



Vol. 9, No. 12

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

March 14, 2000

INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

*Tuesday, March 21, 7:00 p.m.
Indian Springs Village Town Hall*

Agenda

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

*Indian Springs Village Telephone Directory
Number is 982-1755*

*Indian Springs Village Website:
www.mantissa.com/isv/isv.html*

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 Phelan Webb, 213 Cahaba Oaks Trail, Indian Springs, AL 35124 (987-8665); Reporter for Homestead neighborhood is Bonnie Murphy, 5164 Hollow Log Lane, Birmingham 35244 (991-2535). In charge of special projects is Bee Little, 867 Valley View Road, Indian Springs, AL 35124 (985-9988).

The Village Voice is published the second Tuesday of each month. Articles for publication in the April 2000 edition should be submitted by Tuesday noon, April 4. The editor reserves the right to edit all materials submitted for publication, including signed letters to the editor, which will be published if space permits. All opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors of articles; any opinions expressed should not be attributed to the mayor or the council.

Editor's Appreciation to:

ISV aluminum can recyclers for their support
Indian Springs Village couriers for hand delivery
Mildred Wyatt for the masthead drawing
Tricia Crapet, RealtySouth, for production

A Message from the Mayor

By Gene Weingarten, Mayor

The following letter was received from Charter Communications regarding a rate increase in cable service for this area. We have contacted this company and requested that they send a representative to a town council meeting to explain, for example, why the price increase affects previous Marcus Cable subscribers but not those served by Shelby Cable and to answer any other questions our citizens may have. We plan to pursue the question as to what our town must do to obtain the discount for our senior citizens that other cities in the county have.

Dear Mayor Weingarten:

We sincerely appreciate the opportunity to provide you with cable service in your community. This is an exciting time in the cable television industry with the acceleration of the introduction of new technologies to our customers. Charter Communications is committed to providing our customers with outstanding customer service and the latest in technological advances. We appreciate your assistance as we work together to grow our customer base. This growth allows us to improve our services and provide increased revenue for you through the collection of franchise fees.

In order to make accurate projections to cover our costs associated with programming and license fee increases, operational costs, and costs associated with pole attachment fees, we are consistently monitoring and evaluating all of the costs of providing cable television service. Price adjustments will be made, effective March 1, 2000, to provide for our increased costs associated with operating our system. The rate adjustment, effective March 1, 2000, for your community includes the following:

Basic Cable Service - No increase in the basic level of service.

Expanded Cable Service - Price increase of \$2.05 in the area of Indian Springs Village previously served by Marcus Cable.

NOTE: We will not be raising the rate in the portion of Indian Springs Village previously served by Shelby Cablevision. We will make adjustments to this area--as each portion of our upgrade is completed. We will keep you informed as to our progress. The rebuild construction is underway and we hope to have all areas completed by June of 2000.

In response to an increasing demand for additional services, we will be conducting surveys and focus groups to determine what additional channel selections will best fit our customer base. The competition for channel space is strong as new channel offerings enhance the quality of their programming to compete with established cable channels. (continued on page 2)

Mayor's Message (continued)

The Charter Communications investment in the Birmingham District will include over \$69 million dollars in upgraded cable plant in the year 2000. As you have been so patient with us in the past, we sincerely appreciate your willingness to work with us in the future, as we introduce state-of-the-art technology to your community. We are now the fourth largest cable operator in the nation, and the commitment to providing the very best in customer service is ever present.

With warmest regards,
Lynne Miller Coker
Director of Government Relations
Gulf Coast Region

A Letter to the Village

Dear Villagers,

I am pleased to say we had a wonderful first meeting of the Garden Club/Welcoming Committee! Most all of the officers were selected: Phelan Webb, president; Jean Jenkins, vice-president; Ruth Goodwyn, secretary; Marge Dunn, treasurer; Renee Cox in charge of social affairs. Terry Stiles Harrison will be chairperson of the Welcoming Committee. We still need some help on the Welcoming Committee.

Our next meeting was Thursday, March 9th, 7:00 p.m. at the town hall. We have designated every 4th Thursday, 7:00 p.m. as our meeting time and the town hall as our meeting place. March 23rd, 7:00 p.m. will be the following meeting.

