



Vol. 7, No. 9 -

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

- December 9, 1997

## **INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

**Indian Springs Village Town Hall  
Tuesday, December 16, 1997, 7:00 p.m.**

### **Agenda**

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

### **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](mailto: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 Jan 1998 edition should be submitted by Tuesday noon, January 6. 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

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR**

*By Gene Weingarten, Mayor*

Something special takes place every December in Indian Springs Village. Our community participates in an event that brings Santa Claus to a group of children who otherwise would see Christmas morning without all the wondrous toys and gifts that most North Shelby County children take for granted.

This undertaking is provided through an endowment called the **Indian Springs Village Children's Fund**. Contributions to this fund come from many generous and caring ISV citizens. This year four families with 11 children will be recipients of all the goodies purchased by the ISV Children's Fund.

Oak Mountain Elementary School conducts a survey each year to determine which students and their families have such desperate basic needs that providing Santa Claus would be non-existent. For several years now the ISV Children's Fund has identified these children in conjunction with the school and assumed the role of providing Santa Claus.

The information sheets received represent a wish list just like **all** our little folks would want: Christy, age 7, is asking for a bicycle and Magic Stroller baby. Chris, 12, is asking for a Nintendo 64 game with two controllers. Grover, 9, is asking for a Tantrum Remote Car and a Tonka Crashback. Daniel, 9, is asking for a Star Wars Millennium game and a remote, full-control bulldozer. Rachael, 5, is asking for a Barbie doll house and a Barbie & Ginger dog. Jacob, 5, is asking for a Superman toy.

The list goes on and on. Clothes are very important, but the kids forget to list them. The ISV Children's Fund purchases many clothes, knowing that this is an important part of the overall needs of disadvantaged little folks. A dedicated group of volunteers works long and hard in the procurement and wrapping of the toys and other gifts.

An equally dedicated group of ISV citizens contribute every year to the fund. If you are a contributor, the kids thank you. If you would like to be a contributor, send your check made payable to the ISV Children's Fund to Patricia Crapet, 370 Valley View Road, Indian Springs 35124. If you prefer to be anonymous, indicate that on your check. Knowing that you helped provide a Barbie doll house to a five-year-old Rachael will help make your Christmas Day heart-warming.

# Squirrels in the Attic

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

What do you do when you hear gnawing or other suspicious sounds in the attic, causing uneasiness? Or when you come downstairs in the middle of the night to find a raccoon in the family room? Or when a raccoon is going around in circles, as though dazed, in your backyard?

Calling 911 or the North Shelby County Fire and Emergency Medical District may be the first thing that comes to mind, but most likely you will be referred to another service. Pest control companies, including Cook's Pest Control in ISV, usually are not equipped to deal with anything other than termites, roaches, bugs, and perhaps snakes. (They usually use bait as enticement; wildlife residing in attics dine on nuts, acorns, and other "take in" food.) Some may think of calling the state game warden for Shelby County, whose mission is enforcing laws protecting wild animals, but who may, on occasion, once you have trapped the woodland critter, assist in relocating it.

The Shelby County Extension System (669-6763) has pamphlets available which give detailed information on food habits, habitat, and general biology of all types of wildlife and do-it-yourself methods of getting rid of pests. Nelson D. Wynn, County Agent, said that in general, if your home is invaded, you should first locate where the animal is entering, leave a light on in that area overnight, and the next day seal the entryway. You may set a baited live trap to catch any animal which unintentionally may be locked in and avoid further damage when the creature tries to gnaw its way out. If you wish to relocate the animal, carry it to another locale and turn it loose near a water source.

Turning up the volume of a radio or setting off other noise-making devices may help, but only temporarily. What works for one animal does not necessarily work for another. Raccoons especially are dangerous. "Hardly any animal wants to tangle with a raccoon," the County Agent said. As a preventive measure trees or tree branches that touch your house should be removed.

The pamphlets are very informative. Under "general biology" of squirrels is the information that during the fall squirrels may travel 50 miles or more in search of a better habitat and that squirrels may go on mass migrations. Hawks, owls, and snakes are their predators, but this seems to have little effect on population, which does periodically fluctuate.

