



The Village Voice

Vol. 7, No. 2 -

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

- May 13, 1997

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

By Gene Weingarten, Mayor

How Important Are Our Kids?

On May 27th the voters of Shelby County will be called to the polls to register their opinion on a proposed 8-mill tax increase for schools -- our schools -- for our children and our grandchildren.

On a \$100,000 home the tax will amount to less than \$7 per month. Even at that rate we will just be at par with Jefferson County and far below the other over-the-mountain systems. Places such as Mountain Brook and Vestavia pay almost twice the millage. No coincidence that the students in those two systems always test at the very highest levels around, and that the property values in those areas are among the highest in the state.

From this tax will come the new Oak Mountain High School. Everyone agrees that this is a critical need. With a positive vote, the new OMHS can be ready for the 1999 school year. A great new facility with all the modern equipment and technologies. Plus, the kids can eliminate the lengthy bus ride from Pelham High School.

Shelby County has over 60 trailer classrooms, a result of the phenomenal growth of this sixth fastest growing county in the United States. But with growth comes kids. Not your kids, you say? But they are. All the kids are everyone's kids. Always have been. Why, when you and I started school, there it was -- a building, and teachers, ready for you to come in and start your education. Who helped pay for that building? It could have been your parents, grandparents, relatives, and friends. But, more than likely, it was a lot of folks who were not related to you and who didn't even know you existed.

How important are our children? These little folks at Oak Mountain and Inverness Elementary (where the roof leaks) will go on to attend OMHS. These are the kids that will be the future workers of America. Paying taxes that fund Social Security and Medicare. Becoming our senators, governors, business executives, doctors, and teachers. In order to achieve these goals, they must have quality buildings, computers, labs, and the best teachers.

We will have a group of informed parents at our town council meeting to discuss with you all the aspects of the school tax issue. We will have our meeting under the pavilion to ensure that all interested parties can attend. Let's fill our pavilion so that we can leave with all the facts, to make the right decision on voting day.

How important are our kids? They are our future! If you need to register to vote you have until May 16th. There will be two absentee voting days, May 17th and May 20th. A new and novel idea. Be sure to vote on May 27th. **The kids are depending on you.**

INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Indian Springs Village Pavilion
Tuesday, May 20, 1997 7:00 p.m.

Agenda

- I. Mayor/Council Committee Reports
- II. Ordinances and Resolutions
- III. Citizens' Forum
- IV. Special Guest Speakers (see "Agenda", page 3)

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, as well as information and/or suggestions for the "Where Are the Children?" and "Villager Profile" columns. Address information about weddings, births, deaths, new residents and other appropriate news items to Bee Little, Managing Editor, 867 Valley View Road, Indian Springs, AL 35124 (985-9988). Questions about circulation should be addressed to Councilwoman Patricia Crapet, 370 Valley View Road, Indian Springs, AL 35124 (802-2753).

The *Village Voice* is published the second Tuesday of each month. Articles for publication in the June, 1997 edition should be submitted by Tuesday noon, June 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
Indian Springs Village couriers for hand delivery
Mildred Wyatt for the masthead drawing
Tricia Crapet, Johnson - Rast & Hays for production

Progressing to World

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

Three Odyssey of the Mind teams from Oak Mountain Middle School (grades 6, 7, 8), successful at the regional competition, will now progress to world competition June 4-7, to be held at the University of Maryland, College Park, MD. There they will compete against teams from 49 other states and 30 foreign countries.

These three teams consist of 21 students and five coaches, including Larry and Diann Felix, McGuire Road. Four students are from Indian Springs: Mike Felix, McGuire Road, Alex Skokel, Pawnee Drive, Megan Moon, Indian Forest Trail, and Erin Robbins of Stonehenge Road.

Other team members are Ellissa Harbert, Dallas Estes, Jordan Brush, Tate Heilpern, Kelsey Grissom, Shawn Sullivan, Michael Quinn, Brett Scheinert, Justin Gaar, Meg Davis, Casey Bethay, Bill Moriarty, Bryant Hamby, Justin Sheehan, Amanda Friend, and Teresa Lee.

Odyssey of the Mind is a creative problem-solving competition that challenges "thinking" ability much like the Olympics competition challenges "athletic" ability. The teams that win at the state and regional levels advance to the world, or final, level.

(Contributors to this article were Diann Felix and Trudy Skokel)

NSC Library Events

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

Saturday, May 31, is the date of the North Shelby County Library's paperback book sale and membership drive, both events sponsored by the Friends of the Library organization. It is also the official kickoff date for the library's summer reading program.

