

# The Village Voice



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INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE, ALABAMA

WINTER 2026 ISSUE

## A Message from the Mayor

November 2025 marked both the close of an era and the beginning of a new chapter for the Town of Indian Springs. We bid farewell to longtime Mayor Brenda Bell-Guercio and Council member Van McClurken, and we proudly welcomed two new council members, Emily Casey and Nick Hill. We look forward to a bright and promising future for our town.

Our annual Founders Day Celebration was, as always, a tremendous success. Former Mayor Brenda Bell-Guercio was recognized and honored for her many years of dedicated service. Her leadership and accomplishments throughout her time in office have left a lasting impact on Indian Springs and set a high standard for those who follow.

The holiday season brought festive cheer to Town Hall with a beautiful new addition to our Holiday Lights display—a 14-foot lighted tree enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. Our volunteers once again did an outstanding job making Christmas on the Mountain a memorable event. The addition of fireworks was especially well received, and attendance was strong despite the weather. Perhaps we'll ask Santa for better conditions next year! The town sincerely appreciates the time, effort, and dedication that go into making this event so special.

Speaking of volunteers, we are always happy to welcome new helping hands for town events. If you are interested in volunteering, please email Kim Akridge, Assistant Town Clerk at [asstclerk@indianspringsvillage.org](mailto:asstclerk@indianspringsvillage.org). She will compile a list with your contact information and the type of assistance you are willing to provide.

We hope you have had a chance to visit our new website, [indianspringsvillage.org](http://indianspringsvillage.org). The site is a valuable resource for staying informed about town news, events, and updates. Please note that rentals of the Founders Building and Pavilion (Multi-Purpose Building) must now be done online. We no longer accept checks or reservations by email, phone, etc. Please remember that you must be a resident of Indian Springs Village to rent. Be sure to visit the website often to stay connected.

Finally, please note that the town office has a new phone number, 205-438-6219. For now, you may still reach us at 205-982-1755, but we will be transitioning exclusively to the new number in the future. I look forward to a bright future as we move into the next phase for our town. Council meetings are held the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm, we encourage you to attend and participate!

Your Mayor,

**Richard Harley**

## Town Council Meetings

**Meetings are on Tuesdays  
beginning at 7:00pm every 1st  
and 3rd Tuesday of the month  
at Town Hall.**

# Swearing In of Our New Mayor, Richard Harley and Council Members, Nick Hill and Emily Casey



## Newsletter Submissions

If you have an announcement, obituary, or Indian Springs Village related column you would like to appear in The Village Voice, please email your submission to [townclerk@indianspringsvillage.org](mailto:townclerk@indianspringsvillage.org). All materials submitted for publication may be edited.

# Founders Day 2025

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Our Annual Founders Day celebration was a huge success in November 2025! It was wonderful to see everyone come out and celebrate Indian Springs Village. The evening was filled with joy and camaraderie as neighbors connected and shared stories. Guests enjoyed a mouthwatering steak dinner, expertly cooked on the grill by Texas Roadhouse, all under the stars at our beautiful town Pavilion.

The atmosphere was warm and festive, a true reflection of the strong community spirit that defines Indian Springs Village. We celebrated Brenda Bell Guercio as she prepared to retire and thanked her for her years of service and dedication as the mayor of Indian Springs Village. Special thanks to everyone who attended and to those who helped make this event possible. Your participation and support made this celebration of 35 years as a town truly memorable.

Here's to continuing this cherished tradition for many years to come!



## 2026 Annual Easter Egg Hunt - Save the Date!

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Indian Springs Village is thrilled to host our Annual Easter Egg Hunt on March 28, 2026, from 11:00 am until 2:00 pm. This fun and festive community event is a wonderful way to welcome spring and create lasting memories with family, friends, and neighbors. Bring the kids, enjoy the fresh air, and take part in an afternoon filled with laughter, excitement, and plenty of Easter cheer. We look forward to celebrating together and making this a day to remember!



## Town Hall has a New Phone Number

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# 205.438.6219

# Oak Mountain Elementary School



Oak Mountain Elementary School has experienced an exceptional season marked by academic achievement, student leadership, meaningful enrichment activities, and a strong commitment to community service.

Oak Mountain Elementary achieved a remarkable 99 on the Alabama State Report Card, a testament to the dedication of its students, teachers, staff, and families. Adding to this success, gifted resource teacher Mrs. Austin was honored as Shelby County Teacher of the Year, recognizing her outstanding commitment to student growth and excellence in education.

This year, Oak Mountain Elementary introduced the Bus Rider of the Month program, designed to recognize students who consistently demonstrate leadership, responsibility, and respectful behavior while riding the bus. The program reinforces positive expectations beyond the classroom and celebrates students who set an example for their peers.