The Alabama Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, located at Oak Mountain State Park, has a 24-hour, seven-days-a-week hotline (320-6189) which residents may call for advice on how to deal with an invasion of the home by those creatures which look so cute and playful out in the backyard. Wildlife Center volunteers will discuss your problem and tell you how to deal with it in a humane way without injury to either people or animals. The Center is not able to provide the service of helping you remove animals, but the volunteers are knowledgeable and can offer good advice. The time of year makes a big difference. If squirrels or other wildlife are in your attic at certain times of the year the presence of babies may be a concern, and you will be asked to wait until the babies are all safely outside. One way of finding out where the animals are entering is

by sprinkling damp sand around the house and watching for tracks. Placing moth balls (not crystals) in the occupied area may encourage the animals to leave, but it is important that the moth balls are in stockings or can otherwise be removed. Moth balls are toxic, and many people are allergic to them. If you use them, do it carefully.

Last fall Jackie Reynolds of Mountain Park Circle was approached about opening her home for the Holiday Home Tour '96, sponsored by the Friends of the North Shelby County Library. Unfortunately, the home had just suffered squirrel damage. While she, husband Bob and son Jason were away on an extended weekend, a squirrel invaded their home via a chimney. By the time the Reynolds returned the lone squirrel had worn itself out gnawing, chewing, and splintering wood on window casings and door sills and had fallen asleep on the son's bed!

The squirrel was only too happy to escape to the out-of-doors. Jackie estimated the damage for repairing, repainting, dry and steam cleaning to be about \$10,000, but did not speculate on the emotional damage.

Recently a neighbor was invaded by a raccoon which lifted the fireplace damper and found itself in the family room. It smashed table lamps, bric-a-brac on the mantle, tore upholstery and ripped carpet before finally being ensnared, entrapped, and carried off.

Those with soft hearts can sympathize with the animals because humans have taken the woods that were once theirs, but sympathy usually fades when the reverse occurs and a home is encroached. Jackie Reynolds said she was at the point of putting a "For Sale" sign on their front lawn when the house was plundered again recently--this time by four raccoons that came through the chimney after the damper was inadvertently left open and the chimney's vent cap raised by workmen. By happenstance her husband had spotted a truck driving down the road with "Alabama Wildlife Relocators" on the side panels. Not only were the animals entrapped and relocated, but the company gave advice about how to prevent another occurrence. A Bradford pear tree surrounded by a flower bed appeared to give the raccoons access to the roof. A chain saw took care of that problem.

The number for Alabama Wildlife Relocators is 1-800-709-4787. Located in Leeds, this is an Alabama company and is one of a chain that has been operating for nine years, according to their representative, Bryan Shelton. A nuisance wildlife control company, they will take care of squirrels, skunks, snakes, bats, beavers, raccoons, possums, coyotes, bobcats, and foxes. When called a representative will assess the situation, determine the solution, and the fee. The animals are trapped live and taken to an uninhabited area where land owners have given permission to them to release wildlife.

Cahaba Pest Control in Cahaba Heights (967-8541) was recommended by my neighbor. Buddy Hawkins, a representative, said they dealt mostly with squirrels and raccoons. He mentioned if you trap the animal yourself you must take it at least two miles--better yet, five--away. He also mentioned a concern, the danger of rabies and the spread of distemper. "If an animal acts like it's tame, perhaps letting you pick it up, something's wrong with it," he said. You had best stay away. After animals are removed from the

premises and holes sealed up, sometime spraying is necessary since squirrels and raccoons also spread fleas. Once a wild animal is born in your attic, 99% of the time it will try to return, thinking of your attic as "home." Raccoons may tear off shingles or fascia boards to gain access to an attic or wall space and may view an uncapped chimney as a substitute for the more traditional hollow tree.

Residents should also be warned against feeding wild animals, either by intentional feeding with bones or table scraps, leaving a pet's food outside, failing to secure garbage can lids, or by broadcasting birdseed. Birdseed by itself does not usually create a problem. Raccoons also like to burrow around flower beds and compost heaps for earthworms and grubs. Mr. Hawkins related the trapping on successive nights of 40 raccoons which were in the process of tearing up freshly-laid sod on a residential lawn.