The paperbacks for purchase at a 20 percent discount are those on the summer reading lists of some area schools. Booklists for the summer reading programs will also be available for these area private schools: Indian Springs School, Our Lady of the Valley Parochial, Briarwood Christian, and Joseph S. Bruno Montessori Academy. Hours for the paperback book sale are 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. May 31, at the library on Meadowlark Drive behind Wal-Mart and Lloyd's Restaurant on Highway 280 S.

A fourth site has been added for the Friends' spring membership drive on May 31--the North Shelby County Library. At that location raffles will be held and refreshments available. Prizes are needed by the library for the drawings. Please call Bee Little (985-9988) if you have any items that you would like to donate. Hours for the membership drive are 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the library and three other convenient

locations: Wal-Mart at Brook Highland Shopping Center and in Indian Springs at Winn Dixie, intersection of Valleydale and Caldwell Mill Roads, and Neil's Pharmacy, Highway 119.

Becoming a member of the Friends of the North Shelby County Library is tax deductible. Individual and family memberships, renewable every year, are \$20 and \$30. Renewable every two years are bronze, silver, gold, and platinum memberships at \$100, \$250, \$500, and \$1,000, respectively. Bee Little, Indian Springs Village, is chairman of membership; Pam Holton, Brook Highland, is in charge of the book sale. All proceeds from the paperback book sale and membership drive will be added to the building fund for the new library at Indian Springs, for which ground will be broken in August.

"Rock, Rhythm, and Read" is the title of the library's summer reading program, for which registration began May 12. On Saturday, July 26, a sale of new and used dictionaries will be held by the Friends of the Library.

St. Francis Community Fair

By Bee Little, Managing Editor

St. Francis Episcopal Church on Highway 119 in Indian Springs Village will be having a Community Fair on Saturday, May 31st, from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. This fair will include a moonwalk, dunking booth, pony rides, petting zoo, children's games, art activities, face painting, and lots of food and crafts to buy. Also at the fair will be a silent auction with the opportunity to bid on exercise equipment, artwork, dinners, gift certificates and a sailboat! There will also be a Beanie Baby raffle every hour. Crafters booths are \$10. Call Vicki Shanks for more information at 664-2526. All proceeds from this fair benefit the St. Francis Preschool.

Fourth of July Almost Here!

By Patricia Crapet, Town Council Place # 2

The smell of barbecue is in the air! Yep, it's that time again. One of ISV's longest running traditions is the Annual Fourth of July Parade and Picnic Celebration. This will be our seventh year for the festivities, which promises to be one of our biggest yet, with the event being held at our town hall pavilion for the first time.

A lot of volunteers are needed this year for many committees: set-up and decorating, cooking and serving, children's games, parking, and more. We need at least 70 Villagers to give of an hour or so before, during, and after in order to make this a fun day for all. Please call Paul Stephens (988-3672), Herb Robins (980-9217), or Tricia Crapet (802-2753) to volunteer.

GOVERNMENTAL DIRECTORY

Officials and Elected Representatives Listed from the Village to the National Level

Compiled by Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

NOTE: The following lists were compiled after calling officials, using lists supplied by Olivia Weingarten, the League of Women Voters, and *The Birmingham News*, and checking *The Alabama Bluebook* and *Alabama Source Book*, 1997, available at Birmingham Public and other local libraries.

Indian Springs Town Council

(All council addresses are Indian Springs, AL 35124 unless noted otherwise)

Mayor Gene Weingarten

1617 Indian Crest Drive
H 988-5417 W 987-1876 Home FAX 988-5417

Place #1

Herb Robins

5136 Hollow Log Lane
Birmingham, AL 35244 (This is the Homestead Subdivision)
H 980-9217 W (205) 221-4130
Primary responsibility: road maintenance

Place #2

Patricia Crapet

370 Valley View Road
H 985-9205 Voice Mail 802-2753 Business FAX 987-3516
E-mail: tcrapet@jrh1.com
Communications and community relations

Place #3

Gary Dennis

795 Valley View Road
H 982-9119 W 402-0300 Business FAX 402-0232
E-mail: <http://www.gary@mantissa.com>
Public services coordinator

Place #4

Art Johnson

162 Willow Ridge Drive
H 988-3217 W 980-3901 Business FAX 980-3900
E-mail: artjohnson@mindspring.com
Public health and the environment

Place #5

Stewart Dudley

2201 Cahaba Valley Road
H 988-4252 W 326-0402 Business FAX 326-3384
Finance and tax collection

Shelby County Officials

(all Shelby County addresses are Columbiana, AL 35051)