We have a lot of exciting things planned, our first being a yard sale on Saturday, April 8. We are asking that all Indian Springs residents please donate to our Garden Club yard sale to help get us started. The proceeds will go for both the Garden Club and the Welcoming Committee.

We are asking anyone interested in advertising their business to please contact me for more informing regarding the Welcoming Committee packets.

There has been quite a lot of interest in the Indian Springs Garden Club/Welcoming Committee. It is exciting to meet and get to know the people of our town. What a great group of ladies we had at our meetings! Since that first meeting we have had several others who are interested and will be at the next meeting. We are already growing by leaps and bounds. We plan to have a lot of fun; so may are interested in being a part of this. Please call me (987-8665) or be at the next meeting!

Sincerely,
Phelan Webb (President)

YARD SALE

Town Hall Pavilion

Call Phelan Webb, 987-8665, or cell phone, 585-1678, as you clean house and find articles--clothing (with hangers), furniture, plants, whatever--to donate to the Garden Club/Welcoming Committee for the yard sale. Setup day is Friday, April 7; Sale is Saturday, April 8.

Get Your Address Straight

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

Bart Trammell, who has worked on the project to get Villagers to change their telephone book listings for over two years (and with some success), sent the following plea:

"Hey Villagers! Let your fingers do the walking in the white pages. Have you ever checked your own name in the phone book? Not many people check their own listing. Take the time to look up your name in the white pages and see if you are listed as living in Indian Springs, Pelham, Birmingham, or Helena. Your listed address is not the same as your billing or legal address. If your listed address is something other than Indian Springs, dial 557-6500 and stay on line and speak to a customer representative. Tell the customer representative to 'Change my listed address to Indian Springs.'"

There should be no charge for this change of address. If you have any questions concerning your call to BellSouth, or if you want additional information, call Bart at 988-0094.

ISV Website

Please note the new address given in the box on the front page for the ISV website: www.mantissa.com/isv/isv.html. (period for end of sentence)

Councilman Gary Dennis, website creator, said that he hopes they ("they" includes some members of Mantissa, of which Gary is founder & CEO) now have the troubles solved with the website, which is kept apart from the company's website

Census 2000 Forms

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

Letters have notified citizens that the U.S. Census 2000 forms will be received April 1. The Census Bureau is aiming for a correct count and having each person counted at the right place. The population count is crucial in determining how the 425 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives are reapportioned and how federal and state funds are distributed.

Whether your census form is addressed to you at Indian Springs, Pelham, or Birmingham, a barcode on the form will tell the Bureau's computer center in Indiana exactly where you live, based on maps provided by governmental bodies.

By law the information provided is kept confidential for 72 years and cannot be made available to any government agency, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Internal Revenue Service, courts, and the military. The penalty for breaking the law is up to five years in prison and \$5,000 in fines. The Census Bureau claims that millions of questionnaires were processed during the 1990's without any breach of trust.

"Even the President himself cannot access the information," according to a spokesperson from the Bureau's Bessemer office.

Library "Friends" Board Meets

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

New officers for the Friends of the North Shelby Library Board were elected at the annual meeting February 29. Donna Spencer will serve as president; Art Johnson, treasurer; Jackie Johnson, secretary; Pam Holton, chairperson of the forthcoming book sale, and Ruth Goodwyn, publicity.

The Board voted to renew a five-year pledge made in 1997 of a \$50,000 donation to the library, of which \$40,000 has been paid. A drive to enroll new members of the Friends of the Library will be launched in June.

The planned book sale will be held the last Saturday in April, April 29.

Tax Seminars Being Held

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) "Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TAX-AIDE)" program is still being conducted at the North Shelby Library on Mondays and Tuesdays from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. and will continue through April 11. Volunteers help prepare income tax returns for those needing assistance. The program is free of charge and you do not have to be an AARP member to attend. You may call the library, 439-5555, for an appointment. You will need to take your 1998 tax returns and 1999 tax information for volunteers to help you.

Forms for filing your personal income tax are available at the North Shelby Library.