In case of a wounded bird or an animal you would like to rescue, first call Alabama Wildlife Rehabilitation Center before attempting to take it there. Although the Center has 300 volunteers, they do not have vehicles and drivers to bring animals in to Oak Mountain State Park, but will give you directions on how to do it safely. They are located near the swimming area with signs reading "Wildlife Rescue" pointing the way. The Center can always use volunteers. To volunteer you may call their office at 663-7930.

## Town Council Highlights

November 18, 1997

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met on Tuesday, November 18, 1997 at 7:00 p.m. in the Indian Springs Village Town Hall. Mayor Gene Weingarten presided, with councilpersons Gary Dennis, Stewart Dudley, Herb Robins, and Art Johnson in attendance. The Mayor extended sympathy to the Crapet family, announcing that Councilwoman Patricia Crapet was at Southern Heritage Chapel, her mother having passed away.

The minutes of the October 21 meeting were approved as read. Town Clerk Paul Stephens reported that revenues for the month were: beer taxes, \$785; business licenses, \$40.00; income for copying zoning regulations, \$20.00; \$875 for the Indian Springs Children's Fund. The balance in the road fund is \$68,719; the regular account, \$39,313.

Art Johnson reported that the last two aluminum can collections yielded 608 lbs., representing an income of \$182.40.

In connection with roads, Herb Robins reported that Gary Ray of the State Highway Department was asked about road signs with arrows pointing to Indian Springs Village promised to be placed at the end of turn lanes at the intersection of I-65 and Highway 119. The signs will be placed when work in that area is completed.

In discussion about the \$2,400 to be paid for the water monitoring project of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, this amount is due February 1998; the same amount will be charged next year. This figure represents three percent of

the total cost of \$80,000 divided among Alabaster, Pelham, Helena, Moody, and ISV.

Gary Dennis reported that rye grass had been planted on the town hall property and that Dave Engel had used his tractor to smooth out the terrain. Planting trees is the next project which should be taken up after a decision is made concerning what type of trees to plant using Jim Loper's guidelines.

Councilman Dennis made a request, unanimously approved by council, to create a Web site on the Internet which would give information about our town. Our zoning regulations and other important documents, newspaper articles, copies of *The Village Voice*, and other archives collected by the town historian were suggested as being included. Councilman Dennis has the equipment and machinery to create the Web site and to scan documents deemed important for inclusion.

Jim Wyatt, Assistant Town Clerk, asked about the status of a town council resolution in opposition to Indian Springs Village's portion of the Birmingham Area Bicycle, Pedestrian and Greenway Plan. Councilman Stewart Dudley reported that it was ready for signatures. Jim Wyatt said he attended a recent meeting of the Shelby County Commission and presented a petition of 140 citizens, 54 of them property owners, in opposition to having "the equivalent of a one-lane road running all along Bishop Creek." He cited reasons: property owners would be asked to give up land; strangers would be coming into this area either walking or bicycling; it would be impossible to patrol at night. Federal funds will pay 80% of the cost of this environment-related project; Shelby County and Indian Springs Village would pay 20%; and ISV would have to maintain it, he said. "It is not good for our town," he concluded.

The Mayor reported that the North Shelby County Sheriff's Sub Station is destined for Heardmont Farms, and after the move they will not be using our town hall. He had received a thank you from Sheriff James Jones for the use of our town hall.

The Mayor introduced guests Frank Fry of McDonald Investments and Lynne Miller, Government and Public Relations Manager, Marcus Cable, who explained the acquisition of Shelby Cable by Marcus, to be finalized in January. After that a complete rebuilding of the cable system will follow. This will entail breaking the cable system into nodes with delivery by fiber optic cable, resulting in a more up-to-date system and better reception for residents. Marcus has over 110,000 subscribers in this area, and the town will continue receiving a franchise fee.

## Babysitters Directory

By Patricia Crapet, Town Council Place # 2

At long last, the ISV Babysitters Directory is ready. To secure a copy of this "worth its weight in gold to desperate parents" document, you **must** be a resident of ISV. Please call me at home (985-9205) for instructions on where to pick up your copy of the directory. I may not be at home when you call, so please don't wait until the last minute to call with your request.

## Village Personals

Compiled by Ruth Goodwyn and Patricia Crapet

### In Appreciation

A thank you for the kind words and contribution toward the publishing of *The Village Voice* received recently from Mary and Art Spencer, Valley View Road. It is always gratifying to learn that civic efforts are appreciated.