Sheriff James Jones

P. O. Box 1095
669-4181 FAX 669-3865

Probate Judge Patricia Fuhrmeister

P. O. Box 825
669-3713 FAX 669-3714

Tax Assessor Bobbie Reynolds

P. O. Box 1269
669-3902 FAX 669-3823

Tax Collector Annette Skinner

P. O. Box 1298
669-3900 FAX 669-3897

Shelby County Manager Alex Dudchock

P. O. Box 467
669-3708 FAX 669-3864

District Attorney Robby Owens

P. O. Box 706
669-3750 FAX 669-3909

Shelby County Department of Planning and Development (Zoning) Jeffrey A. Pruitt, Director

P. O. Box 1300
669-3888 FAX 669-3746

Superintendent of Schools Bill Sparks

P. O. Box 429
669-5600 FAX 669-5605

Shelby County Commission (all commissioners can receive mail here)

P. O. Box 467
Columbiana, AL 35051
669-3740 FAX 669-3864

District 9 (ISV's district - south of 119)

Commission Chairman Don Armstrong
3066 Highway 55
Wilsonville, AL 35186
H 669-7309

District 1

Commissioner Billy Thompson
107 Pine Tree Circle
Columbiana, AL 35051
H 669-7275 W 669-3179

District 2

Commissioner George Dailey
P. O. Box 191
Montevallo, AL 35115
H 665-7275

District 3

Commissioner Michele George
122 Carriage Lane
Maylene, AL 35114
H 620-1777

Governmental Directory, continued

Shelby County Commission, continued

District 4

Commissioner Dan Acker

333 10th St. N.W.
Alabaster, AL 35007
H 663-7334

District 5

Commissioner Paul Yeager

Pelham City Hall, Pelham, AL 35124, or
P. O. Box 67
Pelham, AL 35124
663-3901

District 6

Commissioner Larry Dillard

2432 Vale Drive
Hoover, AL 35244
H 988-0658

District 7 (ISV's district - north of 119)

Commissioner Lindsey Allison

454 Valley View Road
Indian Springs, AL 35124
H 985-7179 W 991-6367

District 8

Commissioner Ted Crockett

4347 Lakeshore Cove
Birmingham, AL 35242
H 980-0662 W 995-0554

State of Alabama

Governor Fob James (R)

P. O. Box 123
Montgomery, AL 36101-0123
(334) 242-7140 toll free 1-800-591-4217 FAX (334) 353-0004
E-mail: govjames@asnmil.asc.edu

State Department of Education

50 North Ripley Street
P. O. Box 302101
Montgomery, AL 36130-2101

Senators and Representatives

Alabama State House
11 South Union Street
Montgomery, AL 36130
Senators: (334) 242-7800 FAX (334) 242-8819
Representatives: (334) 242-7600 FAX (334) 242-4759
Senate E-mail: alsenate@mindspring.com

Alabama Senators and Representatives

(All State House offices listed are Montgomery, AL 36130)
(see next column)

District 14 (Shelby, Chilton, Bibb)

Senator Bill Armistead (R)

6 Bush Creek Farms
Columbiana, AL 35051
H 663-5507 W 783-8264
State House Office - Room 733
(334) 242-7877 FAX (334) 242-8818

District 41 (Shelby County)

Representative Mike Hill (R)

114 Arlington Street
Columbiana, AL 35051
H 669-6264 W 988-5600
State House Office - Room 628D
(334) 242-7715 FAX (334) 242-4759

District 40 (Shelby, Bibb; ISV is part of District 40)

Representative Al J. Knight (R)

2421 Brook Run
Birmingham, AL 35244
H 988-3281 W 664-9607
State House Office - Room 517D
(334) 242-7766 FAX (334) 242-4759

United States Government

The President

President Bill Clinton (D)

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500
(202) 456-1414

U. S. Senators and Representatives

Senator Richard Shelby (R)

1800 5th Avenue N.
Birmingham, AL 35203
731-1384 FAX 731-1386
E-mail: Senator@shelby.senate.gov
110 Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-5744 FAX (202) 224-3416

Senator Jeff Sessions (R)

341 Vance Federal Bldg.
Birmingham, AL 35203
731-1500 FAX 731-0221
E-mail: senator@sessions.senate.gov
495 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-4124 FAX (202) 224-3149

(6th District)

Representative Spencer Bachus (R)

1900 International Park Dr.
Birmingham, AL 35243
969-2296 FAX 969-3958
E-mail: Sbachus@hr.house.gov
442 Canon Office Bldg., Washington, D. C. 20515
(202) 225-4921 FAX (202) 225-2082

Town Council Highlights

April 15, 1997

By Patricia Crapet, Town Council Place # 2

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 15, 1997, in the Indian Springs Village Town Hall. Mayor Gene Weingarten presided, with council persons Herb Robins, Patricia Crapet, and Art Johnson present.