For Shelby County Pioneers

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

A certificate program offered by the Shelby County Historical Society is designed to identify and honor the memory of early Shelby County residents--those who resided within the county by 1830. The certificates are available to current SCHS members.

Dr. Tom Caldwell, recording secretary, has said that a Shelby County Pioneer application for each early settler must be accompanied by documentation of proof of direct descent for each generation of each early settler and a \$22 certificate fee.

For each qualifying ancestor the applicant will receive a beautifully designed 8 1/2" x 11" certificate. In addition, the applications and accompanying documentation sent in will be filed at the Shelby County Archives and Museum to help preserve the history of these ancestors. These records will be made available for public research.

You may send your request for a certificate application with an enclosed stamped, self-addressed envelope to Shelby County Pioneer Certificate, Shelby County Historical Society, Inc., 1854 Old Courthouse, P.O. Box 457, Columbiana, AL 35051-0457.

The next meeting of the historical society will be April 30 at the Shelby Springs Confederate Cemetery on Highway 42, about half-way between Calera and Columbiana, at 2:30 p.m. It will be in conjunction with the Confederate Memorial Service. The public is invited.

Village Recycling - March 22

By Art Johnson, Town Council Place #4

Aluminum recycling is Wednesday evening, March 22. Please put your recycling out before 7:00 p.m. Please use white, blue, or clear plastic bags with the top of each tied with a knot; place your bags on the other side of your driveway from your trash. Watch for ISV recycling reminders along Highway 119, Indian Crest Drive, and the entrances to Homestead.

In February the recycling volunteers were Art Johnson, Trudy and Paul Skokel, Mary and Russ Favorite, Nancy Johnson and Pat Potter, and Margie and Herb Robins.

If your family is not currently recycling, please join the growing number of recyclers. Recycling aluminum is easy--just rinse cans and store until the next monthly pickup. It takes 95 percent less energy to make new aluminum from used cans; 20 new cans made from recycled cans are manufactured with the same energy needed to produce one can using raw mined ore.

The ISV recycling program is an all-volunteer community project, and we express our sincere thanks for the support we have received during the past years. People in Indian Springs have pride in their town and strive to work for the common good. As an alternative to taxes, we ask people to donate their services. We have volunteer gardeners, lawyers, an editor and reporters, news carriers, a Pothole Crew, a recycling crew, folks that help organize the annual Easter Egg hunt, Fourth of July picnic, and Founders' Day. For more information on recycling, or if you feel you should be giving something back to the community and would like to help, please call 988-3217.

Building Permits Approved

By Marty Martin, Town Engineer

The following applicants' building permit requests in February were approved:

Farmer, Valley View Lane, new home
Haley, 435 McGuire Road, gas line/grill
Vann, 5127 Split Rail Trail, pool
Alltel, 5560 Valleydale Road, antenna co-location.

Wildlife Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to care for orphaned or injured wildlife at the Alabama Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Oak Mountain State Park. Training sessions for small animal care will be taught by Anne Miller, Director, March 25 and April 15, from 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Call 663-7930 for more information.

Rita Cochran (733-0910) and Sherri McWilliams (988-3257) have asked for volunteers to help care for small animals in their homes and yards.

Town Council Highlights

February 15, 2000

By Patricia Crapet, Town Council Place #2

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met on Tuesday, February 15, 2000, at 7:00 p.m. at the ISV Town Hall. Mayor Gene Weingarten presided, with council members Herb Robins, Patricia Crapet, Art Johnson, and Stewart Dudley present. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.

Town Clerk Paul Stephens announced revenues for the month were: beer taxes, \$816; aluminum can recycling, \$162; Penn Mutual Insurance, \$1,185; and road funds, \$832. Yearly utility franchise fees were received from the following: Marcus Cable, \$2,490; Alabama Gas, \$12,160; and Alabama Power Company, \$58,912. The balance in the general fund was \$186,953 after the final mortgage payment on the town hall of \$15,000. The road fund balance was \$92,380.

The council voted unanimously to approve the ISV Zoning and Planning Commission's recommendation for an application by Tritel, Inc. for a cell tower to be added to an already existing tower on Highway 119. No additional tower will be erected.

