

# The Village Voice



Volume 12, Number 12

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

March 11, 2003

## INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, March 18, 2003, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 1, 2003, 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,  
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### 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 Patricia Crapet, 370 Valley View Rd., Indian Springs, AL 35124 (802-2753) or e-mail [ISVillage@aol.com](mailto:ISVillage@aol.com). Reporter for the Homestead neighborhood is Jana Hagan, 5121 Hollow Log Lane, Birmingham 35244 (980-9419) e-mail: [byzx4nblsd@aol.com](mailto:byzx4nblsd@aol.com).

The Village Voice is published the second Tuesday of each month. Articles for publication in the April 2003 edition should be submitted by Tues. noon, April 1. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for publication, including letters to the editor, which must be signed & give writer's address and telephone number. All opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors of articles; any opinions expressed should not be attributed to the mayor or 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

Because I have of late been asked many times by residents the question, "When does town council meet?" I would like to make this

# Announcement:

Our City Council meets  
EVERY

FIRST AND THIRD TUESDAY of  
EVERY MONTH

at the Indian Springs Village Town Hall  
2635 Cahaba Valley Road  
Indian Springs Village, AL 35124  
beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Town Council met on the 2nd Tuesday  
of each month February 26, 1991 - February 9, 1993

We have been meeting  
the third Tuesday of each month  
for the past 10 years

In July 2002 we began meeting twice a month when figures from the U. S. census of 2000 revealed our population was more than 2,000 residents, having doubled (by requested annexations) since our incorporation on October 16, 1990 as the Town of Indian Springs Village. With our new "city" designation, we are now required by Alabama State law to hold meetings twice monthly.

We are still "Indian Springs Village," population: 2,225.

# Town Council Highlights

## February 4, 2003

By Patricia Crapet, Town Council Place #2

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met on Tuesday, February 4, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. at the Indian Springs Village Town Hall. Mayor Gene Weingarten presided, with council members Herb Robins, Brian Stauss, Stewart Dudley, and Art Johnson present. Town Clerk Shirley Church presented the minutes of the previous meeting, which were unanimously adopted as written.

Town Clerk Emeritus Paul Stephens reported that in the past there were three teams of emergency volunteers who responded to tornado, ice, and other related problems in the Village. It was pointed out that the list needs updating and new volunteers sought.

Councilman Herb Robins stated that he had spoken to State of Alabama Department of Transportation District Engineer Gary Ray regarding lowering the speed limit on Cahaba Valley Road to 45 miles per hour. Mr. Ray stated that the request had been directed through proper channels, but that the process is a slow one. It was brought to the council's attention that there is "reckless" driving in some areas of ISV. Since the town has no court system it is not within our rights to enforce any misdemeanors. After much discussion it was decided to ask the Sheriff's Department to put extra attention on these areas for a few days to help alleviate the problem.

Councilman Brian Stauss recognized Girl Scout Troop 30 for reporting a broken water pipe on the premises. It was suggested that a list of emergency numbers be posted on the town's bulletin board.

## February 18, 2003

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Town Clerk Shirley Church reported the following revenues for the month: beer taxes, \$917; vehicle license fees, \$100; real estate licenses, \$11; building permits, \$298; business licenses, \$1,251; insurance licenses, \$874; aluminum can recycling, \$78; and road funds, \$1,102 for January, and \$1,142 for February. The yearly utility tax fees were received as follows: Alabama Power, \$68,695; Alabama Gas, \$15,702; Pelham Water, \$8,983; and the quarterly fees for Charter Cable, \$3,735. The balance in the road fund was \$64,822, and the balance in the general fund, \$180,583.

Councilwoman Patricia Crapet showed Villagers a copy of the new FEMA/DHS booklet, "Are You Ready? A Guide to Citizen Preparedness", which she printed from the FEMA internet site. It was suggested that everyone get a copy of the booklet, as it deals with natural disasters as well as terrorism.

Councilman Herb Robins reported having received bids for paving the walking track behind the Town Hall. The nine foot wide

track is presently small gravel, which has a tendency to erode with winter and spring rains. Public opinion is divided on whether to pave or not, since gravel is "kinder" to knees and other joints.