The minutes of the March meeting were adopted as written. Town Clerk Paul Stephens reported regular revenues for the month were: beer taxes, \$523; and road fund, \$760. The balance in the general fund was \$57,712. The balance in the road fund was \$48,231. Councilman Herb Robins presented an estimate for work on the culverts and cleaning out of the creek at Rockford Road. The work, to be performed by county crews on weekends at an approximate cost of \$500 - \$1,000, was approved by the council.

The council voted unanimously to repeal the amendment to the zoning ordinance which had been introduced by Councilman Stewart Dudley. The ordinance would have required all new commercial facilities to tie on to the county sewer. Shelby County Commissioner Lindsey Allison pointed out that the county now has a moratorium on new sewer hookups, thus making the ordinance unenforceable at the present time.

Shelby County Commissioner Don Armstrong and Steve Johns from the Shelby County Planning Department presented the council with a proposal for the town to assist in devising an overall plan for development of all areas in the county, including those which are inside municipal limits. With such fast growth, county leaders believe that there should be a joint effort to have a land use plan for the entire county which will lead us into the 21st century. ISV will appoint someone to work with the county on this level within the next 30 days.

Councilwoman Patricia Crapet reported that an expenditure was inadvertently left out of the budget for this fiscal year. The Clean Air and Water Act, which monitors storm water runoff into tributaries of endangered watersheds (the Cahaba River), is a federally mandated, unfunded program. Councilwoman Crapet presented the council with a letter from the county stating that the town's liability for 1996 and 1997 is approximately \$3,500, and asked that the budget be amended to include the expenditure. Mayor Weingarten tabled the issue until a later date.

Tom Owen spoke to Villagers regarding setting up a foster child care program, primarily for unwed mothers, in his personal home on Grimes Lane. Mr. Owen stated that the home, not connected in any way to the Alabama Youth Home, would house up to six, possibly more, unwed mothers at any given time. He and his wife, Joy, have incorporated under the name "House of Joy," a not-for-profit organization, and are presently housing two girls who are mothers-to-be. Mr. Owen answered questions from the council and from Villagers in attendance. There was some question as to whether this is in violation of the ISV Zoning Ordinance. ISV town attorney, Russ Allison, and ISV Planning and Zoning Chairman, Onnie Dickerson, are looking into the matter.

A Letter to the Editor

Last year we wrote several neighbors who do not have children in Shelby County public schools informing them why it was important to vote "yes" for the proposed school tax referendum. This year we are appealing to **all** ISV residents to brighten the future of **every** person in Shelby County.

When you vote "yes" on May 27, we can reduce the gap between the revenue generated to educate Shelby County students compared to our neighbors to the north.

<u>Community</u>	<u>Current Millage</u>	
Mountain Brook	52.9	
Vestavia	52.1	
Hoover		36.1
Jefferson County	30.1	
Shelby County		22.0

An approved school tax referendum will bring Shelby County's total to 30 mills, still lower than what the above communities pay to educate their children. And Shelby County has one of the lowest administrative costs in Alabama -- only 1.76 % of the budget goes toward administrative salaries. Nineteen administrative employees supervise the needs of over 20,000 students and instructional personnel.

Even if you don't have kids in public school, here are some reasons why we need you to vote "yes" on May 27:

- * An Oak Mountain High School can be built. This new school will relieve overcrowding at our high schools and eliminate the need for Pelham High to have split shifts.
- * The public schools in North Shelby have been recognized nationally for their excellence in education, especially in the area of inclusion for students with disabilities. Additional revenues insure that the quality education currently delivered will not be jeopardized.
- * Good schools build good communities, increase property values, and are typically prerequisites for potential new residents, thus making your property more marketable.
- * Today's students are tomorrow's business and community leaders.

There are over 21,000 registered voters in the North Shelby area, but only 5,400 voted last June. It is a civic duty to help maintain a quality standard of living in one's community. Since this is the only issue on the May 27 ballot, voting should take just a few minutes. This few minutes can make a lifetime of difference for our children. Please vote "yes" on May 27.

Sincerely,
Jennifer and Phil Rucker
105 Mallard Circle

On the Agenda for May

Trey Ireland, Shelby County Board of Education, Greg Hart, Friends of Shelby County Schools, and Jennifer Rucker, past president of the Oak Mountain Elementary PTO, will speak on the proposed school tax and answer any questions.

