Town Clerk Paul Stephens reported that revenues for the month were: building permits, \$122.50; aluminum can recycling, \$182.40; beer taxes, \$709.33; from estate licenses, \$83.59; ISV Children's Fund, \$2,129; and road fund, \$797.90. The balance in the general account was given as \$39,774, and road fund, \$69,682.

Councilman Herb Robins announced that the State of Alabama Highway Department will erect a directional sign at the bottom of each exit ramp at I-65 leading to ISV.

Town Clerk Paul Stephens has received a bid for work to be done on the walking track and landscaping behind the town hall. A minimum of two more bids will be received before any decision is made on the track and its surroundings. The initial funding received to begin construction of the track came from a grant from the state for \$2,000 secured for ISV by Senator Bill Armistead.

Assistant Town Clerk Jim Wyatt presented two petitions for annexation to the council for consideration. The parcels belonging to George and Gale Johnson, 140 Star Trek Road, and Ernest and Sue Garrick, 180 Star Trek Road, are contiguous to the town's current boundaries. The council will re-consider the parcels for annexation at the February meeting.

Jerry and Brenda Pate, along with their attorney, Douglas Corretti, were in attendance to dispute the sub-division of a parcel of land owned by Euel Colburn which is contiguous to their property on Miller Circle. According to the Pates' attorney, the parcel in question is calculated to be less than two acres, and therefore, not divisible into more than two lots due to the minimum requirement of no less than one acre per lot in this area. Mr. Colburn, also in attendance, contended that the parcel is over the required two acres. The Pates also were not properly notified of the request for the sub-division of the property. The council will investigate by having an engineer re-calculate the lots.

Next Recycling Is January 21

By Art Johnson, Town Council Place # 4

The next aluminum can recycling is Wednesday, January 21 at 7:30 p.m. Please place your aluminum cans in white or clear plastic bags and secure the top of each bag with a knot. Then for easy identification by our volunteers, place them on the other side of your driveway from your normal Waste Management collection.

Last month, volunteers Bill and Patti Weems and daughter Ashley, Margie and Herb Robins, Sharon Durbin, Cappy Potter, Jackie and Art Johnson collected all the Villagers' recycled aluminum cans. If you have not started recycling, please consider a belated New Year's resolution to begin. The ISV recycling program is a volunteer community project, and our sincere thanks go to all our citizens who have joined the recycling team. Watch for ISV recycling reminders along Cahaba Valley Road, Indian Crest Drive, and at the entrance to Homestead.

Village Personals

By Patricia Crapet and Bonnie Murphy

New Arrival

Angela and Reid Laporte of 5145 Hollow Log Lane announce the birth of their third son, Eric Reid, born Saturday, September 27th at St. Vincent's Hospital. Eric, who has two brothers, Ross and Rhett, weighed 9 pounds and 7 ounces.

Get Well Soon!

The Homestead neighborhood would like to extend a get well soon wish and speedy recovery to Mike Lovett of 5126 Split Rail Trail. Mike is back home after having by-pass surgery on November 6th. Our prayers are with Mike and his family.

Deepest Sympathy

Charles Arrington, age 65, of Vallejo, California passed away December 15 after an eight year battle with cancer. Mr. Arrington is survived by his wife, Bess, of Vallejo; daughter, Bonnie Murphy of the Homestead subdivision in ISV; son Ronnie, of Eufaula, Alabama; and four grandchildren.

Accolades

Thanks are in order to Rowell and Rosemary Ashford and Jack and Rita Mendel for their donations to *The Village Voice*. The newsletter is supported wholly by donations from residents of the community and proceeds from the aluminum can recycling program. Our thanks to all who contribute to this effort.

A Letter of Thanks to Homestead

My family and I want to take this opportunity to thank the Homestead neighborhood for their kindness toward us in the death of my dad. While his death was not a surprise, the phone calls, cards, food, plants and words of concern gave us all the strength to deal with our sadness. Your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,
Bonnie Murphy and family

In Tribute to a Good Friend

By Patricia Crapet and Art Johnson

On December 18, our community lost a true friend. Mike Rutherford, age 51, passed away unexpectedly after having had quadruple by-pass surgery. Mike was well known in the village and throughout the whole valley where he was born and raised and where his family has lived for many decades. He was a member of New Hope Cumberland Presbyterian Church, where he served as an elder. He is survived by his wife, Carol, and son, James.

Mike was the consummate volunteer. He was an integral member of the team which set the course for the incorporation of our new town seven years ago. He single-handedly canvassed his Caldwell Mill neighborhood, presenting petitions to his neighbors for the incorporation of ISV and later campaigning for those who ran for election on a pro-town platform. He, along with son, James, served for the last seven years as a courier for *The Village Voice*, attended town meetings and events whenever possible, and worked tirelessly for many projects in and around ISV. He was always ready to lend a hand, often lending the use of his truck to the ISV Aluminum Can Recycling Program.

Mike also had a true enthusiasm for sports. In 1995 he became one of the directors of the North Shelby Athletic Association, Inc. As the North Shelby County area grew by leaps and bounds, many nearby communities closed their facilities to North Shelby County children. Cahaba Valley parents were forced to drive longer and farther distances to their children's ball games. It became evident that the likelihood existed that many of our community's children would be prohibited from playing organized sports because of such overcrowding. Mike helped the North Shelby Athletic Association raise the funds for and build six fields: one each at Inverness Elementary and Oak Mountain Elementary, and two fields each at Oak Mountain Intermediate School and Asbury United Methodist Church.

Mike's unselfish acts and enthusiasm resulted in numerous success stories both on and off the ball field. It was no secret to anyone who knew Mike just what an impact he had on many young lives in and around our town. He had an ability to turn dreams and visions into reality, with his accomplishments benefitting the residents of the Cahaba Valley. Mike continuously demonstrated leadership ... by doing something that made a difference. He will be missed by all of us.

Letter to the Community

Dear Members of the Indian Springs Community:

We cannot say enough thanks for all your assistance in making our needy families at O.M.E.S. a happier Christmas. You continue to help us every year and make a large difference to the individuals you help.

The four families you sponsored have also expressed their gratitude. Thank you so much for all you do to support our school!

Happy Holidays,
Mary Veal, Counselor