

The Village Voice



Vol. 10, No.8

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

November 14, 2000

INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, November 21, 2000 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

For Town Hall Reservations please call
Patricia Crapet Voice Mail 802-2753

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 and news items to: Dr. Ruth Goodwyn, Editor, 151 Choctaw Lane, Indian Springs, AL 35124 (988-0896), ore-mail: brgoodwyn@aol.com. Questions about circulation should be addressed to Phelan Webb, 213 Cahaba Oaks Trail, Indian Springs, AL 35124 (987-8665). Reporter for the Homestead neighborhood is Bonnie Murphy, 5164 Hollow Log Lane, Birmingham 35244 (991-2535) e-mail: BamO1126@aol.com.

The Village Voice is published the second Tuesday of each month. Articles for publication in the December 2000 edition should be submitted by Tuesday noon, Dec. 5. 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, Johnson - Rast & Hays for production

A REPORT ON MAYOR WEINGARTEN

By First Lady Olivia Weingarten

A trip to the coast for fishing turned out to be very exciting for the mayor. Chest pains prompted a call to 911 in Orange Beach. The paramedics took the mayor via the new toll road to Foley. After several hours he was transferred to Springhill Memorial Hospital in Mobile. On Monday morning a stint was surgically implanted to remove blockage. He stayed in the hospital until the following Wednesday and then was taken back to Orange Beach. We returned to ISV on November 1 with a low fat, low salt, and low cholesterol diet and instructions to do lots of walking. To be chauffeured around and get much-needed rest was a good prescription. Your visits, prayers, and kind words of encouragement have been greatly appreciated.

Commission Comments

By Lindsey Allison

Editor's note: Lindsey Allison will serve as the Shelby County Commission's chairwoman in the coming year. Unanimously elected, she is the first female to serve in that capacity, as she was the first female to become a Shelby County Commissioner. She will begin serving her third term for District 7 (ISV north of 119).

With the adoption of the 2000-01 annual budget of approximately \$61 million by the Shelby County Commission, the commission can now focus on programs throughout the county. One that is of particular interest to Indian Springs is road improvements and traffic control on Highway 119. As many of you know, due to Indian Springs officials' desire at the time of formation of plans, Highway 119 from I-65 through Highway 14 is not scheduled to be four- or five-laned. However, from Broken Bow South to Lake Purdy, the state has included in their five-year plan the five-laning of that section. A five-year plan historically means 10 to 15 years to complete.

After a meeting of Commissioners with the Regional Director of the State Department of Transportation in the winter of 1999, it was very apparent that the state did not plan to upgrade or improve the section in Indian Springs. We've all experienced the horrible traffic and the near-death experience of turning on or off Highway 119.

The county engineer petitioned the state to allow the county at least to conduct engineering studies to determine if turn lanes, traffic lights, or center lanes are warranted. The preliminary engineering is complete. Eleven intersections have been identified for turn lanes, including Arrowhead, Indian Trail, Valley View, and others easterly to Broken Bow South. Of particular concern is the intersection of Double Oak Lane, which includes two schools and two churches. Negotiations are ongoing with the schools to assist in this project. Once there is an agreement, this will be the first intersection for improvement. (Continued on page 5)

Library Finances Reviewed

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

Ann Tharpe, president of the North Shelby Library's Board of Trustees and a former volunteer storyteller, related the story of "The Three Little Pigs" at the board's 12th annual meeting.

The "house built of straw" was the original bookmobile serving the area from the regional library at Columbiana. The "house built of twigs" was the 5,000 sq. ft. building on Meadowlark Drive. "Now the wolf is at the door," she said, since the opening in September 1999 of the "house built of bricks," a \$3 million library on Cahaba Valley Road. A deficit was created by debts from the building's construction.

While the financial picture is currently bleak, a balanced budget is projected for next year, cutbacks in hours and services have been made, donations have been sought, and a fund-raising campaign will be launched.

Only recently the North Shelby Library was selected as one of the 12 most outstanding new or newly-renovated libraries in the Southeast. It was the library chosen to represent Alabama at the Southeastern Library Association's annual conference.

Although noting that property values in the area have risen because of the beautiful structure, a question sometimes asked is, "Why did they build such a Taj Mahal when only about half of the funds had been raised?"

The answer goes back to need, growth, and projected growth.

The North Shelby Library evolved from weekly bookmobile services from Harrison Regional Library, Columbiana, headquarters for the county's libraries, now 10 in number. The bookmobile site was behind Lloyd's Restaurant on Highway 280 S, then sparsely settled. Eagerly awaited by patrons, the bookmobile housing 2,500 books returned empty each time to headquarters, thus convincing those associated with Harrison Regional that a library was needed in the fast-growing area.

