

# The Village Voice



Vol. 10, No.9

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

December 12, 2000

## INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, December 19, 2000 7:00 p.m.  
Indian Springs Village Town Hall

### Agenda

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

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, Alabama, 35124 phone number (988-0896), or e-mail Ruthgoodwyn@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 January 2001 edition should be submitted by Tuesday noon, Jan 2. 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

## Comments from the Council

### Christmas in the Village

By Patricia Crapet, Town Council Place # 2

"Deck the halls with boughs of holly", or so the song begins. Well, Villagers seem to really be taking this to heart for Christmas 2000. The Village is adorned with the splendor of the season everywhere you look. A drive through ISV is a must if you want to get "un-Scrooged."

There are some very lovely decorations to be seen throughout our neighborhoods this year. Lots of homes are decorated for daylight hours with bows, wreaths, and boughs of greenery. But it is the nighttime that really shows the spirit of the season with thousands of twinkling lights on many homes spread out all through the Village.

There are several areas that would be a nice addition to your list of "drive-bys" when out looking at Christmas lights. A trip down Indian Trail finds the Wyatt's Swiss-style chalet lit up, reminiscent of something you might see in Gatlinburg, perhaps, and the Segrist home, which is aglow with white icicles. On Brookgreen Lane, the Longshores are celebrating with multicolor lights, the setting looking somewhat like an old fashioned Christmas in New England.

Indian Crest Drive, one of the longer streets in ISV, has some great lighting. Those white icicle lights are everywhere, from the beginning at the the Cloyd home, up through the Mountain Park area, and back down the other side to Caldwell Mill. Don't forget some of the side streets like Wildwood Lane where the Bodies' home is decorated all in green. Miller Circle has several beautiful displays for the holidays, as do the subdivisions of Homestead and Old Mill Trace.

By far, the most elaborate displays are on the corners of Spring Garden Street and Cahaba Valley Road, where the Angrisanos and Carters have gone all out for the season. It is simply amazing to see! I do believe that there is a little competition going on there. Alabama Power should be quite happy to read their meters at the end of this month.

Please try to attend the December 19th town council meeting at the town hall. As usual, we will have our Christmas social after the meeting, where we will enjoy talking to old friends and neighbors and meeting new ones. Bring a little hors d'oeuvre or a holiday sweet to share. We will begin the meeting promptly at 7:00 p.m. and have the social immediately following. See you there, and have a very Merry and Blessed Christmas.

## *A Message From the Mayor*

*By Gene Weingarten*

Villagers, please recheck your November bill from Charter Communications. You may be entitled to a settlement benefit option if you have paid at least one late payment fee in the past four years. I have received a letter concerning this, which has been shortened. Full information is included with your bill.

Dear Mayor Weingarten:

We would like to inform you of a notice that will be included in our customers' November statement. It concerns a proposed settlement of a nationwide class action lawsuit involving the late fee charged to our cable customers when they fail to timely remit payment. It is possible you will receive questions from your community members, so we would like to provide you with a short explanation.

Charter Communications charges a late fee to customers who do not pay their cable bills timely. This is a common industry practice.... A number of class action lawsuits were brought against Charter (and other cable operators) with respect to these late fees. In the interest of avoiding the expense associated with litigating the issue, Charter has agreed to settle these cases.

The settlement contains three major components: (Points 1 and 2 give the smaller free structure for future late bill-payers) Point 3: All current customers who have paid at least one late fee and file a timely Proof of Claim and Selection of Benefit form (attached to the notice) will be entitled to select one settlement benefit listed in Table A and one settlement benefit listed in Table B.

Table A options are either one free month of basic digital; 50 percent off one month subscription to Pipeline; two free pay-per-view movies (if customer has addressable converter); one free month of premium channel, including HBO, Cinemax, Showtime, The Movie Channel; two free months of the Cable Guide; 12 free months of wire maintenance; one free month of either Internet TV or digital Cable Choice. Table B options are free installation of either basic digital, cable modem, or additional cable outlet.

The Court has scheduled a hearing for December 21, 2000, to decide whether to grant final approval of the settlement.

