

The Village Voice

Vol. 7, No. 7 -

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

October 14, 1997

INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Founders Day Celebration
Indian Springs Village Town Hall
Picnic Pavilion

Tuesday, October 21, 1997 7:00 p.m.

Agenda

- I. Founders' Day Supper
- II. Mayor/Council Committee
Reports
- III. Ordinances and Resolutions
- IV. 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 November, 1997 edition should be submitted by Tuesday noon, November 4th. 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

HAPPY SEVENTH BIRTHDAY INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE



Please join us for the
Seventh Annual
Founders' Day Celebration
on
Tuesday, October 21, 1997
at
The ISV Town Hall Picnic Pavilion

FREE

Hamburgers - Hot Dogs - Chips
Cold Drinks - Desserts

Refreshments will be served from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.
The town council meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m.

*Please bring a dessert to share
with your friends and neighbors.*

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

By Gene Weingarten, Mayor

What's New and Exciting Around Our Town?

Even in a small community like Indian Springs Village there is always growth, development, and change. Most of the changes are not visible because of their various locations. Although the past snow storms and tornado removed many of our trees, there is still enough greenery to act as a screen.

For instance, Jack and Rita McGuire are building a new home on McGuire Lane. Another new home is going up on Jasmine Hill Road. Construction will begin soon on a home on Miller Circle. And, if you travel Highway 119, Johnny Reece's home is just about complete, adding an additional gem to the lovely houses on that road.

Being the complete community that ISV strives to be, planned commercial development is in the works for the Caldwell Mill Road and Valleydale Road area. A new road, Caldwell Trace, which is adjacent to the Cook's Pest Control office, will have several business structures. American Gymnastics Association, a \$400,000 building, is being planned by Dave and Cheryl Szabo. My understanding is that they will specialize in gym instruction primarily for the younger set. Also on Caldwell Trace, Bankware, Inc. is building an office for their banking and technology software business, which sells its products on an international basis. Cost estimates for this building exceed \$475,000.

A big change is taking place at our Town Hall. The large lot just over the bridge behind the pavilion has been graded. It will be smoothed down, planted, and fertilized. This is the area in which our walking (or jogging) track will be built. The field will also be suitable for many other uses including informal ball practices, our Easter egg hunt, and overflow parking for large events. A lot of planning, tough physical work, and direction has gone into this project. Thanks to Paul Stephens, Bart Trammell, Dave Engle, Jim Boyett, Gary Dennis, and Herb Robins, we are right on schedule.

Growth and change are inevitable. The important thing is that we are able to control how these changes are effected through the laws and restrictions embodied in the corporate structure of ISV. Your input is always welcome. The third Tuesday of every month is your night. Become an active citizen.

Good Response to Appeal

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

Carolyn Cashion, the Good Samaritan who brought to our attention the needs of a Villager who no longer drove a car, has called to say that the response to the appeal in last month's *The Village Voice* has been more than adequate.

Members of Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church responded, as did others. Our Villager in need of transportation for short shopping trips has much to offer in exchange for help. She is teaching one respondent and her daughter how to make silk flowers and special Christmas cookies. Friendships are growing from these mutually beneficial expressions of neighborliness.

Moon Named Top Administrator

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

Accolades to Ron M. Moon of 219 Highgate Hill, who as been named 1997 Administrator of the Year at Bessemer State Technical College by a voting of the faculty.

As the college's Dean of Instruction Mr. Moon supervises instruction in all day and evening programs; supervises the Department of Business and Industrial Training; and supervises the Transportation Division to include the on-campus General Motors Training Center. In the absence of the president he supervises the day-to-day operations of the college. He is an ex-officio member of the school's Endowment and Trust.

Of his 30 years as an educator, Mr. Moon has been with Bessemer Tech 25 years. He began his teaching career in 1968 as the distributive education teacher and coordinator at Minor High School.

He is a member of the Kiwanis Club International and served on this organization's Board of Directors 1988-1991. Since 1989 he has served on the Jefferson County Automotive Advisory Committee. He is a member of these associations: American Vocational, Alabama Vocational, Alabama College, and American Association of Community and Junior Colleges.

Babysitters Directory Update

By Patricia Crapet, Town Council, Place # 2

The new edition of the ISV Babysitters Club Directory is almost ready. Several enthusiastic teenagers have called to add their names to the list of exclusive sitters for our community's most precious asset -- young children.