Since there was no incorporated municipality to build and fund a library, a library district was created, the only one of its kind in the State of Alabama.

Registered voters in the area to be served established the North Shelby Library district on June 28, 1988. The annual fee assessment was set at \$15 per family owning homesteaded property and 1.75 assessed value for businesses. Two acres of land on Meadowlark Drive had been donated for the first library, which was too small even when it opened.

When the first library was "bursting at the seams," discussions got underway to build a new one. At the request of the library, Shelby County commissioned a study to predict future traffic patterns and population growth. It was determined that a larger facility than is currently needed would allow space for future expansion and would cost less in the long run.

In a capital funds campaign the library raised \$1.5 million to build the new building, originally projected to cost \$2.4 million. Final construction cost was more like \$2.9 million.

Fund-raising totals came up short because all of a sudden "the sources dried up." By the time construction was underway, projects were formulated for Heardmont Farms; two local schools were asking for donations. Also, many of the long-range pledges made during the capital funds campaign had been paid.

When the library district was established, provision was made for a five-person Board of Trustees. Introduced at the annual meeting, presided over by the trustees president, were Hub Harrington, attorney and first mayor of Indian Springs Village; Rachel Polhill, a new member, a retired professional librarian from a portion of Inverness now in Hoover; Alain Gallet, engineer, from Brook Highlands. Not present was member Pat Jehle, Inverness, who was abroad at the time. Ann Tharpe, president, is a former teacher trained in library science and a steadfast library volunteer for many years. She will serve until 2002. The trustees serve staggered terms.

Also introduced was the new director as of Aug. 1, Michael Jones, a graduate of the University of Alabama School of Library and Information Services and former library director of a system in Mississippi.

This report was given of the library's financial condition for the budget year Oct. 1999-Sept. 2000:

Income:

Fee assessments	\$476,746
State aid	30,024
Donations	105,161
Miscellaneous	88,132
Total:	\$700,063

State aid is from the Alabama Public Library Service, the state agency; miscellaneous income is library-generated income from fines, copier fees, rental of meeting room, etc.

Expenses:

Salaries & benefits	\$ 378,854
Materials--books, videos, etc.	53,976
Travel & staff development	2,500
Programs, printing; Public relations	31,089
Equipment rental & expenses	23,082
Operating Expenses	210,562
Construction & re-locating	603,647
Total:	\$1,303,710

Programs include summer reading, publicity and materials; equipment rental includes leasing copiers and computers; operating expenses include upgrading software, Internet line, annual fee to Harrison Regional Library for automation system; operation and maintenance of building.

For the next fiscal year the library projects a balanced budget of \$733,000 in income and spending.

Income:

Fee assessments	\$540,000
Late fees	7,000
State aid	30,000
Donations	100,000
Miscellaneous	56,000
Total:	\$733,000

(Continued on page 5)

Town Council Highlights

October 17, 2000

By Patricia Crapet, Town Council Place # 2

The town council meeting on October 17 was held at the pavilion behind the town hall. As with all previous October meetings, there was celebration of once again another Founders' Day. Ten years had passed since that fateful evening of October 16, 1990, when residents declared their desire to become the newest incorporated municipality in the state of Alabama. Time has certainly flown by and much has changed, but a many things have remained the same. Indian Springs Village is still relatively the same unspoiled bedroom community that naysayers vowed would be impossible to govern without immediate tax increases. Ten years and no added taxes. For a town whose beginning treasury balance was minus \$10,000, ISV now has approximately \$300,000 in its coffers. Who would have thought it? Only in Indian Springs Village!

The evening began at 6:00 p.m. with the serving of hamburgers, hot dogs, trimmings, and home-made desserts brought by Villagers. The annual event's tenth year was well attended, with all tables full of citizens enjoying a delicious meal served at no charge. The pothole crew members Paul Stephens, Jim Boyett, and Bart Trammel, assisted by councilmember Herb Robins and wife, Margie, cooked and served the meal. Nora Boyett, Betty Michels, and Lola Stephens dished out the wonderful desserts. Where else can a governmental meeting be such fun? Only in Indian Springs Village!

At 7:00 p.m. Mayor Gene Weingarten called the meeting to order. Though there was no official business, other than the usual financial report given by Town Clerk Paul Stephens, the night was far from over. First item of business was Randa Graves plea for any information that could be helpful in the return of a lost dog. At press time, it was unknown as to whether the missing dog had been found. Where else can a resident have such privileges? Only in Indian Springs Village!

