

# The Village Voice



Volume 11, Number 6

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

September 11, 2001

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

**Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2001, 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, Alabama, 35124 phone number (988-0896), FAX number (988-0896), or e-mail [Ruthgoodwyn@aol.com](mailto: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: [Bam01126@aol.com](mailto:Bam01126@aol.com).

*The Village Voice* is published the second Tuesday of each month. Articles for publication in the October 2001 edition should be submitted by Tuesday noon, Oct. 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  
Tria Crapet, RealtySouth, for production

## **Message From the Mayor**

*By Gene Weingarten*

*The following letter came to us from a resident faculty member of Indian Springs School. The environment and recycling are areas of importance to all ISV citizens. Please let me know your feelings in this matter. My e-mail address is: [odnwewein@aol.com](mailto:odnwewein@aol.com). Better yet, attend a town council meeting (3rd Tuesday of each month) and state your position.*

### **Letter From a Villager**

It seems that the time is here for a more serious effort on recycling. At Indian Springs School we do some recycling, but the transportation of the materials is always a difficulty. If I remember correctly, recycling of cans is done on a volunteer basis at ISV. I decided to contact Recycling Unlimited and I spoke with Mr. Benny Davis (669-6013). He explained to me that he recycles everything: scrap metal, paper, cardboard, tin cans, aluminum, all plastics (all numbers of plastic), glass. He also mentioned to me that the scrap metal is recycled in downtown Birmingham, the paper and cardboard go to local mills for producing recycled paper and the plastics are shipped overseas to be converted into other plastic. It sounds like this man is able to contribute to recycling efforts. The catch is that there are fees. As he explained to me, a trailer would be brought to the premise (wherever it is decided), and it would be parked there at \$250 per month. A \$200 fee for bringing the trailer each time would be paid up front and then \$15 per ton of recycled material would be charged in addition. He says that the trailer is so big it may be that one trailer may be enough for two months.

I am not aware of the garbage collecting fees for the Village (since I live on campus). It would seem to me that if managed well, we could recycle about 90% of our garbage and contribute our share to help our environment if we worked with Mr. Davis. Residents could also be encouraged to build compost piles, which would reduce waste further and help everyone's garden. As you can see, I am very concerned about our planet, and I know that with the appropriate tools we can do our part in treading more lightly on this earth.

I do not want to sound melodramatic. I would love to get your feedback on this proposition. Divided by the number of residents in the Village including Indian Springs School, it may be a total of \$1 - \$2.00 per month that each family must contribute in order to recycle everything. It sounds very possible!

*(Name signed and address given, but withheld)*

## VILLAGER PROFILE:

### *Rita Mendel & Special Equestrians*

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

Although she lived in New York for 17 years prior to coming to Indian Springs, Rita Mendel is one of the GRITS--Girls Raised In The South. Virginia-born and raised Rita married Jack, also a Virginian, after she had graduated from Pan American Business College. She took a job in the agricultural department of Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA, and put hubby through Tech's graduate engineering school.

At the time of the Vietnam War the Mendels lived in Arizona during Jack's service in the Army. Then after finishing graduate school Jack promised Rita the move to Chester, NY, would be brief, but their sojourn there lasted 17 years.

"We moved back to the South so I could get warm," Rita said. She was disappointed--at first--that the relocation was to Alabama, but they fell in love with the state and Indian Springs. They had children, Michael, Amy, and David, born in Virginia, Arizona, and New York, respectively.

Jack, a process control consultant, works for the Washington Group on Highway 280S., formerly Raytheon and previous to that, Rust Engineering. He has also worked for General Foods and International Paper.

Rita's love for horses, her involvement in a program pairing horses and handicapped children in New York, plus her desire to "give something back" led to her establishment of the Special Equestrians program, originally at Oak Mountain State Park.

After officials at the park agreed that she could start the program, she began with two horses (one of them a retired New York police horse), five handicapped children, and as many volunteers as she could get, including her youngest son, David. He either led the horse carrying the handicapped child or was a back rider. Two other volunteers, side walkers, are needed to walk on either side of the horse. A back rider is needed if the child has spina bifida or is otherwise unable to sit alone. Volunteers must be at least 14 years old.

Seven years ago the Special Equestrians moved to Indian Springs School campus where "We have an incredible program," according to Rita. "We have been blessed every step of the way." When the barn on campus which housed the horses was destroyed in the blizzard of 1993, volunteers and generous private donations rebuilt it. In 1999 a covered arena was erected (so that the weather is no factor) with funds from 15 years of charity horse shows and a generous donation from the Lakeshore Foundation obtained by Villager Michael Stephens. ISS granted a 15-year lease on the facility for a nominal fee. An addition now being added to the facility will be a classroom for volunteer training and the handicapped children's projects.