Important note! All sitters have now been contacted by me to confirm their admittance into the Babysitters Club. There were two teens who called my voice mail who I could not understand their phone numbers or names. If I have not called you, and you *did* leave your name on my voice mail, please call back as soon as possible (802-2753). *Speak slowly and distinctly.* Leave your name, address, phone number and age. I will call you soon to confirm that you are on the list.

Parents, the list will be ready next month!

Town Council Highlights

September 16, 1997

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

The Indian Springs Village Town Council meeting set for Tuesday, September 16, 1997, at 7:00 p.m. at the Indian Springs Village Town Hall was delayed 15-20 minutes due to a two-vehicle accident that occurred around meeting time on Highway 119, in front of the town hall.

Awaiting the arrival of Alabama State Troopers who had been called to the scene, Councilman Herb Robins directed traffic to prevent further mishaps from occurring as heavy traffic flowed from the I-65 freeway. No one was seriously hurt, and those involved were not from Indian Springs.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Gene Weingarten. Those in attendance were Councilmen Stewart Dudley, Art Johnson, and Herb Robins. The mayor read a letter from Patricia Crapet explaining her absence.

The minutes of the August 19 meeting were adopted as written. Town Clerk Paul Stephens reported that revenues for the month were: building permits, \$919; aluminum can recycling, \$338.10; grant dedicated for walking track, \$2,000 (received from Senator Bill Armistead, who announced at the Fourth of July celebration that he had secured this grant); beer taxes, \$811; from Shelby County Economic Development (received from Representative Mike Hill), \$1500; and road fund, \$832.06. The balance in the general account was given as \$42,878, after a Council-approved transfer of \$40,000 to the road fund, which is now \$90,372, less an expenditure of \$26,500 for recent road work.

Mayor Weingarten commented on our recent annexation of further parcels of land on the Indian Springs School campus and added that the footings had already been poured for the school's performing arts center to be known as the Town Hall.

Jim Wyatt, Assistant Town Clerk, reported on his attending a recent meeting at Oak Mountain Middle School when citizens had an opportunity to view drawings for the future park and athletic facilities complex on

the Heardmont Farms property purchased by the Shelby County Commission and the Shelby County School Board. Other drawings were of a possible Community Greenway encompassing eight miles which could provide residents a way to walk or bicycle to schools, churches, parks, athletic fields, and the soon-to-be-constructed North Shelby County Library. A pamphlet, "Walking and Bicycling in the Birmingham Area," was made available to those in attendance.

At the questioning by a citizen concerning the naming of Swann Road, Jim Wyatt explained that developers have priority of naming streets in the area being developed. In the absence of a developer, a street is named after its first resident. Swann Road is also the name long-recognized by the North Shelby Fire and Emergency Medical District.

Ironically, the unfortunate accident prior to the meeting set the stage for information given by Randy Cole, County Highway Engineer, concerning an engineering study on the necessity of building turn lanes from Highway 119 onto county and subdivision roads, some of them located in Indian Springs Village. Our municipality would pay 10% of the engineering fees for the study and the County 10%, with 80% coming from federal funds. The proposal carried that we accept our portion of the engineering fee (10%) for this project. Mr. Cole estimated the total cost could be between \$100,000 to \$200,000. If costs escalate upward of this scenario, ISV can withdraw its commitment of funds.

Mr. Cole and Lindsey Allison, Shelby County Commissioner (District 7) spoke on behalf of the Oak Mountain Elementary School concerning its need for \$30,000 - 35,000 to upgrade and equip the school's playground. The new playground would include state-of-the-art equipment for accessibility by handicapped children. The motion carried to donate \$2,000 toward this fund.

Mrs. Allison requested Mayor Weingarten to name a committee to meet with the North Shelby County Fire and Emergency Medical District to discuss needed weather sirens. Of the six alarms needed in our valley, Hoover has provided three. Additional ones are needed in ISV, on Caldwell Mill and Valleydale roads and on Highway 119. The cost of such a device is approximately \$10,000. Councilman Art Johnson was designated by the mayor to meet with Fire Chief Michael O'Connor.

Village Personals

Compiled by Ruth Goodwyn, Bonnie Murphy, and Patricia Crapet

Congratulations

Janell Johnson, daughter of Greg and Vita Johnson, 1612 Indian Springs Lane, is Shelby County's Junior Miss for 1998. She described her experience in the competition as "very exciting," and explained that she is now eligible to compete next January with representatives of all counties for the Alabama Junior Miss scholarship program.

