



The Village Voice

Vol. 7, No. 4 -

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

July 8, 1997

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

By Gene Weingarten, Mayor

As you read this message, our town will have already celebrated the 4th of July holiday. Our town hall and pavilion were all decked out in the red, white, and blue of Uncle Sam. Everyone ate their fill of barbecued chicken and ribs, prepared by our ever-present Pothole (plus) Crew.

The beans and slaw tasted better out of doors. Milo's tea flowed like the mighty Cahaba River. The little folks who prefer hot dogs were not disappointed. What can you say about the desserts? Just too many to describe. Can there be a better celebration anywhere? The following page will enumerate all the folks who gave of their time and worked hard. Thanks, many times over.

But in our celebration did we overlook what the festivities were all about? Independence Day, that is what the 4th of July is about. Independence from a form of government which did not allow the citizens to participate in the decision-making process relating to their every day living. The folks even back then knew that they were better prepared to take care of themselves than was some bureaucrat thousands of miles away. What they sought, in one word, was **freedom**.

Now, some 221 years later, we may at times take our freedom too much for granted. In the just completed vote on increasing our homeowners taxes for the benefit of our school children, only 57% of the registered voters in Shelby County actually voted. Millions, perhaps billions, of people around the world don't have the right to vote. Those oppressed stand in awe of the freedom in America. Most would trade places with us in an instant.

As I read today about the change in Hong Kong from British rule to Chinese rule, the headline states that the existing government has been dissolved; that a government "appointed" by mainland China will govern until "local government can be elected." I wonder if those people who stood in front of tanks in Tiananmen Square got a chance to vote? Don't think so. Did they get to criticize their leaders? Probably not. How good is freedom? We live in the midst of it every day. Our folks can speak out, take action, protest, and write letters to the editor, all without fear of reprisal.

Take a minute today and be thankful for our freedom. It is the most important thing that we have.

INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Indian Springs Village Town Hall
Tuesday, July 15, 1997 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 August, 1997 edition should be submitted by Tuesday noon, August 5th. 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

July 4th Event a Rousing Success

By Patricia Crapet, Town Council, Place #2

The Seventh Annual Fourth of July Celebration for the Town of Indian Springs Village was the most successful yet. Some 300 people came and went during the event which was held for the first time at the town hall and picnic pavilion. Soaring temperatures of 98 degrees with heat index of 110 degrees had no effect on those patriotic citizens who came with their heartiest appetites ever. For the first time in the young event's history, there were no leftovers!

At 3:00 a.m. the infamous Pothole Crew converged on the Waffle House for breakfast and lots of coffee. By 4:00 a.m. the pit was smoking with 62 chickens and 81 slabs of ribs to be cooked in the next 7 hours. The usual barbecue chefs **Paul Stephens, Bart Trammell, and Jim Boyett** were joined by **Buzz Kelly and Dave Engel**, who have now been initiated by fire, so to speak. Citizens had a double delight this year, with Paul's special secret sauce on the chicken, and Dreamland's sauce on the meaty ribs.

Bunting, balloons, and flags were the order of the day for the decorating committee in charge of beautifying the grounds for the festivities. Experienced chairperson **Nelda Kelly** had plenty of ready, willing and able assistance from **Liz Alosi, Madeline Johnson, Connie Trammell, Margie Robins, and Tricia Crapet**. **Art and Jackie Johnson** carefully covered the tables in white while placing on each the festive patriotic table decorations.

At 10:00 a.m. excited parade participants began arriving at the parking lot of the Winn-Dixie Marketplace on Caldwell Mill Road. Parade coordinator **Tricia Crapet** handled registration of the owners and their vehicles as they arrived. As always, **Sheriff James Jones** and wife **Debbie** were in the lead car, or pickup truck, with **Ron Luster** once again taking his place as official parade route guide for the Sheriff.