Town Clerk Emeritus Paul Stephens reported having contacted a new insurance company that deals solely in municipal policies for town coverage. The Town Hall and outbuildings, including contents, was quoted at \$1,015 per year, and liability insurance for the property, \$800.

Zoning and Planning Chairman Jerry Templeton stated that the first reports from the six committees on the proposed Comprehensive Plan will be due in April. Also, the proposed gas station hearing had been postponed again due to the applicant not having all required information, studies, and reports ready.

## Aluminum Recycling - March 19

By Art Johnson, Town Council Place #4

Aluminum recycling is Wednesday evening, March 19, at 7:00 p.m. To help identify your recycling, please use white, blue recycling, or clear plastic bags. Please tie each bag with a knot and place your recycling on the other side of your driveway from your trash pickup. Watch for ISV recycling reminders along Highway 119, Indian Crest Drive, and the entrances to Homestead.

In February the recycling volunteers were Bo Holmes and Jackie Johnson, Margie and Herb Robins, Trudy and Paul Skokel, and Bryan Bidy and Art Johnson. For more information on recycling or to volunteer, please call 988-3217.

### Why Recycle Aluminum?

Recycling saves energy and the fuels used to produce it. Once produced, used, and recovered, the aluminum can is completely recyclable. The process of converting used beverage cans into molten aluminum requires only about five percent of the energy needed to produce aluminum from bauxite ore. That's like improving the miles per gallon on your car 19 times over. By recycling just one aluminum can, we save enough energy to keep a 100-watt bulb burning about three and a half hours.

For each pound of metal recycled, the aluminum industry saves the energy resources needed to generate about 7.5 kilowatt-hours of electricity. In 2000, the aluminum industry saved enough energy to meet the electric needs for about six years of a city like Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Recycling also conserves capital. Industrialists build facilities to melt used aluminum cans in half the time and one-tenth the cost of the facilities to mine and refine ore to produce aluminum.

## Building Permits Approved

By Marty Martin, Town Engineer

### Address, Applicant, Request:

5310 Mountain Park Dr., John Crews, porch addition  
2668 Buckboard Rd., John Crews, porch addition  
425 Indian Crest Drive, Sandra M. Stephens, enclose deck  
Parcel # 1, Cherokee Trail, Commonwealth Dev., new home  
Parcel # 2, Cherokee Trail, Commonwealth Dev., new home  
Alabama 119, Sherlock, Smith, et al., church addition  
Caldwell Mill Road, Oak Mountain High School, addition.

## Help Child Abuse Prevention

By Beth Chapman, State Auditor, Shelby County resident

March is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Children's charities will cover the doors of local businesses with symbolic blue ribbons, schools will have poster contests, and charities will take advantage of a heightened awareness and additional fundraising dollars. But what will you do?

Hopefully you weren't abused as a child and you don't abuse your own children, but that, I am sad to say, would put you in a minority in this country.

Every day, child abuse is reported on average every 10 seconds in this country, totaling over three million reports a year. Those are just the "reported" cases.

Each day in America (the greatest country on earth and a "Christian nation"), three children die as a result of abuse and neglect in their own homes. Child abuse, not cancer or automobile accidents, is the leading cause of death for children ages four and under.

Only 15 percent of the expenditures of state and federal funds given to children's programs are directed toward prevention. The other 85 percent goes toward problems which have arisen because they weren't prevented in the first place. Talk about getting the cart before the horse.

Daycare employees working with children during their most developmental stages are paid less, educators who teach them are paid little, and even in the medical profession pediatricians (not that some of these children have ever seen one) are paid less than any other type of physician. The allotment for the care of foster children in this state is \$8 per day. The allotment per day for prisoners is \$16.

As a society and as individuals, doing nothing is costly. Child abuse and neglect are seen as social problems, but they are also economic problems. They increase costs in our education system, negatively affect our future work force, increase juvenile crime, promote predispositions to drug and alcohol addictions, contribute to our overcrowded prison system, decrease our work ethic, and produce a decline in our nation's moral values. Child abuse and neglect impact the entire future of the next generation.

So what can we do to help?

Alabama native Helen Keller once said, "I am only one, yet I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. I will not refuse to do the something I can do."