The council also voted unanimously to purchase an additional weather alert system for the town to be erected possibly on town hall property. Some Villagers are still unable to hear the existing sirens if inside their homes. It is the council's hope that this tower will reach those who are in that group.

The council voted unanimously to give Key Irrigation the sprinkler system bid on the town hall. Other bids were received, all of which were approximately the same amount. Jim Loper will oversee the installation of the system and replant new shrubs at the town hall.

Councilman Stewart Dudley is investigating methods that the town can invest a large amount of our general fund. Operating costs for the town are such that the balance in the general fund is too high to keep in its current account. A large percentage of the money can be put to better use in a higher interest-bearing account to earn money for the town.

Easter Bunny Needs Help

By Patricia Crapet, Town Council Place #2

Here it is again! The Seventh Annual ISV Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 22. We are in desperate need of volunteers to stuff the eggs with candy and toy prizes. There are over 2,000 eggs to be hand stuffed. This effort takes several days and as many volunteers as we can dig up. Please call Bee Little (985-9988) or Tricia Crapet (802-2753) to sign up. Egg stuffing dates will be: 10:00 a.m. on Wednesdays, April 5th, 12th, and 19th, and Thursdays, April 6th, 13th, and 20th. If you cannot come to the town hall and wish to be of assistance, you can stuff eggs at your own home. Please call Bee and she will be glad to get the eggs and stuffing to you! This worked very well last year for some of our working Villagers who had time at night to devote to the cause.

We also are in need of about 20 helpers the day of the big hunt to hand out the prizes to the children. If you have never done this, it is a real thrill to see the faces of these children when they get their prizes! We hope all of you who can will make the effort to volunteer at least an hour to help with this happy event. Call now to sign up!

Around the Village

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

Oak Mountain High Honors Continue

Oak Mountain High School won both the Shelby County JV and Varsity Scholars' Bowl competitions. Congratulations to Ms. Sarah Self and Ms. Lisa Tucker, sponsors, and these Scholars' Bowl team members: Farhan Abdullah, Mike Burns, Jay Garrett, Jeremy Jaskins, James Gilbreath, Matt Gregory, Bailey Hindman, Matt Hirsh, Mark Lee, Andy Lightcap, and Mandy Riggs.

The OMHS Concert Band made all superior ratings at the district competition held at Midfield High School. The band and Director Jim Duren also received a standing ovation from the audience. Concert Band members from Indian Springs are Jay Garrett, Jonathan Dow, Jeremy Gaskins, Kim and Jenny Johnson, Andrew Foreman, and Morgan Barnes.

Intermediate School Hosts Authors

Authors at the Young Authors Conference on March 4 at the University of Montevallo were available at Oak Mountain Intermediate School for one-on-one conversations with students the previous day. The authors present included Faye Gibbons, Charles Ghinga, Pamela Jane, Clarke Stallworth, and Mike Artell. All K-5 students and their parents in Shelby County schools were invited to meet the authors and purchase books to be autographed from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. that Friday.

Newcomers to the Village

Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Hartley are the owners of the new home they built at 236 Arrowhead Lane.

Mr. Tom Carter has moved into the house at 932 Spring Garden Street and Cahaba Valley Road. Also residing at that address are his 18-year-old son and three horses.

Jon and Sandra Strength and daughter **Amanda** have moved into their new home on Jasmine Hill Road.

Bundle of Joy

Congratulations to Alex and Debra Costas of McGuire Road on the birth of their son, Nicholas Elton. Nicholas was born on February 15th at Shelby Baptist Hospital. Although six weeks premature and weighing only four pounds, he is healthy and happy at home with his brother Charles, 5 1/2, helping out.

Seminar on Genealogical Research

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

Leslie Smith Collier, an avid student of genealogy, will hold a seminar on genealogical research at Samford University's Brooks Hall on Saturday, May 6, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Registration deadline is April 28. To receive a registration form, write the Alabama Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 26331, Birmingham, AL 35260-0331, or call the Administrative Office, Library, Samford University, 726-2846.