## **Announcements**

**Nora Boyett** is holding a glass cake plate left at the town hall pavilion after the Founders' Day celebration on October 17. If the plate is yours, please call Nora at 988-0466 to claim it.

**Ruthgoodwyn@aol.com** is your editor's new e-mail address. The change was made in late November.

**North Shelby Library** daily hours for the holidays are the same as usual, but the library will be closed Dec. 22 through Dec. 27 open Dec. 28 & 29; closed again Dec. 30-Jan. 1; open for 2001 on Jan. 2.

Free cholesterol screening (non-fasting) will be done at the Senior Citizens Center, Heardmont Park, Dec. 19, 9:00-11:00 a.m. The center will be closed Dec. 25 & 26; also Jan. 1&2.

## **Horticulture Study Garden Club Presents Susan Kelley Dec. 21**

*By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor*

Villagers will have the opportunity to hear one of their own on Thursday, Dec. 21, in the Lecture Hall at the Birmingham Botanical Garden. Susan Kelley of Harvard University, daughter of Edwin and Ginny Lusk of 131 Auburn Road, will show and narrate slides of her botanical exploration in eastern Tibet.

As Curatorial Associate of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, Susan spent nine weeks this past summer in the Hengduan Mountains of south-central China on a botanical expedition funded by the National Science Foundation.

Members of the collecting team included Dr. David Boufford, Assistant Director of the Harvard University Herbaria, two Harvard doctoral students, six Chinese botanists from the Institute of Botany in Kunming and Beijing, as well as four Japanese botanists.

Now for a geography lesson: Identified as one of the richest and most endangered terrestrial areas on earth, the Hengduan Mountains, which lie at the eastern end of the Himalayan Range, cover an area of approximately 195,000 sq. miles and contain some 12,000 species of flowering plants and ferns. Through its ridges flow four great rivers of Asia, and vascular (those with sap) plant diversity is greater than that of any other region of comparable size in the temperate zone. Steep gorges and high peaks characterize this area, with elevations ranging from 3,300 ft. in some valleys to 25,000 ft. at Gongga Shan in western Sichuan.

Susan has worked at the Arboretum for 10 years, developing and maintaining the digital mapping system which tracts the approximately 15,000 trees in the Arboretum's living collection, cultivated for scientific and educational purposes. Her collection from Tibet and from a previous trip to Taiwan have added to both the living collection of the arboretum as well as to the herbarium, or dried plant, collection of over one million specimens.

Susan's career in botany began after a successful career in music. A student of the violin in 3rd grade, she was the winner of a music scholarship for her excellence as a member of the Bearden High School Symphony, Knoxville, TN. Susan earned a degree in music from the University of Alabama, her parents having moved to Indian Springs.

She was a violinist with the Alabama Symphony Orchestra for one year; then she enrolled in the Conservatory of Music, Cincinnati, where she received a master's degree in music. In Cincinnati she met Frank Kelley of Bradenton, FL, an opera singer. The two were married in 1980 in the backyard garden at the Lusk home. (continued on page 4)

# Town Council Highlights

## November 21, 2000

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

The Indian Springs Village Town Council meeting was held on November 21 at the town hall beginning at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Gene Weingarten presiding. Present were Councilpersons Brian Stauss, Art Johnson, and Herb Robins.

The financial report was given by Town Clerk Paul Stephens as follows: Vehicle licenses \$433.86; beer taxes 859.73; Charter Communications (for quarter ending in September) \$2,969.11; building permits \$830. The balance in the general fund is \$103,852 and the balance in the road fund is \$102,128. The town clerk reported that the town's finances were in good shape with all bills paid and no large outstanding bills due. He noted that the town also holds a \$100,000 certificate of deposit at Regions Bank drawing 7 percent interest.

A discussion followed the suggestion by Councilman Brian Stauss that the town invest more in CD's. The mayor authorized the immediate transfer of \$50,000 into a second CD and suggested another such investment be made after Feb. 1, 2001. He complimented the town clerk for what he described as a "yeoman's job," done the old-fashioned way without benefit of a computer. He added that the town receives a great report from our auditing firm each year and that they commend the town clerk's work.