Special Equestrians, Inc., now owns 12 horses and has 100 participating students with various handicaps, physical, mental, or emotional, and a full-time paid administrator.

The riding sessions are held on Saturday and Sunday afternoons and several times during the week. Each session consists of eight to ten weeks in the spring and fall, and six weeks in the summer. Volunteers to assist the children are asked to commit to a full session, but any time donated is appreciated. It takes up to four volunteers for each rider and with over 100 riders, there is always lots to do.

"We don't put limitations on children," Rita said, explaining that there are five or six children in a class, spending one hour per week riding. Some children have gone from wheel chairs to quad walking sticks after "physical therapy on horseback." Therapeutic riding can offer the child a new feeling of self-respect and confidence. By relaxing while stimulating once-dormant muscles, riders can "un-learn" functions and learn improved movements, building muscle tone and coordination.

Among the Special Equestrians volunteers, so necessary to the program, are physical therapy and horse professionals. Donations cover feed for the horses and blacksmith and veterinarian fees. Volunteers are also needed to assist with the care of horses (a basic knowledge of horses is necessary) and assist with the repair and upkeep of the facility and grounds. **To volunteer call 987-WHOA.**

The local group is in the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association (what Special Equestrians is). Prior to recertification every two years, their program is reviewed by the national association, especially the safety aspect, as they are dealing with fragile children.

Special Equestrians rode with others on horseback in the parade at the first Fourth of July celebration (1991) held in the Village and for two subsequent years. The noise, especially from the fire engine, motorcycles, barking dogs, and spectators not understanding the nature of Special Equestrians all contributed to the decision not to participate in future parades, for safety reasons. (During early years "patriotic pets" joined the parade at the entrance to Indian Spring School where the parade ended and the celebration was held. The pets, usually dogs, were decorated in red, white, and blue ribbons, or other ornaments.)

"I did everything for five years," said Rita. She bought the Carousel Tack Shoppe, 5090 Cahaba Valley Road, about 12 years ago. A paid program administrator does what Rita did for so many years--**at NO pay**--obtain volunteers, set up classes, purchase equipment, schedule sessions, and co-ordinate regional conferences.

Rita is now Vice-President in charge of fund-raising and still spends much time with Special Equestrians as well as managing the Tack Shoppe, where she has on display a Emmy won by one of her children, Michael, a television producer, who has been awarded three Emmys for *The Simpsons*. Since he won three, he gave one to his mother.

The Mendels' three children all live in California, after graduating from Syracuse, Emory, and Tulane universities. David, age 29, the youngest, is not married, but Michael and Amy and their spouses have produced five grandchildren. David is a film editor. They visit back and forth a lot; two of the children came home for the UCLA-Alabama game in Tuscaloosa.

Is the expenditure of time, energy, and emotion worth it? This question was asked by a member of the ISV Garden Club when Rita made a presentation to that group in August.

**"There is just something miraculous about a child and a horse,"** came the reply. **"Horses are aware of the handicap, in some way, and take care of the children. It is worth it just to see the child's reaction when placed on a horse. The smiles on the faces of the riders will let you know that you have made a difference each and every week."**

## **Annual Indian Springs Holiday Showcase**

**Please Join us for a spectacular weekend event  
of Arts, Crafts and Entertainment!**

### **Special Guests:**

**Southern Living at Home, Master Photographer  
Larry Young, Pottery Artists Joanne Holloway and  
Karen York, Island Graffiti Clothing,  
Allison Bohorfoush Jewelry, Hanna's Garden Shop,  
On A Whim, and many more!**

**Friday September 21st Noon-9pm  
Saturday September 22nd 10am-4pm  
Indian Springs Town Hall  
Highway 119**

**Don't miss our music entertainment by  
Christian artists Shari Hyde and  
Not By Chance beginning Friday at 6pm.**

**Start and finish your Holiday shopping  
in one weekend!!!**

**For info call Tina Ciesla 664-9381**

# Town Council Highlights

## Tuesday, August 28, 2001

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 28, 2001, at the Indian Springs Village Town Hall.

Present were Councilpersons Stewart Dudley, Art Johnson, Herb Robins, and Mayor Gene Weingartner. The meeting room was full of Villagers, many of them residents along Cahaba Valley Road, uneasy about rumors circulating that State Highway 119 was to be five-laned through the Village. The catalyst for the rumors was the fact that some surveyors at work, ostensibly surveying for turn lanes at certain intersections, when questioned, had said they were surveying for five-laning. Residents were alarmed that surveyors had invaded their properties so far back from the highway, leaving red flags, stakes, and orange markings in their wake.