Janell is a member of Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church and a senior at John Carroll High School. She is captain of varsity cheerleaders and a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She is a member of the National Honor Society, National Math Honor Society, and National Spanish Honor Society. She has been a Miss Alabama dancer in the last four Miss Alabama pageants. We wish her success at the next level of competition.

Randolph Wayne Pate, son of Jerry and Brenda Pate, 424 Miller Circle, recently graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of Alabama, having an overall 3.83 grade average. He received a bachelor of arts degree in history with a minor in computer science. During the spring and fall semesters he was named to the President's List by earning a 4.0 grade average (all A's).

A participant in the University Honors Program, Pate was the recipient of the William J. Taft Academic Walk-on Scholarship and the Charles Grayson Summersell Memorial Scholarship Award. He was among 50 students at UA to be elected to *Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities*. He was elected to membership in the honor societies of Phi Kappa Phi and Golden Key National.

A graduate of Briarwood Christian High School, Pate has entered the University of Alabama School of Law. A sister, Ashley (formerly listed in the Babysitters Club directory), is now a University of Alabama sophomore.

Recent Auburn University graduates from Indian Springs are **Amanda Dixon** and **Michael Phillips**, son of Michael G. Phillips, 1170 Spring Garden St. He received a bachelor of science in zoology and has begun a double master's program in hospital and business administration at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Welcome New Villagers

Paul and Jana Hugan now reside at 5121 Hollow Log Lane. They have three boys: Lane, age 10, Stuart, age 5, and Cameron, age 10 months. Paul is employed with Just For Feet and Jana with Gap Kids.

Daryl and Cathy Whitfield are now at home at 5134 Split Rail Trail in Homestead. They have two children, Whit, age 5, and Kaye Leigh, age 2. The Whitfields are the owners of the Southside Cafe.

Len and Mary Murphy have also recently moved to Homestead and reside at 2640 Buckboard Road. Len has the job every man wishes for -- a test rider for Harley Davidson Corporation. Mary, whose job is no less exciting, works in the detective division of the Birmingham Police Department.

Frank and Sharon Granato have recently moved to 5100 Old Mill Circle, formerly the home of Gerry and Phyllis Templeton. The Granatos are from Tampa, Florida and have two sons at home, Joseph, age 13, and Matthew, age 6, both of whom attend Our Lady of the Valley Catholic School. Frank is employed by the United States Postal Service, while Sharon is busy making a house into a home.

Gerry and Phyllis Templeton, with daughters Maddie and Alex, stayed in the area and now reside at 2537 Willow Brook Circle. While they are not officially in the Village, their new home is outside the town limits only by two houses. We have high hopes that the Templetons will be back within ISV's borders very soon.

In Sympathy

ISV extends deepest sympathy to **Victor and Veronica Wheeler** of 2615 Buckboard Road in Homestead upon the death of Victor's father, Horace Wheeler, of Boaz. Mr. Wheeler was en route to visit his son and family on September 19 when he suffered a massive heart attack at the wheel of his car.

Deepest sympathy goes to **Peyton Lacy** of Deer Mountain Circle in the passing of his son, Peyton Zachary Lacy, age 22, of Davidson, NC, on September 30. He was a 1993 graduate of Indian Springs School. He received a B.A. degree in English, Gender Studies, in 1997 at Davidson College where he was subsequently employed as manager of College Union Operations. Funeral services were held on October 4 at Southern Heritage Chapel. Other survivors include his mother, Noni Lacy, and sister Mamie Alexis Lacy, as well as grandmothers Virginia Richey Lacy and Greta Laurice Spruill.

ISV extends deepest sympathy to the family of **Russell Howard Stanley**, of Miller Circle, who passed away on September 20. He was the founder and CEO of RHS Associates, an executive management and information systems consulting firm. A graduate of Northwestern State University of Louisiana, with a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Samford University, Mr. Stanley was also a 32nd degree Mason and Shriner, and a member of several civic organizations, among them the Rotary and Elks Clubs. A lover of life, Mr. Stanley was an avid outdoorsman, gardener, scuba diver, and motorcycle enthusiast, pursuing these interests worldwide with family and friends. Survivors include: wife, Janet James Stanley, two sons, Michael Leroy and Russell H. Stanley, Jr., his mother, Doris Launius, and sister, Jean Fisher.

A Villager Making a Difference

By Patricia Crapet, Town Council Place # 2

Just days ago, the University of Montevallo received an early present from "Santa" in the form of a \$1 million dollar donation. The gift, the largest ever in the school's 100 year history, was actually from Indian Springs Village resident, Michael E. Stephens. In a dedication ceremony on October 9, the Michael E. Stephens College of Business was renamed in honor of the generosity of this UM Board of Trustee member and tireless supporter.