Councilman Art Johnson reported on attending a meeting at the Pelham Civic Center of Shelby County Leadership, of which Alain Gallet of Brook Highlands is president. The president of the University of Montevallo spoke on leadership and the need for all areas in the county to work together. Mayor Weingarten noted that ISV resident and Shelby County Commission Chairwoman Lindsey Allison is to head the Committee of 7, formed to implement the recommendations of the Committee of 19, which has filed its final report.

Councilman Herb Robins said road paving in the Village scheduled to be done will commence this month. Paving will continue in inclement weather as long as the daily temperatures rise to about 40 degrees.

New Councilman Brian Stauss, in charge of the ISV website, introduced Michael Felix, who distributed his prepared proposal for the website, the purpose of which is to display and inform Villagers and the general public of events and activities within the town and its environs.

Important requirements of the website are there must be ease of usage, it should be fast-loading, user-friendly, easy to maintain, and have an appealing and innovative design. Expected to be included in Phase I of the project are all copies of *The Village Voice* since April 2, 1991, the first issue, a calendar of annual events, names of Village officers, a news page, directions, map-links to points of interest, and a bulletin board for citizens to make comments.

A computer has been donated; the two-year loan of a scanner was accepted, and it was projected that \$1,500 will cover getting the project started, with an on-going cost of \$215 per year for maintenance. Still needed are website development tools and backup media. The already registered website name is [www.indianspringsvillage.org](http://www.indianspringsvillage.org).

The council unanimously approved the proposal. The son of Larry and Diane Felix of 545 McGuire Road, Michael is a senior at Oak Mountain High School. His work with our website is his project toward attaining the Eagle Scout award. His Troop 5 is affiliated with Christ Church United Methodist on Caldwell Mill Road.

Gerald Templeton, chairman of the Zoning & Planning Commission, presented an Ordinance for a License Tax on Insurance Companies Collecting Premiums Within the Town, which was adopted. The budget (below) was adopted.

Lindsey Allison, Shelby County Commissioner, was recognized by the mayor as being new chairwoman of the commission. Her remarks concerned the county recycling program being proposed, based on the recycling program used in Morgan County. Ten to 15 steel trailers placed throughout the county would be drop-off sites for major recyclables, newspapers, plastic, and aluminum, but no glass, which would then be sold to recycling centers in Birmingham. House to house pickup is not feasible because of the diversity of the county population--some residential and some rural.

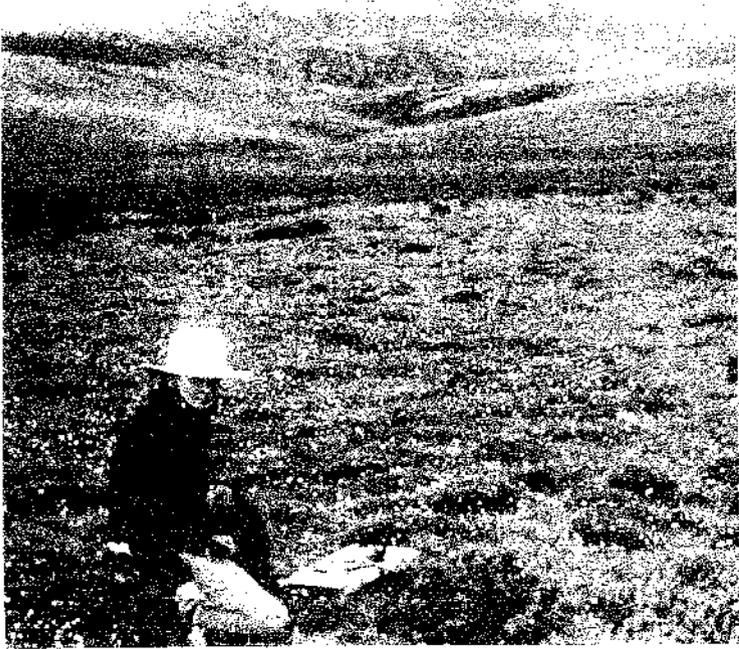
She also commented on the negotiations with two institutions to assist in paying for roadwork costs at the Double Oak Lane intersection. Once negotiations are complete, this intersection on 119 will be the first to receive a turn lane.