The school also welcomed a brand-new mascot companion, *Blueberry the Bluebird*, whose name was proudly chosen through a school-wide student vote. Blueberry now travels throughout the school, visiting classrooms when students are "caught" showing their Bluebird Best by modeling kindness, responsibility, and respect. The excitement surrounding Blueberry has helped strengthen school culture and encouraged positive behavior in a fun and meaningful way.

Students across all grade levels participated in engaging, hands-on learning experiences. Kindergarten students explored global cultures through *Christmas Around the World*, learning about different countries, traditions, and holiday celebrations. First grade students participated in a dynamic Science Day, dressing in lab coats and engaging in hands-on experiments that encouraged curiosity, exploration, and scientific thinking.

Second grade students transformed their hallway into a Living History Museum, portraying famous Americans and sharing researched information about their historical figures with classmates and family members. This interactive experience allowed students to deepen their understanding of history while strengthening communication and presentation skills.

The Oak Mountain Elementary community also demonstrated a strong spirit of service through a school-wide canned food drive benefiting Oak Mountain Missions. Together, students and families collected an impressive 1,002 cans, supporting local families in need.

School-wide events brought the community together in joyful celebration, including a festive Christmas sing-along that filled the building with holiday cheer. Additionally, Oak Mountain Elementary proudly cheered on its Special Olympics bowling team, whose members competed with determination and teamwork—and returned home with medals, making the entire school proud.

Oak Mountain Elementary continues to soar by fostering academic excellence, encouraging leadership, and nurturing a caring, connected school community.



Oak Mountain Intermediate School is proud to reflect on an outstanding fall semester marked by academic achievement, meaningful experiences, and strong community partnerships. This year, OMIS continues to raise the bar academically, with our teachers' dedicated and intentional work contributing to an impressive 98 on the Alabama State Report Card. This achievement reflects the consistency, collaboration, and commitment of our faculty to ensuring high levels of learning for every student.

Our annual Boosterthon fundraiser was a tremendous success, and we are grateful for the incredible support of our families. Funds raised through Boosterthon allow us to continue enhancing learning opportunities in our STEM lab, directly impacting student innovation and problem-solving.

Students also participated in an in-school field trip with Sloss Furnaces, where they learned about industrialization and iron manufacturing. In early November, Oak Mountain Intermediate partnered with Oak Mountain Middle School to host the 2nd Annual Eagle Classic Golf Tournament, which was a huge success. We extend a heartfelt thank you to our community for its ongoing support of Oak Mountain schools and the shared commitment to our students.

We were honored to welcome more than 75 veterans to our annual Veterans' Day program. Our students also enjoyed memorable learning adventures this fall. Fifth-grade students attended Camp McDowell, spending three days and two nights immersed in outdoor learning and team-building experiences. Fourth grade participated in the annual Water Festival at the University of Montevallo, expanding their understanding of conservation and environmental stewardship.

This semester also marked the kickoff of our celebration of the semiquincentennial, which we look forward to honoring throughout the spring with learning experiences that connect students to history and civic pride.

We are proud to celebrate excellence among our staff as well. Mrs. Tanner, Oak Mountain Intermediate's Teacher of the Year, was named one of four finalists for Shelby County Schools Teacher of the Year, a well-deserved recognition of her outstanding impact on students and colleagues.

Looking ahead to January, we are thrilled that our choir, OMIS Melodies, was invited to perform at the Alabama Music Educators Association Conference at the BJCC. This honor reflects the talent and hard work of our students and Mrs. Gray as she works to build a strong music program.

Of course, no fall semester would be complete without continued visits from Gourd, a beloved and familiar presence in our classrooms who brings joy and excitement to our students.

Finally, we extend sincere appreciation to Indian Springs for its ongoing support and care for Oak Mountain Intermediate School. Thanks to this partnership, new bleachers have been installed at the baseball fields, enhancing this shared community space for students and families alike.

Oak Mountain Intermediate School is proud of all that has been accomplished this fall and looks forward to continuing this momentum into the spring semester.



As 2026 gets underway, Oak Mountain High School is buzzing with activity, showcasing the talent, dedication, and school spirit of both students and staff.

The Theatre Department recently delighted audiences with a weekend of captivating performances of *The Lion*, *The Witch*, and *the Wardrobe*, demonstrating the incredible creativity and hard work of the cast and crew.

Meanwhile, the school's music programs are gearing up for an exciting spring. The band department is preparing for the upcoming concert season, while Show Choir is fully immersed in rehearsal mode for competition season. Singers are presenting a lively show featuring Motown hits, and the Muses are captivating audiences with their unique performance themed Gods and Goddesses.

Athletics are also in full swing. The basketball season is nearing its conclusion, with both the boys' and girls' teams fiercely competing in area play. Indoor track athletes have had impressive showings at recent meets, and the wrestling team is enjoying a standout season as they approach the Quarterfinals for the Duals State Championship.