Town Clerk Paul Stephens thanked Villagers for helping a third time an indigent family which their daughter, Terry, has befriended. A washer & dryer were requested; they were donated and installed the weekend following the delivery of *The Village Voice*. The Stephens also received a \$100 check for requested clothes, as well

as some other donations. Where else do people so eagerly come to the aid of those in need whom they do not know? Only in Indian Springs Village!

Phelan Webb, President of the Indian Springs Village Garden Club, assisted by club member Margie Dunn, asked for volunteer children to draw from the four jars of tickets for door prizes raffled off to raise funds for projects around the town hall grounds. Volunteers were Phelan's son, Marcus, John Ball, Jack Little and brother, Davis Little. Amazingly, but true, names drawn by the Little brothers was that of their Dad, Harry Little! Where else could this possibly happen? Only in Indian Springs Village!

Pothole crew member Bart Trammel took the podium next for a special presentation. Cooking for the ISV Fourth of July Celebration is an arduous task, requiring great stamina and skill. Assistants are always needed for the all-night vigil. One such volunteer this past July was Gerald Templeton, ISV Zoning and Planning Chairman. Gerry showed such enthusiasm and skill that the crew presented him with a bright red apron with his name emblazoned across the front, thus making Gerry an official member in good standing of the cooking committee. The selection was met with an ovation from the crowd. Where else can one find a pothole crew that has expertise in barbecue preparation? Only in Indian Springs Village!

A highlight of the evening was the installation and swearing-in of the newly elected officials by Villager Shelby County Juvenile Court Judge Patricia Smith. Mayor Gene Weingarten and councilpersons Herb Robins, Patricia Crapet, Art Johnson, and Stewart Dudley all took their oaths of office for the second, third, and fourth times. New member Brian Stauss began his first term of office at the same time. The Judge, when directing the officials on what to say during their oath, repeated the line "I, state your name,...." at which time Mayor Weingaten chimed in "I, state your name..." instead of stating his name. The comedic moment was also an endearing one. Once again, only in Indian Springs Village!

Lastly, but certainly not least, Councilpersons Herb Robins and Patricia Crapet read a plaque from the town and a resolution from the Alabama Legislature drafted by Senator Bill Armistead. The resolution commended outgoing and original council member and co-founder of ISV Gary Dennis on his work during his ten years of public service for the citizens of Indian Springs Village. "A labor of love" is how Gary has often described the challenging

work and many hours that he and the other officials and supporters have worked through the years in order to preserve the peaceful tranquility of our community. Where else do public officials serve with such enthusiasm and with no compensation? Only in Indian Springs Village!

The Town of Indian Springs Village is indeed a unique community. A community founded on principles and vision. A vision that includes a delicate mixture of preservation, progress, and accountability. A community where there is not a shopping mall on every street corner, where when we say, "no taxes," we mean no taxes, and where you can still shop for six percent sales tax. A community where seven of the finest public and private schools teach our children, and where there is a fund for buying Christmas presents for unfortunate local children, all with donations from Villagers. A community where citizens can use a 100 year-old-town hall for social events and other functions at no charge, where the deer and other wildlife still roam, and where neighbors help neighbors in the aftermath of snow storms and tornadoes.

Where else can you find all these things? Only in Indian Springs Village!



Mayor Gene Weingarten and Councilmembers Art Johnson, Brian Stauss, Herb Robins, and Patricia Crapet are sworn in by Judge Patricia M. Smith.

ISV Emergency Crews

By Patricia Crapet, Town Council, Place # 2

With the coming of cold weather, it is time to enlist the help of volunteers for the ISV Emergency Crews. No experience is necessary. Volunteers will be responsible for helping their fellow citizens when emergency situations occur, such as snow or ice storms. Did someone say snow? Well, although it has been a while, we did have a blizzard in 1993, so it is not impossible! Anyone with equipment such as chain saws, tractors, trucks, 4w drive vehicles, etc is urged to call Paul Stephens, (988-4672) and Bart Trammell, (988-0094).

Vandals Strike the Village

By Patricia Crapet, Town Council Place # 2

Another Saturday night and the natives are restless. Sometime around 10:00 p.m. on the evening of November 4th, vandalism struck New Hope Mountain Road and Indian Crest Drive. Eye witness reports have described the perpetrator as a white male, tall, thin, and blond, wearing a baseball cap (of course) and driving a green Jeep. He was accompanied by a white female with reddish hair. The wanna-be baseball player was observed wielding a baseball bat, doing quite a bit of damage to a very expensive light fixture on the brick columns at the foot of the driveway of Michael and Glynda Calderella's New Hope Mountain Road home.