This year's parade saw more vehicles than ever and drew quite a crowd at the shopping center before departure. Several late model cars and pickup trucks were decked out in patriotic colors, including those belonging to **Shelby County Commissioner Don Armstrong** and wife, **Virginia**, **Circuit Clerk of Courts Dan Reeves** and wife, **Stephanie**, **Lou and Tommie Workman**, **Charlie and Linda Butler**, **Wanda and Andy Carter**, **David and Georgeanne Boutwell**, and **Buzz and Nelda Kelly**, with mom **Mamie Kelly**, the senior participant in this year's event at age 92, having a great time riding in the back of the truck!

Among the participants with custom, classic, and collector vehicles were: **Mayor Gene Weingarten** and wife, **Olivia**, 1959 Ford pickup; **Dale, Cora, Athena, and Eric Brakhage**, 1969 Ford Mach 1 Mustang; **Jack Barry Sr.**, 1967 Camaro SS convertible; **Senator Bill Armistead**, 1951 Ford; **Marty and Cindy Pope**, 1972 Cutlass convertible; **Tim and Pam Allison**, 1966 Corvette Stingray; **Tommy Snowden**, 1962 Jeep; **James Lynch**, 1970 Cutless SX; **Roy and Jane Speed**, '23 Ford street roadster; **Michael Crapet**, 1936 Ford pickup; and **Tricia and Joseph Crapet**, accompanied by **Donna and Victoria Grant**, 1934 Ford sedan. **Paul Nola's** 1936 Buick sedan was a hit with his custom horns that played the theme from "The Godfather." **Terry Carlisle** wowed the crowd in his blue '96 Viper. **Jack "Scooter" Barry** was the envy of all

in his yellow 1966 Corvette Stingray with 600 horses under the hood! Unfortunately, at about 5 mpg, Scooter ran out of gas on Indian Crest Drive, but he'll be back next year with a full tank!

And, of course, no parade is complete without the all-American Harley Davidson motorcycle. Flag-flying cyclists this year included **Robert and Rob Grant, Paul and Trudy Skokel, Joe Nadler, Ed Beck, and Lori Maddox**. **Norman Bradley** also got into the spirit with his dirt bike.

Enthusiastic onlookers greeted parade participants, waving flags and catching candy thrown by some paraders. Just a few who were noted along the route were **Don and Anita Jones, Clyde and Fay Wood, Steve and Pat Zerkis, Jamie Wood, Ruth Snow, Louise Beck, Dorothy Carlisle, Bobbie Aultman, and Betty Grady**. Some couldn't stand not being included in the excitement. **Becky and Kristin Stovall**, along with several visiting cousins, hitched a ride in the back of **Michael Crapet's** truck from their driveway on Valley View Road.

Standing in the hot sun directing traffic was not an easy job, but a super effort was put forth by parking attendants **Brian Stauss, Mike Alosi, Chuck Snow, Marshall Gilbert, and Jim Cochran**.

Mayor Gene Weingarten opened the ceremony, with special guests **Sheriff James Jones, Clerk of Courts Dan Reeves, Shelby County Commissioner Don Armstrong, and State Representative Al Knight** all saying a few words about ISV's close sense of community. **Senator Bill Armistead** surprised citizens with an announcement that he had procured a \$2,000 grant from the State of Alabama for ISV for the purpose of constructing a walking track. **Ron Luster** said grace, and then it was off to the food line!

The line began to form before ticket seller **Onnie Dickerson** was open for business. Heaping plates were filled by cheerful volunteer servers. This year's chow line was staffed by **Harry Little, Connie Trammell, Madeline Johnson, Jan Lyman, Peggy Pitts, Ron and Sandy Luster, Barbara, Norman, and David Bradley, Deloris Gilbert, Alan and Carolyn Lafourcade, Larry Mackall, Margie Robins, Olivia Weingarten, and Jackie Johnson**. Keeping the heat at bay by keeping the refills flowing were **Bonnie and Mandy Murphy and Liz Alosi**. **Jim Wyatt** was seen making an emergency run for extra beans and slaw.