Mike Stephens has overcome many adversities to become one of our state's most well-known businessmen. As a young man, Mike, as he is known to his friends, was not able to afford tuition to most private colleges and universities in the area. He attended the University of Montevallo, a public liberal arts school, in 1962 at the age of 18, only to drop out without earning a degree and go into the insurance field.

In 1970 Mike suffered a severe spinal cord injury in a diving accident and underwent intensive rehabilitation for a lengthy period of time. After recovering, he returned to the University of Montevallo where he earned a degree in business in 1973, and, in 1975, completed his Master's Degree. Mike then went on to work for Lakeshore Rehabilitation Hospital.

Mike quickly climbed the proverbial ladder to the top at Lakeshore, which, under his stewardship, has become one of the country's premier rehabilitation facilities for people who suffer from physical disabilities of all kinds. His work with Lakeshore, as well as his own life experiences, led him to found ReLife, a corporation of rehabilitation hospitals and outpatient centers, in 1986. The philosophy behind ReLife was to create a comprehensive system of care designed to meet all of a patient's needs during the recovery process. Mike's goal, fueled by his own experiences in rehabilitation after an injury, was to not "simply send patients home like invalids, but for their own sakes and for the good of the community, assist them in reaching their full potential, not just medically and physically, but also socially, vocationally, and in every other sense that will allow for an active lifestyle."

In 1991 Mike took ReLife public, where it expanded to 29 facilities in several different states. In 1994 ReLife merged with HealthSouth in one of the larger acquisitions of this kind in our state.

In 1995 the University of Montevallo awarded him the Doctor of Humane Letters in recognition of his outstanding achievements and exceptional service to the school.

Besides his obvious enthusiasm for the rehabilitation

system, Mike has one more passion that he is probably best known for around the Village...Arabian horses. Yes, he is the owner of the farm with the round, green barn on Highway 119.

The Resting S Ranch is an 80-acre Arabian horse breeding and training farm located in Cahaba Farms on Highway 119 in Indian Springs Village. In 1989 Mike acquired his first in what is now a long list of near-perfection Arabian horses. Mike was drawn to Arabians because of his interest in the history and versatility of the breed. In the nine short years since the purchase of his first horse, Mike's ranch has become one of the world-wide Arabian horse industry's most successful operations. His horses are traded all over the world to collectors and showmen such as the Pirelli family of tire fame.

Mike's horses have won many top honors at competitions across the country. He currently owns several nationally top-ranked horses, such as Aalusive Bey, who, as a two-year-old filly, was featured on the cover of *Arabian Horse Times* and who captured the Scottsdale Mare Grand Championship by unanimous vote, a feat never before achieved by any horse in the long history of the event. If you are lucky, you might get a glimpse of this rare grey beauty, grazing in the pasture by the round barn on Highway 119.

For several years, Mike's annual fall party at the Resting S was the talk of the town. Here, he showed his most prized Arabians to horse enthusiasts as well as many members of the village's general public. His "best dessert" contest is still talked about by all who attended, with each year's winner coming away with the ultimate prize - an Arabian horse.

Mike has further diversified his business opportunities, investing in a Cadillac dealership and in developing and building high-rise condominiums in Panama City Beach, Florida. He owns a home on Grayton Beach, just a few miles from the condominium complex.

Though he is constantly busy in one of his many entrepreneurial endeavors, Mike continues to work on behalf of people with physical disabilities as a member of the board of trustees of the not-for-profit Lakeshore Foundation, which he founded in 1984. He is involved in many community needs including the University of Montevallo, YWCA, and Alabama Symphony Orchestra.

Hardship and adversity, leadership and enthusiasm. Just a small part of what has made Mike Stephens successful in his business and personal life. The passions of a man who is not only an inventive entrepreneur and focused businessman, but who also happens to be a generous, all-around nice guy with a big heart to match. And since home is where the heart is, Mike's is at the Resting S ranch in Indian Springs Village.

Next Recycling Is October 29

By Art Johnson, Town Council Place # 4

The next aluminum can recycling is Wednesday, October 29. Due to some scheduling conflicts, recycling will be pushed back one week this month. 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. Please, only aluminum recycling. If we missed your pickup, please call Art Johnson at 988-3217.