### In Sympathy

Villagers extend sympathy to the family of Benjamin S. Burt, who passed away November 30 at age 80. He succumbed to a heart attack after being ill for some time with emphysema. A native and longtime resident of Elgin, Ill., he lived for 21 years in North Shelby County. A memorial service was held Tuesday, December 2, at Ridcut's Southern Heritage Chapel. Survivors include his wife, Irene, and daughter, Linda Holland, of 234 Indian Forest Trail; sons, Ben Burt, Canoga Park, Cal., and Bob Burt of Birmingham; eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Sympathy is also extended to Councilwoman Patricia Crapet and her family in the loss of her mother, Billie Ruth Chisenhall Sellers, who passed away on November 16 at age 74. A resident of ISV since 1987, Mrs. Sellers passed away at Riverchase Health Care and Rehabilitation after a lengthy battle with Alzheimer's disease. Other survivors include one grandson, Joseph Crapet, and two sisters, Blanche Thorn and Margurite Gunter, both of Talladega.

Our deepest sympathy to Rena Hauser, whose granddaughter, Martha Duncan Adams, age 13, passed away unexpectedly on December 7 from a cerebral hemorrhage. Miss Adams was a student at Kingwood Christian School. She is survived by her parents, Carl and Mims Hauser Adams; sisters, Rebeccah and Mims Adams; and one brother, Carl Martin Adams.

## Next Recycling Is December 17

By Art Johnson, Town Council Place # 4

The next aluminum can recycling is Wednesday, December 17 at 7:30 p.m.. For September and October ISV recycled 608 pounds of aluminum. Please place your bagged aluminum cans on your driveway before 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday December 17. Please use white, blue recycling, or clear plastic bags and secure the top of the bag with a knot. If you have to use dark colored bags, please tape a white piece of paper with ISV written in large letters on at least one of the bags. Then for easy identification by our volunteers of your recycling, place them on the other side of your driveway from your Waste Management trash pick-up. If we missed your pickup, please call Art Johnson at 988-3217.

Last month, your volunteers were: Bill, Patti and daughter Ashley Weems, Margie and Herb Robins, Sharon Durbin, Cappy Potter, Jackie and Art Johnson. In October the recycling crew consisted of Bill, Patti, and Ashley Weems, Margie and Herb Robins, Sharon Durbin, Tom Adkison, Jackie and Art Johnson. Thank You for recycling. Watch for ISV recycling reminders along Highway 119, Indian Crest Drive, and the entrances to Homestead.

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all the residents of Indian Springs Village with a special thank you to all the recycling participants for your efforts during 1997.

## Donations Trickling In for ISVCF

By Patricia Crapet, Town Council Place # 2

A great big thank you goes to those Villagers who have sent in donations to the Indian Springs Village Children's Fund. At press time, many people had sent in their generous donations so that several local needy children could experience the joys that the Christmas season brings. Clyde and Fay Wood, Crawford and Betty Jinks, Kathryn Thomas, Ed and Ginny Lusk, Stephen and Pat Zerkis, Robert and Amy Stokes, Margaret Gibbs, Michael and Edwina Carlisle, Harold and Dorothy Tate, Madeline Johnson, Lee and Patty Bowman, Billy and Pam Longshore, Bart and Connie Trammell, James and Barbara Wood, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Knight, Jr., Quenton and Jackie Johnson, Jerry and Becky Stovall, and Alabama Pool Services have sent their gifts from their hearts. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wells and daughter Susan Ries, who works at Cook's Pest Control in ISV, hand-made precious reindeer brooms and sold them to the employees of Cook's, donating all of the proceeds from the sale to the ISVCF.

We thank all donors for their generosity.

## A Letter to the Citizens of ISV

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

My family and I wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone for your kind condolences on the death of one so dear to me--my Mother. Losing a loved one to Alzheimer's disease is an ordeal for everyone involved. This disease unfortunately begins early and ends, tragically, many years later.

This has been a very hard time for me, and especially hard for my son, Joseph. But, please know that we have been given strength by your prayers, cards, visits, and phone calls. Our ISV community has always been considered an extension of our family. We appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,

Patricia, Michael, and Joseph Crapet