The most popular section once again was the dessert table, staffed by **Nora Boyett and Lola Stephens**. These ladies were so busy doling out the desserts that they never got around to fixing themselves a plate of barbecue. Generous cooks turned out in mass with several desserts being brought by citizens who were not identified. Villagers who were seen unloading their wares were **Madeline Johnson, Dr. Larry Mackall, Aleta Lowe, Wanda Carter, Nelda Kelly, Liz Alosi, Ginny Lusk, Zehra Stockley, Edna Earle Hawk, Eunice Huntress, Jackie Johnson, Jamie Wood, Lola Stephens, Olivia Weingarten, Becky Stovall, Terri Wells, Donald Gillam, Delores Gilbert, Margie Robins, Dorothy Carlisle, Connie Trammell, Croce Cicio, and Nora Boyett**. **Carolyn Driskill** brought three cakes; **Betty Michels**, who was out of town, sent four homemade cakes before her departure, and **Cheryl Rast** brought her famous blackberry cobbler, piping hot from the oven. One anonymous person was observed absconding with the cobbler pan, scraping the bottom to get the last crumb!

The children's games were called off due to the heat alert and heat index factor of 110 degrees. No one wanted to see any of our little ones become ill due to over-exertion. All prizes will be saved and hopefully the games will be held next year.

After all the festivities were over, those who stayed to clean up were **Ralph and Carolyn Bodie, Art and Jackie Johnson, Herb and Margie Robins, Bart and Connie Trammell, Paul Stephens, and Gary Dennis.** By the time night fell, the pavilion and grounds looked as pristine as before.

Thanks to Shelby County Sheriff **Captain Chris Curry** and deputies for parade direction and to the North Shelby Fire and Emergency Medical District for their participation. A special thanks to **Herb Robins**, chairman of the food committee, for his many hours of hard work, and to **Art Johnson**, who was helpful every step of the way. Our sincere thanks to all mentioned who helped make this year's event possible and to all who attended. You have all helped foster the spirit of community that is so essential to the success of our town. See you next year!

Town Council Highlights

June 17, 1997

By Patricia Crapet, Town Council Place # 2

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 17, 1997, at the Indian Springs Village Picnic Pavilion. Mayor Gene Weingarten presided, with council persons Herb Robins, Patricia Crapet, and Art Johnson present.

Town Clerk Paul Stephens reported regular revenues for the month were: beer taxes, \$763.10; building permits, \$12,342.78; aluminum can recycling, \$56.70; and road fund, \$778.60. The balance in the general fund was \$77,234. The balance in the road fund was \$49,924.

Councilman Herb Robins reported that the contract to pave Deer Mountain Circle, Rockford Road, and Signal Trail is scheduled to be completed before October 15. Councilman Robins has met with Shelby County Highway Department in order to secure a faster completion of the job, which hopefully will be completed by the end of summer. On Saturday, June 7, Councilman Robins and Assistant Town Clerk Jim Wyatt worked with Shelby County workers to do preparatory work on the bridge area on Rockford Road, clearing the creek and installing new culverts.

Onnie Dickerson reported that the town map is presently being updated to reflect recent annexations. The map is currently being computer digitized for color coding specific zoning areas and for easy updating in the future. Mr. Dickerson presented the council with a copy of a new proposed license fee ordinance for ISV. A proposal was also made for an implementation of an impact fee of \$1,500 per lot for developers of future subdivisions within our town limits. Both Pelham and Hoover have impact fees on developers. The purpose of this fee is to help offset future expenses on roads or other unforeseen items that would become the financial responsibility of the town after development of property is completed. Mr. Dickerson also proposed that the application for variances to the ISV Zoning Board of Adjustments be the same as the application for rezoning to the ISV Zoning and Planning Board, whose present

fee is \$250 plus \$10 per acre. All of the above matters will be considered for a vote at the July meeting.