Looking ahead, spring sports will soon be underway, bringing a variety of competitions and opportunities for student-athletes to shine. Academically, Oak Mountain's juniors are focused on success, enrolling in a special preparation course to give their best performance on the March ACT.

With a packed calendar of performances, competitions, and academic challenges, the spring promises to be an exciting and busy time at Oak Mountain High School. Every day, students and staff are working hard to make 2026 a year full of achievement, creativity, and school pride.



**CITY OF HOOVER**  
SATURDAY, APRIL 11TH, 2026

# HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**HOOVER PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING**  
2020 VALLEYDALE ROAD - HOOVER, AL

**ACCEPTED ITEMS INCLUDE:**

OLD PAINT	AMMUNITION	AUTO FLUIDS
PESTICIDES	FIRE ARMS	BATTERIES
FERTILIZERS	MEDICATIONS	ELECTRONICS
ELECTRONICS	COOKING OIL	LIGHT BULBS

**HOOVER & INDIAN SPRINGS RESIDENTS ONLY**

**NO SHREDDING IS OFFERED AT THIS EVENT.  
NO BUSINESSES ALLOWED.**

# Remembering James Edgar Wyatt

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November 3, 1927 – December 16, 2025

Marine Sgt. James Edgar Wyatt, 98, passed away on Tuesday, December 16, 2025. A proud United States Marine and Korean War veteran, James served with the 1st Marine Division and survived the brutal Battle of the Chosin Reservoir. Through courage, perseverance, and faith, he endured one of history's most harrowing battles. James believed heroes are not only those who survive, but those who try—and he honored all who fought beside him as heroes.

James was born in Birmingham, Alabama, to Mary Hinson Wyatt and Edgar P. Wyatt, and grew up alongside his sisters, Joy and Jackie. He attended West End High School, where he first noticed the young woman who would become his wife, Mildred Powell, during a community event at Harrison Park. The two married on July 31, 1950, shortly before James was called into action during the Korean War, and together raised their daughter, Julie.



James devoted 32 years to South Central Bell Telephone Company, beginning as a pole climber and retiring in 1985 as a state jobs inspector. He was a proud member of the Kelly Ingram VFW Post 668, the Krulak Marine Alliance of Alabama, and attended Riverchase United Methodist Church.

A dedicated community servant, James helped establish the North Shelby Fire District in 1978 and later played a vital role in the founding of Indian Springs Village in 1990. He served as the town's first Assistant Town Clerk and was a cherished member of the volunteer "Pothole Crew," helping maintain roads and build community spaces during the town's early years.

James spent his final two years at the Col. Robert L. Howard Veterans Home in Pell City. His family extends deep gratitude to the nurses and aides of Victory Way Hall for their compassionate care.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Mildred. He is survived by his daughter Julie, her husband Russell Schenk, and his treasured cat, Purrvis.

A visitation was held Monday, December 22, from 10:00 to 10:30 a.m. at Southern Heritage Funeral Home, followed by a chapel service at 10:30 a.m. A committal with military honors will follow at Elmwood Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Col. Robert L. Howard Veterans Home or Missing Link Animal Rescue.

# North Shelby Library

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The Friends of North Shelby Library organization has had a succession of good news that brought on bad news (that members are actually glad to see) that is leading the group to launch an effort that will result in more books for young readers.

The first good news is that the Friends Big Book Sale last November resulted in record sales. The bad news, which really isn't bad news, is that the inventory of books available for sale was suddenly exceedingly low.

The sale of those donated, gently-used books generates the great majority of funding that Friends use to support library initiatives, purchase equipment and fund programs. For example, at the Friends Board meeting January 11 the organization voted to provide more than \$6,000 for Summer Reading support and related materials. Thus, the Friends are actively seeking donations of books to replenish supplies. That appeal for donations has been periodically ongoing for years.

The big news this year for Friends is the incredible popularity of children's books. A decision was made to increase the number of children's books available, and to give those books a more prominent display in the standing book-sale area. That area between the library front door and the large downstairs meeting room features a nook with stocked bookcases, plus display tables lining both sides of the corridor. While there are ongoing displays of popular titles in the nook, the tables typically feature different themes each month—cookbooks in the fall, festively-wrapped gift boxes during the holiday season, puzzles in January, to name a few. Sometimes children's books were a focus and sometimes not.

But after the success of children's book sales during the past few years, and interest building in 2025—with great interest at the Big Book Sale—the decision was made to seek more children's books so that a greater emphasis can be placed on making them available at great savings to library patrons.

The Friends are launching a campaign soliciting children's books, and as they arrive they will be given prominent display in the sales area. Needed are baby books, board books, chapter books and easy readers. Also being sought are books of interest for middle schoolers and teens. Those wishing to make donations can bring them to the library Circulation Desk during operating hours.



## Christmas on the Mountain

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