The Shelby County Sheriff's Department was called and a report was filed. Shortly after the deputy's departure, the bold vandals returned to the scene of the crime and destroyed the second light fixture. During the evening, several more light fixtures and a few mailboxes were also damaged. Some Winn-Dixie employees reported that some teens matching the description and driving a matching vehicle purchased \$70 worth of toilet paper on that same night. Are we at all surprised?

Parents! Where are your children? And more importantly, what are they doing? Kids getting into mischief is certainly nothing new. We all did a few things in our "younger days" that were perhaps a little questionable. Most of the time it was just good, clean fun, mixed with a little poor judgement. But, when good clean fun turns into the rampant destruction of property, it is no longer considered fun, it is considered a crime. And poor judgment and peer pressure are not a reasonable defense.

Parents! Our children must learn to be accountable for their actions, no matter what their age. As parents we are naturally protective of our children and resist any notion that our child could possibly do anything suspect. But are we helping or hurting them by ignoring the facts and turning a blind eye to the truth? How can we expect a child who has not been held accountable for his or her actions to grow into an responsible and accountable adult? If they are caught and the legal system is forced to enact accountability, the punishment will not be a switching or suspension of privileges. It will be costly legal fees, perhaps some detention or jail time, fines, restitution and a record that will follow them everywhere they go. Not a pleasant thought, is it?

Library Finances (cont.)

Expenditures:

Salaries & benefits	\$340,000
Materials	29,000
Travel & staff development	500
Programs, printing, & public relations	4,000
Equipment rental & expenses	22,000
Operating expenses	146,000
Debt service	191,500
Total	\$733,000

Donna Spencer, current president of the Friends of the Library organization, and Art Johnson, treasurer, each gave reports.

Five years ago the Friends pledged \$10,000 per year to the library. The organization has paid \$40,000 and has the money to meet this year's obligation. The Friends organization has not had a membership drive or major fund-raiser in two years. The group's most successful venture was the Holiday Tour of Homes '96 in Indian Springs Village. Membership fees and a used book sale held in the new building this spring have been the only recent sources of funds.

At the last inventory of library holdings the item count was 53,485, which includes books, videos, and other audio-visuals.

The library's circulation of 187,374 items per year is the highest of any library in Shelby County.

This figure amounts to over 500 items checked out daily or an average of 10 items per library card holder per year.

In other statistics, an average 143 patrons a day use circulating materials. Not counted are those who attend functions in the meeting room or come in to use the Internet.

Once the library construction debt is paid, the North Shelby Library should be in sound financial condition, Ann Tharpe said. She commented on the need for the library's better informing the public of needs and circumstances, noting that the library is a "quiet service"--quietly helping people of all ages and circumstances to help themselves.

In a recent letter to district residents (making good the promise of better communication) she concluded, "We've been open there (Cahaba Valley Road) for one year, and the usually full parking lot, 21% increase in circulation of materials and positive responses by patrons lead us to believe we've built something good for the North Shelby community."

A Reminder About Phone Listings

Check how your address is listed in the telephone directory and make a change if needed. You have until **November 20** to do that. If your zip code is 35124 and you are listed as being in Pelham or Helena, call Bell South at 557-6500 to change your phone book listing to Indian Springs. It is important to be recognized as to where you actually live, especially since some streets in Pelham and some in Indian Springs have the same names.

Commission Comments (cont.)

An interesting point--the engineering traffic study indicated that no further traffic lights were warranted at this time.

The county has received consent from the state to assist in this project. This is very unprecedented since Highway 119 is a state road. However, we felt the problem was severe enough for the county engineer to focus his attention on the matter. This project is a high priority for Randy Cole and myself, but we must work carefully with the state to keep the project moving forward. Hopefully, within the year you will be able to see a few improvements on Highway 119.

Should you ever have any questions or problems, please call me, Lindsey Allison, at 985-7179 (home) or 991-6367 (work).

Greetings, Indian Springs

The Garden Club had its last official meeting for the year 2000. Our next scheduled meeting will be in January of 2001. We have had a very productive year and anticipate new projects for the coming year. First and foremost will be to plant around the town sign on Highway 119W and give the Indian Springs Village sign a boost. We keep praying for more rain, as this is an area that would be difficult to water.

The Founders' Day raffle went well. The winners were:

No. 1 Limo/Arman's - Harry Little

No. 2 Golf - Frieda Hanson

No. 3 Lawn/Maid service - Harry Little

No. 4 Massage/facial - Betty Michels

Congratulations!

As many of you know, Mayor Weingarten had a mild heart attack. He is now doing fine, and was visited by the Garden Club/Welcome Committee with a "get well" basket. Get well, Mayor, we need you!