Assistant Town Clerk Jim Wyatt presented a petition for annexation of contiguous property owners: the Town of Indian Spring Village, 2635 Cahaba Valley Road. While updating the town map, Onnie Dickerson discovered that the back portion of the property had never been annexed into the town. When the town was originally incorporated, only the front area of the property where the house sits fell in the quarter section that was incorporated into the town's boundaries. At the time there were no residents in Indian Highlands or Cahaba Oaks to sign the incorporation petition, thus leaving a gap in the quarter section which encompasses the area surrounding the town hall property. The council voted unanimously to waive the rules to allow for a vote on the proposed annexation, which also passed unanimously.

Mayor Weingarten re-appointed members of the ISV Educational Review Board for another term. This board, which functions as an industrial development authority, was created several years ago for the purpose of allowing private schools in the town to be able to borrow money and sell bonds at lower interest rates. This action does not obligate the town or authority to any debts incurred by these institutions. Board members who were re-appointed to staggered terms are Anita Jones, Rita Mendel, and Robert Thomas.

Two speakers came to address the council. Jane Hampton, Principal of Oak Mountain Elementary School, spoke to the council regarding the poor condition of the school's present playground. The school is trying to raise enough funds to build another playground which will also conform to standards which will allow children with disabilities to be able to utilize the facility. Making the playground wheelchair accessible is a key factor in upgrading the playground. Nancy Donahoo, Director of the North Shelby County Library, updated townspeople on the status of the construction and design changes of the new library, which will be built on Highway 119 just west of Oak Mountain Elementary School. The facility is now scheduled to be two stories totaling 36,200 square feet, with plenty of room for expansion as needed.

Photos of Accident Wanted

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

Richard August of Midfield has reported details of an accident involving the vehicle he was driving at 8:10 a.m., Monday, February 22, near Applebee's on Highway 119 between I-65 and Highway 31. He said that several passers-by photographed the wreck, and he is appealing to Villagers who may have photographs to please contact him. His address is 1320 66th St. W., Birmingham 35228; telephone 923-0272.

Mr. August said he was driving a white 1985 Buick Riviera with a blue Landau roof--a car he dearly loved. As he was making a left turn he was hit by a dump truck and knocked into the path of an 18-wheeler. He recalled that several pictures were taken, including shots as he was being helped from his auto. His injuries required 10 stitches for head wounds; he suffered bruised legs and ribs. The Pelham police report was 15 pages long of this accident, which had traffic backed up for miles. Mr. August will be glad to pay for available pictures.

Next Recycling Is July 16

By Art Johnson, Town Council Place # 4

The folks on Skyline Drive must take their recycling seriously. Half of the houses on this street had recycling in June. This is just great! To these and all the other ISV recyclers, thank you for your continued support of this, and all the other ISV programs.

The next aluminum can recycling is Wednesday, July 16, at 7:30 p.m. It helps our volunteers if you use white or clear plastic bags with each top tied with a knot. Recycled plastic grocery bags also work real well for the smaller contributions.

Our volunteers on June 18 were Margie and Herb Robins, Sharon Durbin, Cappy Potter, and Jackie and Art Johnson. I want to thank Mike Rutherford again for the generous loan of his truck.

Watch for ISV recycling reminders along Highway 119, Indian Crest Drive, and entrances to Homestead. If you have any questions or problems, please call Art Johnson at 988-3217.

Indian Springs Village - Clean and Beautiful

By Art Johnson, Town Council Place # 4

Three separate volunteer groups help keep Highway 119 litter free in our town limits. The first is Indian Springs School students (the Key Club does I-65 to mile marker 20). The second is The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (mile marker 21 to mile marker 22, near Caldwell Mill Road). The Citizens of ISV have agreed to maintain the remaining one mile from mile marker 20 to mile marker 21.