Gary Ray, district engineer for the Alabama Department of Transportation, was there to answer questions, along with Scott Holladay, senior civil engineer, Shelby County, who brought maps showing the location of each turn lane. Also on the agenda was Kathryn Harrington to give an explanation of the "corridor plan."

Paul Stephens, Town Clerk, presented the month's financial report. Taken in were \$10,460 in building permits; \$460, auto license fees; \$3,482.45, Charter Communications quarterly payment; \$968, beer tax. The balance in the general fund was reported as \$102,477. The road fund took in \$774; the road fund balance is \$65,169.

Councilman Art Johnson called for volunteers to help with the monthly aluminum can collection for recycling. In August three volunteers canceled out; others had to double up. The demand for aluminum has lessened because of a slack in auto production, he noted.

Councilmen Herb Robins and Stewart Dudley deferred giving regular reports as their information would be covered by the two speakers.

Bart Trammell reported for the Zoning and Planning Commission. The Commission had approved an application by Homer Dobbs to develop an area to be known as Mountain Cove, 14 lots on 15 1/2 acres, off Indian Crest Drive towards the Caldwell Mill Road area. Mr. Dobbs was the developer of the nearby Mountain Park section. The Commission's decision to approve this development was approved unanimously by the town council.

### The TOPICS Program

Gary Ray from the Department of Transportation addressed the TOPICS program. TOPICS being an acronym for Traffic Operations Program to Improve Capacity and Safety. The TOPICS program for Highway 119 is in the preliminary engineering phase for adding turn lanes at six locations, beginning west of Mountain Vista to Broken

Bow South. After the preliminary engineering is done, a public involvement meeting will be held, possibly at year's end, at a facility large enough for citizens to look at maps of the area and the intersections involved and to ask questions. This TOPICS project is sponsored by Shelby County but paid for 80% by federal and 20% state funds.

According to the map provided the following is to be done:

- 1 & 2. Add one lane from Arrowhead Lane to Valley View Drive (county road 379 to county road 367) providing protected left turn lanes for all intersections.
3. Add left turn lane for Indian Springs First Baptist Church. Extend to three lane section approaching Caldwell Mill Road.
4. Add left turn lanes for New Hope Presbyterian and Double Oak Lane.
5. Add left turn lanes for Wagon Trace subdivision and Oak Mountain State Park.
6. Add left turn lane for Broken Bow South

The Arrowhead Lane and Double Oak intersections perhaps will have signalization, at a cost of \$50 thousand for each signal, and at least two, preferably three illuminators, or street lights. Before the decision is made about location of signalization traffic studies will be made.

When questions were raised by Villagers as to why particular intersections, Mr. Ray said the intersections were chosen by our town council. Herb Robins reminded Villagers the whole issue was discussed over two years ago. The intersections were selected at the suggestion and advice of Randy Cole, Shelby County engineer, after he had ridden around the Village several times with Robins and Mayor Weingarten. The town council voted to participate in the TOPICS study (see *Village Voice*, May 12, 1998); nobody was opposed to turn lanes, which our town officials deem necessary for the safety of our residents. Also, having turn lanes would be less invasive and possibly would ward off five-laning through the Village.

After further questioning by Villagers as to why surveyors are gathering so much information, Mr. Ray asserted that he did not know why the surveyors were saying what it was reported by Villagers they were saying. He could not guarantee that Highway 119 would NEVER be five-laned, but said it wasn't part of the TOPICS project.

Councilman Dudley requested that a consultant from the State Highway Department come to the next town council work session on Sept. 10. He noted that another safety factor was the control of motorists' speed through the Village, a factor which we have not been able to control.

Leading into the presentation by Kathryn Harrington, Dudley reminded Villagers that the agenda of the highway department is "to move traffic," while our agenda is to "to preserve quality of life." Toward that goal he recommended "corridor planning" all the way from Indian Springs School to Highway 14.

### The Corridor Plan

Kathryn Harrington is head of the committee appointed recently to help develop a comprehensive plan for the town, which has heretofore focused on maintaining the status quo, but not on long-range planning. A comprehensive plan is a "road map" of how the town should proceed toward becoming what we want it to become.

The committee has talked with two firms which specialize in town planning. A representative of KPS Group, Inc., presented the company's plan to a work session of council (work sessions are held on Monday evenings one week prior to monthly council meetings.) KPS is headed by G. Gray Plosser, Jr., architect, who in March became Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Indian Springs School.