In September volunteers Bill and Patti Weems along with their daughter Ashley collected south of highway 119. Margie and Herb Robins collected from the Homestead neighborhood. Sharon Durbin and Jackie Johnson collected from areas adjacent to Indian Crest Drive from Arrowhead Lane to Valley View. And Tom Adkison and Art Johnson collected the remaining neighborhoods in the village. Watch for ISV recycling reminders along Highway 119, Indian Crest Drive, and the entrances to Homestead.

Historical Society to Meet Nov. 2

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

Miriam Rogers Fowler, Acting Curator of Education, Birmingham Museum of Art, will be the speaker at the fall meeting of the Shelby County Historical Society (SCHS). The meeting will be Sunday, Nov. 2, at 2:00 p.m. in the Old 1854 Courthouse (Archives and Museum Building), Columbiana. At this meeting election of officers will also be held.

The title of Ms. Fowler's talk is "A Capital Crime: The story of the romp through the East and Old Southwest by counterfeiter Tom Davis and his gang of scoundrels in the early 19th century." Remarks from court records and newspapers will be included concerning these early Shelby County criminals.

President of the SCHS in 1978-79, Ms. Fowler gained an interest in Tom Davis's counterfeiting gang when she and other society members discovered counterfeit bills in the present courthouse, part of evidence in a court case dated 1824. Historians had mentioned that the last court-mandated hanging in Shelby County had been in 1824. One man was hanged for murder and another for counterfeiting, at that time a heinous capital crime.

Brochures will be distributed at the meeting concerning the county coffee table history books to be published on Alabama's 67 counties. *The Heritage of Shelby County, Alabama* will be Vol. 58 in the series. Current and former residents--anyone with Shelby County roots--have been invited to write a family history and submit it with a photograph. Churches, businesses, and clubs will be included. Four meetings have been held by a committee formed to guide this project, with a fifth meeting scheduled for Nov. 6. Those interested may contact Shelby County Heritage Book, P. O. Box 515, Columbiana, AL 35051, or call 669-0652. The historical society is not a sponsor, but is interested in the project as it affords families and organizations an opportunity to get their histories in print.

Library Book Sale; Home Tour

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

Saturday, November 1, is the date of the North Shelby County Library Friends organization's used book sale, to be held in the conference room of the library, 7030 Meadowlark Dr., off 280S. Book sale hours are 10:00 a. m. - 4:00 p.m.

Many interesting books will be for sale at very reasonable prices, according to Pam Holton, chairman of the book sale committee. Used hardback books and textbooks are priced at \$1.00; paperbacks, 25 cents; children's books, 25 and 10 cents, and magazines--*National Geographic* and other popular titles--10 cents each. Several sets of encyclopedias are available.

November 1 is also the date tickets will be available at the NSCLibrary only that day, for the Holiday Tour of Homes for 1997. Afterwards tickets will be available at the Library, National Bank of Commerce (NBC), Meadow Brook Branch and branch at Bruno's at Inverness Corners, Classic Interiors, Lindy B's in Greystone, and Neil's Pharmacy, Indian Springs. Tickets are \$12.00 in advance and \$15.00 the day the tour begins.

Scheduled for December 6 and 7, the tour will be held 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Saturday and 1:00 to 6:00 Sunday, with the last van leaving at 5:00 both days. The tour has been extended beyond 5:00 in order for the homes to display Christmas decorations after dark. The gracious owners who are opening their homes for the tour are the following from Meadow Brook Highland; Bill and Connie Mills, 3192 Bradford Place; James and Mary Nell Terry, 6024 Brookhill Circle; Clint and Sandee Janecek, 6088 Brookhill Circle; and Tony and Robin Snable, 6096 Brookhill Circle.

Vans carrying participants in the home tour will leave from the Meadow Brook Branch of the National Bank of Commerce (NBC). The bank will also be the site of the Friday night preview party for those serving as hostesses at the four homes. Maleah Barton chairs the home tour committee again this year. Anyone wishing to participate as a hostess, van driver, or in any other capacity, may call her at 991-7933 and leave a message.

Proceeds from the book sale and home tour, both sponsored by the Friends of the NSCLibrary, will be donated to the library to assist with financing the new facility to be built on Cahaba Valley Road.

Other recent fund-raising activities included a membership drive, chaired by Bee Little of ISV. If you have not joined, call Bee at 985-9988 or Carol Farr, NSCLibrary, 995-1974.

Septic Tank Care

Compiled by Art Johnson

Would you buy an expensive car and never change the oil? How many of us would never remove the ashes from a wood stove or fireplace? When the car breaks down or the stove is so full of ashes that no more wood can be added, we don't blame the car or the stove. But often when a sewage system fails, the blame is incorrectly placed on the septic tank. There are many things you can do to keep this essential system healthy, and in return it will provide many years of inexpensive health protection for you and your family.