"Something" that you can do on a local level is to become involved with the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). It is a nonprofit organization which recruits and trains volunteers to go through the court process with abused and neglected children in Shelby County. The program was started by Indian Springs resident and family court judge Patricia (Patti) Smith.

CASA needs caring and compassionate people who will speak up for abused children in court.

You don't have to be "qualified," because you'll be trained and equipped with everything you need to know to help the children you will serve.

CASA is hard volunteer work with life changing rewards! Please don't refuse to do the "something" you can do! Let's work to prevent child abuse and neglect today, not wait to repair the damage tomorrow.

Spring training classes start soon. Call Mac Stinson today at 669-6498 or e-mail [bethchapman@bellsouth.net](mailto:bethchapman@bellsouth.net) for more information on this worthwhile organization.

## Wanna Be a Cop?

By Herb Robins, Town Council Place #1

Did you ever wish you could do something (something legal, that is) about the "speeders" in your neighborhood or on Alabama 119? Ever visit the mailbox early one morning ready to mail in that winning sweepstake form only to find your mailbox no longer verticle and smashed? Ever gone to your car one night to get out your favorite VanMorrison or Jethro Tull CD only to find that some scoundrel had rifled through your classics and ripped off your favorites? Irritating? Well, I guess so!

Indian Springs Village is a safe place to live, but we, like any other community, have problems periodically. The Shelby County Sheriff's Department has provided protection for us for many years and has done an excellent job. They plan to continue to provide that service, but they could use our help. One of the best deterrents to crime is a visible police presence. Bad guys don't like to be "observed."

A program, Citizen Observer Patrol (COP), was developed in Florida several years ago and has been implemented in Chelsea for the last four years with impressive results. Citizens who wish to participate receive training provided in part by the Shelby County Sheriff's Department and donate time in three-hour shifts as trained observers in the community. They have uniforms, badges, magnetic roof lights (green), and magnetic COP emblems for their vehicles.

These citizens are also radio equipped, which keeps them in contact with other COP personnel as well as the Sheriff's Department. While they have no police power to arrest or to write tickets, they do have the ability to report quickly a situation to a deputy who can address a problem. They have found that just their presence in the community has had an effect in lowering crime.

On February 25 I had the pleasure of attending the 4th annual COP Recognition and Appreciation Banquet in Chelsea hosted by Mayor Earl Niven. It was a very impressive event, and the enthusiasm and sense of community felt at the meeting made me think of ISV and what a great program this could be for us.

Chelsea has a population of around 3,000 with 26-29 COP volunteers who have logged over 10,000 hours over the last four years protecting their community. There are volunteers in their 30's and some in the golden age of enlightenment. Approximately 40% of the volunteers are women. Everyone (including my wife) knows women are more observant than men.

The Sheriff's Department has recently donated one of their retired vehicles (in good shape), complete with police radio, to Chelsea's COP program. That shows how supportive both the Sheriff's Department and the County Commission are of this program. Chelsea is interested in sharing this program with us.

At the ISV town council meeting on April 15 Mr. Jay Jerman will speak about the COP program and its impact on Chelsea. Jay is the originator and director of Chelsea's program.

If you have an interest in serving your community in this capacity and in having an impact on keeping ISV a great place to live, come "observe" Jay. His enthusiasm is contagious!

## Wildlife Volunteer Training

The next training session for new volunteers is Sunday, March 16, 1:30 - 5:00 p.m. at the Wildlife Center, Oak Mountain State Park. Call 663-7930 to attend.

## Friends of the Library to Hear Historian; Vote on New Board

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

The annual meeting of the Friends of the North Shelby Library is scheduled for April 9, when members will vote for president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary for the forthcoming year.

In the meanwhile, if you are interested in nominating someone, or in serving in one of these positions, please contact Mrs. Lewis Wilson, current vice-president and chairwoman of the Nominating Committee. Her phone number is 991-6202.

As part of the annual meeting members will be treated to a presentation by Ms. Jackie Matte, historian and independent scholar, who will discuss historically significant sites in Alabama, from Fort Gaines to Bridgeport. The presentation includes slides of famous and not-so-famous but extremely unique sites, with a narration of the history and significance of each.