The plan would include developing a digital base map, actually a topographical map, of the area, a strategic development workshop conducted by KPS to determine what Villagers would like to see happen in our area and means for accomplishing same, devising goals, objectives, a town vision statement, as well as looking at our zoning ordinances and determining what improvements, if any, should be made-- whether we need streeting lighting, for example.

Ms. Harrington explained that while the plan, if adopted, is not a legal document, and can be changed by amendment, it will help us control our own destiny.

The council passed unanimously the motion that the town authorize KPS Group, Inc. to proceed with the proposal at a cost of \$24,000. This will be a time-consuming project. The council must authorize the expenditure in next year's budget, which will be presented to council in November. Work on the proposal can then proceed after Jan. 1, 2002.

In the discussion prior to voting, Jim Wyatt brought up the problem of enforcing our existing ordinances. Others mentioned that we need to make arrangements with professionals for help in enforcement and that we can no longer ask professionals to volunteer their time. Stewart Dudley, who had spoken earlier of the need for a court system to control traffic speed in the Village summed it up by saying that the town needs to start thinking about some sort of tax base, such as a 1% sales tax.

## Library Update

Steve Zerkis, a member of the Board of Trustees of the North Shelby Library, gave an update on library affairs since a proposed dues increase was voted down July 31. The Board of Trustees now consists of only three members since Ann Tharpe, president, and Pat Jehle, board member from Inverness, have both resigned. The remaining four full-time library employees agreed to salary cuts to cover the only 32 hours per week the library is open. On Sept. 13 the Pelham City Council will consider changing the zoning of the acreage on which the library is located so that the library can rent out its unused space to some commercial enterprise. The library is considering several avenues to improve the materials collection and restore hours and services.

## Library Plans Community Forum

*By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor*

North Shelby Library district residents will have the opportunity to discuss the future direction the library will take in a community forum on Sunday, Sept. 16, 2:00 p.m. at the library. Ideas, solutions, and concerns about the library will be communicated in dialogue between the library board and staff and the community.

The forum will also include a Call for Volunteers. Specific areas of assistance where volunteer efforts could make a big impact have been identified, and include fund raising, special events and assistants to aid the library staff. (continued, next column)

## A Letter to Citizens

September 6, 2001

To the Citizens of Indian Springs:

The Village of Indian Springs was formed to protect and preserve the character and special beauty of our area for our and future generations. Our community has tried to manage itself by hard work and volunteer efforts of all its citizens. We have reached the point where the pressure of growth outside the Indian Springs area is making it harder to protect our community. As was discussed at the last town meeting, planning steps need to be taken and expenditures authorized to assist in planning our traffic corridor as well as protecting the valley from traffic, flooding, noise, and incompatible development. In order to do that, we are going to need financial resources.

One method of providing financial resources would be the adoption of a one-cent sales tax. Before adoption of such a tax, we welcome a community discussion of these matters at the next town council meeting. We request everyone interested to participate in the meeting and to let your town council members know your views.

Stewart R. Dudley  
Town Council, Place #5

## Library Community Forum, con't.

"Due to a lack of funds, we have been forced to cut back to 32 hours a week and more cuts may be needed later in the year," said Library Director Michael Jones. "The library will be able to maintain or expand these hours if we can recruit additional volunteers to assist the staff."

Also, with the financial strain the library has been in recently, no new materials have been added to the collection. With that in mind the Community Forum will also include a Book Sale of new books which people may buy, personalize with a book plate in honor or memory of a friend or loved one, and donate to the library for immediate use. This will help to place new books in circulation to boost the library's collection.

"The board of the North Shelby Library recognizes that this is a community library that will not survive very effectively without input and commitment by the citizens it serves. We are hoping that all those interested in the library's future will make an effort to attend. If we all pitch in, some dynamic things can occur," said Wanda Carruthers, North Shelby Library board member.

The Community Forum will be the first step as the library seeks to rebuild its position. Future forums will be held as needed.

## School Bus Drivers Are Needed

The Shelby County Board of Education desperately needs bus drivers and substitute bus drivers. The paid position carries with it full benefits, and retirees may become bus drivers. The major stipulation is a commercial driver's license; the Shelby County Department of Transportation will answer questions about the procedure for obtaining one. If interested, call the department at 682-7130.

## Garden Club Letter to Villagers

Dear Villagers

Our August meeting featured Rita Mendel, who spoke to us about the work she has done for disabled children for 17 years. What a blessing it was to hear of the wonderful things that the Special Equestrians have done. She invited visitors to come see the program in action. (See *Villager Profile*, p.2) Our very own Frances Dudley has had many years working with the program and with Rita as well.