The participation by Indian Springs citizens in the litterwalks has for the past two years continued to decline for various reasons. Some volunteers have moved away, others have volunteered for other community projects, and for others, health problems make a litterwalk inadvisable. The dilemma is that when we have lost the valued help of a volunteer, there has not always been a "new" volunteer to fill his or her shoes. New volunteers are needed to continue this project. The ideal solution is for approximately 50 people to volunteer and agree to attend once a year. Even better, there are 51 roads in the town. If four to eight neighbors on each of the 51 roads would volunteer, each volunteer's community service would be less than 40 minutes every four years.

One such volunteer is Anne Gawne and her daughter Beth. They have just moved to ISV and wanted to become involved in the community. On June 21 they, with help from Art Johnson, removed three bags of litter from Highway 119.

The July Adopt-a-Mile will be held **July 26** at the Indian Springs Village Town Hall at 8:30 a.m. Won't you help? All you need to bring is a pair of gloves. I look forward to seeing you there. If you cannot attend, please spend a few minutes to remove any litter on your property. Thank you for your continuing support.

Shelby County Historical Society to Meet

Elizabeth Wells, Head of Special Collections, Samford University, will speak at the Shelby County Historical Society meeting Aug. 3, 2:00 p.m., Museum & Archives Bldg., Columbiana.

Village Personals

Compiled by Patricia Crapet

New Villagers

A warm welcome to Tim and Pam Allison, who now reside at 3094 Cahaba Valley Road, formerly the home of Terry and Debra Folmar. Tim is a physician and Pam is a sculptress, with working in bronze as her specialty. The Allisons, formerly from Mountain Brook, love horses, with three already at home in the back pasture.

Get Well Wishes

Wishes for a speedy recovery go to Bill Morrow, Valley View Road, who is home from the hospital after having bladder surgery. Mr. Morrow, a former member of the ISV Zoning and Planning Board, is expected to make a full recovery.

Good Showing at World

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

The consensus of coaches and parents of the students was that the three Oak Mountain Middle School teams which competed at the Odyssey of the Mind contest world level had done very well. Four students from Indian Springs, members of OMMS teams, competed at the world level June 4-7, University of Maryland, College Park, MD. The four students are Mike Felix, son of Larry and Diann Felix of McGuire Road, who coach his team; Alex Scokel, son of Paul and Trudy Scokel, Pawnee Drive; Meagan Moon, daughter of Gary and Kathy Moon, Indian Forest Trail; and Erin Robbins, daughter of Dr. Douglas and Barbara Robbins, Stonehenge Road. These students with Coach Larry Felix addressed the council and citizens present at the May 20 Indian Springs Village Town Council meeting.

"If your team advances to world after winning at the state and regional levels, you are considered winners," Coach Diann Felix noted. She gave the rankings of the three teams with their unusual names: Balloonacy Cars team placed 49th out of 54; Double Trouble placed 34th out of 54, and in the spontaneous portion placed 8th; Heroic Proportions placed 38th out of 60. According to Coach Larry Felix, the OMMS teams with a total of 21 members this year did as well as any teams from Alabama have done previously in this problem-solving competition which challenges mental skills. One of the get-acquainted activities in the world competition which was especially popular was the trading of decorative pins with peers from 49 other states and 30 foreign countries.

"Owlbert" Deadline Is July 18

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

The summer coloring contest to color the recently named mascot of the North Shelby County Library will end Friday, July 18. The contest winner will be announced Saturday, July 26, at the end of the Summer Reading Program celebration at SKATES 280 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon and will receive a \$50 savings bond.

Copies of the contest coloring sheet can be obtained at the NSCLibrary and must be returned by the deadline date. The cartoon owl, "Owlbert Einstein," is a recently adopted member of the library's team to raise funds for a new \$3 million library in the Indian Springs area, scheduled to open in 1998, and to raise awareness about the library's campaign among area school children.