Robert Kelley, the new director of the Shelby County Emergency Management Department, will be on hand to introduce himself and answer any questions.

Next Recycling Is May 21

By Art Johnson, Town Council Place # 4

The next aluminum can recycling is Wednesday, May 21. Recycling is always on the night following the town council meeting (or the Wednesday following the third Tuesday of every month). Please place your bagged aluminum cans near your driveway before 7:30 p.m. Our volunteers have to be able to identify whether or not the potential recycling is recycling or garbage. Please use white, blue recycling, or clear plastic bags and secure the top of each bag with a knot. Then, for easy identification by our volunteers, put them on the opposite side of your driveway from your trash pickup.

In April, volunteers Bill and Patti Weems along with their daughter Ashley collected all areas south of Highway 119 plus four streets north of Highway 119. Margie and Herb Robins with some assistance from their red dachshund, Lucy, collected a trailer load of cans from the Homestead neighborhood. And Sharon Durbin and Jackie Johnson collected from the streets adjacent to Indian Crest Drive from Arrowhead Lane to Valley View. Cappy Potter and Art Johnson collected from the remaining neighborhoods in the Village. The total April collection was 260 pounds. Once again a sincere 'thank you' is owed Mike Rutherford for the use of his pickup in March and April. Special accolades to all the recycling participants and thank you for your generous donations. The proceeds from ISV aluminum recycling help pay the printing expenses for *The Village Voice*. Once again, your continued support of Indian Springs Village is always appreciated.

Watch for ISV recycling reminders along Highway 119, Indian Crest Drive, and the entrances to Homestead.

May Litter Walk -- May 24

By Art Johnson, Town Council Place # 4

The official April Spring Cleanup was on April 19, and thanks to the efforts of Cheryl Rast, Jim Boyette, and Art Johnson the cleanup was successful. In 30 to 40 minutes these volunteers made quick work of the litter along Highway 119. It was also obvious that many citizens throughout the town caught the spirit and did their part to remove the unsightly litter in the town.

You are invited to join the pickup crew on Saturday, May 24, at 8:30 a.m. at the Indian Springs Village Town Hall on Cahaba Valley Road.

If you have any questions, please call me at 988-3217.

Village Personals

Compiled by Ruth Goodwyn and Patricia Crapet

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Kelly and Marc Phillips of the Homestead neighborhood on the birth of their daughter, Lindsey Allison Phillips, born on Tuesday, March 4th at St. Vincent's Hospital. Lindsey was 8 pounds, 4 ounces.

Mandy Murphy, a 4th grader at Oak Mountain Intermediate, submitted the winning patch design for the Girl Scouts Council's 85th Birthday Celebration. Her design was chosen on March 15th at Brookwood Mall. Mandy is the daughter of Terry and Bonnie Murphy of Homestead.

Julie Schenk and mother, Mildred Wyatt, and their history of authoring and illustrating children's books were the subjects of an article in *The Birmingham News*, Shelby County News front page on Thursday, May 1. The almost full-page article was complete with pictures of Julie, Mom, copies of books, dolls, and figurines of Periwinkle, a character in the *Julie's Journey* series based on the family's lop-eared rabbit. Mildred added that their latest venture, handmade and hand-painted furniture for children, is available exclusively at Christine's in Mountain Brook Village. They were very pleased with the article, she said.

Get Well Wishes

Villagers extend wishes for a speedy recovery to Ray Woodward, Indian Springs School soccer coach, who recently suffered an aneurysm. He has been moved from Brookwood Hospital's intensive care unit to Lakeshore Rehabilitation Hospital, where he is now recovering.

Welcome New Villagers

Indian Springs Village extends a warm welcome to Robin and Jennifer Graves, who now reside at 1080 Indian Crest Drive. Robin is employed at Vulcan Materials. Both hail originally from Mississippi, but lived in Florida for quite sometime and are rabid "Gators" fans! After leaving the Sunshine State, the Graves spent three years in a suburb of Las Vegas. Jennifer says that drop-in company was quite the norm while living in Nevada. While ISV probably won't generate quite as much of a visitor turnout for Robin and Jennifer, they are nonetheless happy to be here, and we are happy to have them living in our town.

Lost and Found

Found...one Gold Ducks Unlimited Patron Pin, 10 years, with the initials "GP", and "1990" inscribed on the back. The pin was found at the corner of Indian Crest Drive and Valley View Drive on the side the children meet the bus. Please contact Olivia Weingarten, 988-5417.