Some of the Garden Club members had a work day and cleaned up the beds around the town hall--Del Levesque, Marge Dunn, Frances Dudley, and Ruth Goodwyn. The plants have been growing by leaps and bounds with all the rain we have been having. Thank you, ladies, for taking the time out of your own yards to make the Village look better.

Our next meeting is Sept. 28 at 7:00 p.m. at the town hall. We will be electing new officers in October and planning for the coming year.

Since opening my new Hearing Center, I have not been as available as usual and thank the Garden Club members for their support and encouragement. It is being a part of this organization that has given me a sense of belonging and "family" in this community. Every meeting has been quite wonderful and a true blessing. Thank you ladies for making the Garden Club what it is.

Pray for sunshine!

Phelan Webb, President

## Building Permits Approved

By Marty Martin, Town Engineer

Building permit requests approved for August are:

5502D Caldwell Mill Rd., Oil Equipment Co., new dispensers;  
Oak Mountain Middle School, Shelby County, electrical  
Indian Springs School, Special Equestrians, barn addition.

## Genealogists to Hold Seminar

The Alabama Genealogical Society will hold its Fall Seminar in Montgomery at the Alabama State Capitol auditorium on Saturday, Oct. 20, 2001. For information contact Jyl Hardy, e-mail: [jylhardy@bellsouth.net](mailto:jylhardy@bellsouth.net).

## Aluminum Recycling - Sept. 19

By Art Johnson, Town Council Place No. 4

Put your recycled aluminum on the curb before 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 19. To assist your recycling team, please use light-colored or clear plastic bags with the top of each securely tied with a knot. Place your recycling near your driveway, separate from your trash. Also, please do not place any glass, steel cans, or trash with your recycled aluminum. Watch for recycling reminders along Highway 119, Indian Crest Drive, and entrances to Homestead.

Last month the recycling team members were Margie and Herb Robins, Trudy and Paul Scokel, and Art and Jackie Johnson. Special thanks to Brian Stauss for picking up the recycling trailer. In July and August 740 lbs. of aluminum were recycled by Villagers.

If you have not started recycling, please join the growing number of ISV residents who recycle.

## Village Personals

By Ruth Goodwyn and Bonnie Murphy

### Congratulations

Adam Carlisle, age 14, son of Terry and Dorothy Carlisle, Mountain Vista, took top honors in several events at the Alabama State Sporting Clays Championship. The event was held July 20-22 at Tannehill Sporting Clays with over 250 top shooters in the Southeast participating.

Adam won the preliminary and in the main event won both the class and sub-junior title. Winning the gold in all three categories established Adam as the "top gun" for 2001 in both age and class.

Terry Carlisle, Adam's father, took the gold in both the preliminary and the prestigious AA class.

Collectively the pair was awarded first place and named state champion in five competitive categories.

### Eleanor Bennett's e-mail address

Eleanor Bennett, who is compiling a directory of horse owners in the Village with descriptions of the horses, would like owners to e-mail her : [eleanorbennett@mindspring.com](mailto:eleanorbennett@mindspring.com). The directory will be given to the Shelby County Sheriff's Department. Eleanor stresses that the true beneficiaries of her efforts will be the horses, who often get loose and out on Highway 119.

### In Sympathy

Villagers extend sympathy to Myrtle M. Bell of Cahaba Oaks Trail in the passing of her husband, Jerry W. Bell, age 58, on August 12. Mr. Bell had been diagnosed as having melanoma in 1997, and had been in and out of the hospital with various treatments. He became very sick in February and retired in March from Alabama Power Co., after 35 years of service. He was cared for at home by Mrs. Bell, who has since resumed working at Alabama Power. The funeral and burial were at Southern Heritage.

### Welcome Newcomers

New neighbors at 2628 Buckboard Road in Homestead are Darren and Carol Popwell. Darren is program director of Family Connection, Inc. Carol is the art teacher at Oak Mountain Elementary. They are parents of twins, Callen and Jay Beth, born June 14, 1999. They moved from Shannon, AL.

## CASA Roast Raises \$40,000

Shelby County Commission Chairman Lindsey Allison and Probate Judge Patricia Fulmeister were the roastees at the 3rd annual CASA Roast held April 21. More than 275 attended the roast and silent auction, which netted \$40,000 for CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocates), according to Beth Chapman, director.

Allison's mother and her aunt from California were the first roasters. Judge Patti Smith, Indian Springs, creator of the CASA program in Shelby County, was also a roaster. Several state and county political figures and many ISV residents attended.