Please call Mary Hearn (995-2166) about anything concerning the welcome baskets and/or new residents. We need some good informants. Thank you, Villagers, for your support and have a great holiday season!

Sincerely,

Phelan Webb, President

Recycling - Monday November 20

By Art Johnson, Town Council Place #4

The primary reason for the ISV recycling success is the continuing efforts of the town's recyclers.

In October your recycling volunteers were Trudy and Paul Skokel, Wayne Jones and daughter Allie, Warren Jones and son Benjamin, Margie and Herb Robins, Jackie and Art Johnson. If you can help this month or in the future, please call Art Johnson at 988-3217.

Since Thursday, Nov. 23, is Thanksgiving Day, the next collection date for aluminum cans is **Monday, November 20**, instead of the usual Wednesday following Tuesday's town council meeting.

To help our volunteers identify your recycling, please use white or clear plastic bags and tie the tops with knots. Place bags on the other side of your driveway from your normal Waste Management pickup. Watch for ISV recycling reminders along Highway 119, Indian Crest Drive, and the entrances to Homestead.

ISV Children's Fund

By Patricia Crapet, Town Council Place # 2

Ho, ho, ho! It's that time of year again. Once again the citizens of Indian Springs Village will have the chance to make a difference in the lives of local school children whose families are experiencing difficult or unfortunate circumstances.

The Indian Springs Village Children's Fund is working with Pat Holder, counselor at Oak Mountain Elementary School, who will supply the names and "wish lists" of children who would not get visits from Santa without the generosity of our Village patrons. Ms. Holder will be sending the information to us shortly after the Thanksgiving holidays.

The Indian Springs Village Children's Fund is funded solely by donations from citizens and occasionally a few outside parties who have heard of this worthwhile project. The money all goes directly towards the purchase of items needed for the children to have a memorable and happy Christmas. One hundred percent (100%) of the money donated goes to benefit these children. There are no administrative costs. The program is implemented by volunteers who collect the money, do the shopping and wrapping, and deliver the wrapped presents to the school for pickup by the families involved.

A lot of clothing and toys, and sometimes food, are provided, based on the needs of the families who are carefully screened by our local Oak Mountain Schools counselors. This fund also has also provided school supplies and field trip money for children who would otherwise do without. This is the seventh year for the Indian Springs Village Children's Fund, which was first implemented in December, 1994.

Please send your monetary donations to: Patricia Crapet, 370 Valley View Road, Indian Springs, Alabama 35124. Make your checks payable to the Indian Springs Village Children's Fund.

So, Villagers, be generous once again this year, as you are called on to make a child's face light up on Christmas morning. There is no substitute for the wonder and joy that these children will experience on that day. Be a part of something special by sending your donation now.

Village Personals

By Ruth Goodwyn and Bonnie Murphy

Scarborough-Colwell engagement party

It was a beautiful October 15 when Kristin Scarborough and Micheal Colwell were honored with an engagement party at the town hall pavilion, decorated for the occasion. Hosting the party were Kristen's mother, Jan Arledge, and Scott Arledge of 943 Copena Drive.

Dressed in jeans and plaid shirts, about 80 friends and family members enjoyed the catered barbecue. The guest list included Kristen's father, Grey Scarborough, and Sherry of Palmerdale, AL, and his parents, Stanley and Juanita Colwell of Clanton.

The engaged couple are both seniors at the University of Montevallo's School of Business, expecting to graduate December 15. Both are employed by AmSouth Bank at the Riverchase corporate office. The wedding will be Feb. 10, 2001, at the Valleydale Baptist Church.

Studies in New York City

Sipiwe Moyo, 17, a senior at Indian Springs School, attended New York University's Tisch School of the Arts Summer High School program and the Lee Strasberg Theater Institute, one of the country's most prestigious acting schools. She is the daughter of Dr. Edwin and Regina Moyo of Indian Springs Village.

Sipiwe was one of 16 Indian Springs School students participating in the Andy Abroms Memorial Scholarship Program, established by Harold and Judy Abroms in honor of their son, a 1977 ISS graduate, who died at age 28 in an automobile accident.

Other students participating took biology courses at universities, studied performing arts, traveled overseas, or hiked mountains--these endeavors all made possible by the Scholarship Program.

Welcome New Baby

Congratulations to **Fred and Julie Sijgers** of 2632 Buckboard Road in Homestead on the birth of their daughter, **Teresa Elizabeth**. Teresa was born September 22 at Brookwood Hospital, weighing 7 lbs., 5 ozs. The Sijgers have a two-year-old daughter, Allison.