## Budget

### Town of Indian Springs Village, AL

Projected expenditures for fiscal 2001	General Funds
Severe weather warning system	\$ 10,000
A.D.E.M.	2,500
4th July/Founders' Day/Easter	5,000
Insurance	2,000
Office	1,500
Maintenance & Improvements	8,000
Professional Fees	2,000
Recording Fees	300
Utilities	4,000
Mileage	700
Accounting Expense (Audit)	2,500
Miscellaneous	1,000
Village Voice	2,000
Dues	500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 42,000</b>
	<b>Road Funds</b>
Repairs (estimate)	\$45,000
Mainieance	2,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 47,000</b>
Current balance in regular account:	\$103,540
Current balance in road fund account:	\$88,432

## Horticulture Garden Club (cont.)



*Susan Kelley, Harvard University, in the Himalays*

They left immediately for London to study at the Royal Conservatory of Music. The next step was New York, New York. Frank pursued his singing career. Reverting to an old love, horticulture, Susan pursued a degree in botany at New York University and later worked at Gardens in the Woods, Framingham, Mass.

Susan and Frank have successfully juggled parenthood and careers, with both being able to adjust schedules. Frank is now a free-lance singer whose agent schedules his engagements, and he also teaches at Harvard. While Susan was collecting plant specimens this summer, daughter Margaret, now age 10, stayed home with her daddy, who took her with him on out-of-town engagements. They both joined Susan in China at the end of the exploration.

The slide presentation of plants and people of the Himalayan exploration will begin at 10:00 a.m., Thurs., Dec. 21, in the Lecture Hall of the Botanical Garden on Lane Park Road, Mountain Brook. Sponsor of the event is the Horticulture Study Garden Club, of which Ginny Lusk is a member. The public is invited. Men, women, and children will appreciate this travelog by the daughter of neighbors.

Susan and Margaret Kelley will be visiting at the Lusk home prior to Christmas. Frank will join them the night of December 25 after performing in *Hansel and Gretel* in Taiwan.

## Village Personals

*By Ruth Goodwyn*

### Welcome Newcomers

**Jeff and Jackie Champion** moved from a 40-acre farm at Verbena, AL about a month ago, with their children, Zac, 16, Jon, 15, and Katie, 13, and his mother-in-law, Jackie Busby, formerly of Cordova, AL. The Champions moved to 250 Indian Trail to be closer to his business, Alabama Art & Frame Outlet, Highway 31, Pelham. The three Champion children are home-schooled, which keeps Mom, a former public school teacher, busy. Jeff is also a coach and coaches his own children and those in the Hope Christian Church & School, Pelham, sports program.

**Richard and Brenda Vincent** are now at home at 1170 Spring Garden Street. Brenda describes Indian Springs as "quaint" and "quiet," after living here about a month. They had conducted a lengthy search of different neighborhoods and about 150 houses before finding the Debbie & Lee Harkins residence. When the Harkins moved to a new house in Heatherwood, the rustic home they loved became available. Dick is from Northwest Tennessee and has been an attorney in the Birmingham area for 30 years. His office currently is in Vestavia. Brenda is from North Alabama. Married two years, together they have five children and 10 grandchildren. Both Dick and Brenda love the outdoors.

### New Granddaughter Arrives

Katherine Kessler Haley arrived October 29, 2000, in Columbus, Ohio. She is the daughter of Kay and Clay Haley and the granddaughter of **Richard and Shirley Knight** of 164 Auburn Road.

## Building Permit Requests

*By Martin Martin, Town Engineer*

The following requests were approved in November:

- 2853 Valleydale Rd., Sanpeggio's Pizza, inside improvements.
- 932 Spring Garden Street, Briarwood Const. Co., house addition, garage.
- 2100 Cahaba Valley Road, Sirmon, wiring for acc. building.
- Resting S Ranch, Rhonda Hoggle, grading.

## North Shelby Trustees to Meet

The Board of Trustees have set aside the first Friday of each month as the established meeting date, 8:30 in the meeting room of the library. The meetings are open to the public; anyone having a topic to be addressed should call Director Michael Jones at 439-5540. Sometimes the meeting date must be changed. If you plan to attend Jan. 5, 2001, call 439-5540 prior to the date.