What is a septic tank and how does it benefit my family? The septic tank is a settling tank where the sewage solids are stored while bacteria decompose them and reduce their volume. The volume is never reduced to zero, however, so a residue remains. It is this residue that must be cleaned out of the tank when the volume becomes too great. A septic tank is watertight, so that when 5 gallons of waste enters, 5 gallons must trickle out of the tank into a soil absorption unit or drainfield. The soil absorption field filters and treats the clarified septic tank effluent. Removing the solids from the wastewater protects the soil absorption system from clogging and premature failure.

As the septic system is used, sludge continues to accumulate in the bottom of the septic tank. Properly designed tanks have enough space for years of safe accumulation of sludge. When the sludge level increases beyond this point, sewage has less time to settle properly before leaving the tank. As the sludge level increases, more solids escape into the absorption area. If sludge accumulates too long, no settling occurs before the sewage escapes directly to the soil absorption area. To prevent this, the tank must be pumped periodically.

The frequency of pumping depends on several factors:

- (1) Capacity of septic tank.
- (2) Flow of wastewater (related to size of household)
- (3) Volume of solids in wastewater (garbage disposal increases)

The following table illustrates the effect of the three variables. It is not intended to predict exactly when you need to have your tank cleaned and pumped. No two septic tanks operate exactly the same. Variables such as eating and living habits, water use, cleaning products used, and depth of the tank can make maintenance necessary in five years, while an almost identical house may need maintenance only every 15 years.

| Tank Size (gal) | Household Size (Number of People) | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 500 | 5.8 | 2.6 | 1.5 | 1.0 | 0.7 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.2 |
| 1000 | 12.4 | 5.9 | 3.7 | 2.6 | 2.0 | 1.5 | 1.2 | 1.0 |
| 1500 | 18.9 | 9.1 | 5.9 | 4.2 | 3.3 | 2.6 | 2.1 | 1.8 |
| 2000 | 25.4 | 12.4 | 8.0 | 5.9 | 4.5 | 3.7 | 3.1 | 2.6 |
| 2500 | 31.9 | 15.6 | 10.2 | 7.5 | 5.9 | 4.8 | 4.0 | 4.0 |

The consequences of ignoring your septic tank are backup into the home, or bubbling up of septic tank effluent which contains high concentrations of bacteria and viruses which can be a health hazard for you or your neighbors. Other hazards include contamination of water wells and streams. Does your system need to be checked? If your house was built about 15 years ago and has never had maintenance, the answer is probably yes.

Septic Tank Care Tip

- Don't deposit coffee grounds, cooking fats, wet-strength (paper) towels, disposable diapers, facial tissues, cigarette butts and other non-decomposable materials into the house sewer. These materials won't decompose and will fill the septic tank and plug the system.

- Avoid dumping grease down the drain. Keep a separate container for waste grease and throw it out with the garbage. If you use a garbage disposal, you will likely need to remove septic tank solids more often. In some states, if a garbage disposal is used two septic tanks must be connected in series.

- Use a good quality toilet tissue that breaks up easily when wet. Many scented toilet tissues have high wet strength and thus are not suitable.

- Normal amounts of household detergents, bleaches, drain cleaners, and other household chemicals can be used and won't stop the bacterial action in the septic tank. But don't use excessive amounts of any household chemicals.

- Don't dump cleaning water for latex paint brushes and cans into the house sewer.

- Using too much soap or detergent can cause problems with the septic system. Also, it's best not to use inexpensive detergents which may contain excessive amounts of filler or carrier. Some of these fillers are montmorillonite clay, which is used to seal soils! The best solution may be to use one of the liquid laundry detergents available, since they are less likely to have carriers or fillers that may cause harm.

*Second Annual
Indian Springs Village
Holiday Gifts, Arts, and Crafts Show*



*INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN HALL
AND PICNIC PAVILION
2635 CAHABA VALLEY ROAD*

*Saturday, October 25, 1997
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.*

**Talented Villagers and others will be displaying
and selling their beautiful handmade creations,
as well as many exclusive store and by-order-only items.**

*Many unusual and one-of-a-kind items
including art works, Christmas ornaments,
holiday decorations, gold, silver, porcelain, and
Victorian jewelry, birdhouses, birdfeeders,
mulling spices and other foods.*

*For more information or to sign up as an exhibitor,
please call Donna Grant at 987-0387.*