Proving that Alabama really does "have it all!" and can successfully compete with surrounding states in its bounty of historic sites, this slide presentation includes towns with historic districts, homes of famous Alabamians, battlefields, covered bridges, Civil War sites, Victorian homes, museums, and pioneer settlements.

A local retired history teacher, Ms. Matte is a speaker for the Alabama Humanities Foundation.

Current board president, Dr. Ed Burns, and the library's new director, Darryl Fletcher, invite residents to participate in the Friends organization and to attend this meeting, history buffs included, which begins at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 9, at the North Shelby Library meeting room.

## Tax Help Continues at Library

Trained volunteers from the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) will continue to help citizens needing assistance with income tax preparation through Wednesday, April 9. The free program is offered on Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Please call the library at 539-5555 for an appointment. Bring to your appointment your 2001 tax return and 2002 tax information.

## Something to Think About

Editor's note:

The following is part of an editorial from *Advisor*, a publication of the Retirement Systems of Alabama, March 2003:

"...a telling statement by *The Privateer* out of Australia points out that the rest of the world is not doing its fair share to help" [the USA in defeating our enemies].

"The *Privateer* states, 'There are 189 nations that are members of the UN. The USA has a military presence in 140 of these nations, yes, 140 nations. The US military has major foreign bases in 36 nations, and it has more than 260,000 of its troops stationed overseas, plus another 50,000 constantly afloat with the major US carrier groups. In total, the US military has more than 800 bases overseas, small and large, including 60 major ones. Of course, it is known that there are about 37,000 US troops in South Korea and 71-76,000 US troops stationed in Germany. But to that, without making all this overly lengthy, can be added the US permanent bases in Japan, Taiwan, across Europe, and now in the Middle East....'"

## Village Personals

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

### In Sympathy

Villagers extend sympathy to Councilman Art Johnson and his wife, Jackie, in the passing away of Art's mother, Genevieve DeSilveira, on February 27. A native of California, Mrs. DeSilveira, age 89, had moved to McCalla two years ago in order to be closer to Art and Jackie.

The memorial service was held Sunday, March 2, at 2:00 p.m., Southern Heritage Funeral chapel.

### Surgery for Allie and Maddie

Jerry and Phyllis Templeton, Willowbrook Circle, are preparing for daughter Maddie's hip surgery at Mayo Clinic Hospital, St. Paul, MN, on April 2. Daughter Allie continues to improve from neurosurgery performed at Children's Hospital in February. Jerry reports they have been given a free web page beginning the end of March to post the girls' progress through their surgeries (three left to go by next fall). The website is <http://www.caringbridge.org/al/templeton>.

## Garden Club Prepares for Spring

By Marge Dunn, President/Del Levesque, Vice-President

We are looking to a gardener's favorite time of the year--springtime! Last month we attended an informative lecture and demonstration on the selection and training of antique roses given by Jason Powell at Petals from the Past, Jemison. On a Sunday afternoon many members gathered at the town hall to tour the gardens and assess and plan our springtime garden projects.

Although Saturday, March 1, was a chilly day, four members drove to Springville, AL, to participate in a wildflower dig and rescue. This was organized by Mary H. Bowman. The members came back with oak leaf hydrangeas, ferns, wild coreopsis, and wild orchids. It was time well spent. Our March group activity will be Thursday, March 20, at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. We will attend the Spencer Lecture Series where Dr. Eric Haskell will present both morning and evening programs on the gardens of France. Later in the month we excitedly look forward to visiting the yard of Ginny Lusk, master gardener and mentor. Visits to Ginny's Garden are always special treats. Please mark your calendars for the Spring Fiesta Sale at the Botanical Gardens on April 11 and 12. Do COME AND GROW WITH US! For additional information, please call Marge at 987-4765 or Del at 987-5029.

### Serving Our Country

Are there any Villagers who are serving in the United States Armed Forces?

Do you have a family member who is serving? If so, we would like to know and be able to recognize them in future issues of *The Village Voice*.

Send info to: [ISVillage@aol.com](mailto:ISVillage@aol.com) or call Patricia Crapet - voice mail - 802-2753