

The Village Voice



Volume 13, Number 2

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

May 13, 2003

INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, May 20, 2003, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 3, 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
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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), or e-mail 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. Reporter for the Homestead neighborhood is Jana Hagan, 5121 Hollow Log Lane, Birmingham 35244 (980-9419) or e-mail: byzx4charter.net.

The Village Voice is published the second Tuesday of each month. Articles for publication in the June 2003 edition should be submitted by Tuesday noon, June 3. The editor reserves the right to edit all materials submitted for publication, including **letters to the editor**, which must be signed & give writer's address and phone 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 the council.

Editor's Appreciation to:

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

A Message From the Mayor

By Gene Weingarten

The following article appeared in the May 2000 issue of The Village Voice. Written by then-Chief Deputy Chris Curry, it is as applicable now as it was then. We can take comfort in knowing that Indian Springs Village (and all of Shelby County) have the very best in law enforcement. Recent articles in news media point out the necessity of expanding our Sheriff's Department to meet the exploding growth in our county. Remember to be a supporter of Chris and his staff.

The Shelby County Sheriff's Office plays a vital role in the infrastructure of Indian Springs. As each of you know, Shelby County Sheriff's Office is the law enforcement agency that serves the town of Indian Springs. Our officers are most often recognized while on patrol in your community; however, we play many roles that go unnoticed. Your Sheriff's Office is not just the people on patrol. We also have corrections officers who operate the jail, dispatchers, investigators, and office personnel that are a very vital part of our operation.

The main objective of any law enforcement agency is to maintain order and protect the citizens that we serve. Every day we are called upon to make arrests—both on warrants and/or without warrants, if there is sufficient reason to believe that a crime has been committed. At the same time, we must thoroughly investigate all complaints by properly securing crime scenes and interviewing suspects and witnesses. While many times you call on us for civil problems, our only role in the civil courts is merely serving the civil documents originating in our courts and carrying out the directives set forth by our judges.

Many of you call on us for a permit to carry a concealed weapon. The money generated from these permits provides training for all our employees as well as equipment such as weapons, ammunition, pagers and cell phones for on-call employees, vehicles, and continuing education and enrichment materials. You may also see us in the middle of the highway while we are directing traffic before and after school for various sporting events, for your July 4th parade, or at civic or social events held at your town hall. If you need a speaker for your civic group, church group, neighborhood association, or school classroom, we happily provide them. Officers are available to speak on a variety of issues such as personal safety, internet crime, business and/or home security plans, or D.A.R.E. topics.

Another of the responsibilities of the Sheriff's Office is to see that each of our elections is carried out in a proper manner. We, along with the Probate Judge and Circuit Clerk, are responsible for finding poll workers, training them in correct procedure, and later tallying and certifying the vote.

We are also called upon during the course of natural disasters. As many of you will recall, we provided security and transport during the tornado that hit the Village several years ago. We even help to clear the roadways when necessary.

As you can gather, we are a service office which is in constant contact with the public. The impressions that we make depend upon the attitudes of each individual employee and those with whom we come in contact. It is only by working together that we can make a difference and see our communities grow and prosper.

Town Council Highlights

April 15, 2003

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met at the town hall for their bi-weekly (third Tuesday) meeting on April 15, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. Present were Art Johnson, Herb Robins, and Brian Stauss. Mayor Gene Weingarten presided.

Town Clerk Shirley Church gave the following financial report: Receipts: beer tax \$803; insurance fees \$118; bringing the general fund balance to \$181,924. Road fund receipts: \$1,011; expenditures \$1,450; leaving a balance of \$64,604; Indian Springs Village Children's Fund, \$250 received; balance in the fund \$682.

Councilman Art Johnson announced that no aluminum can collections would be made in April as at least three volunteers would be on vacation; he urged everyone to save their aluminum to be collected in May. Brian Stauss is up-dating our website.

Herb Robins recognized Mr. Jay Jerman of Chelsea, originator and director of the Citizen Observer Patrol (COP) program; Earl Niven, Jr., Chelsea Town Councilman in charge of the COP program; Sally Williams, a three-year volunteer and recruiting chairperson for COP; also Shelby County Sheriff Chris Curry--all here to give the presentation on how this volunteer program had favorably impacted Chelsea.

Mayor Gene Weingarten said a letter of thanks had been received concerning the defibrillators the town donated to the Oak Mountain High School (page 3). The seven defibrillators donated to Oak Mountain Schools have already been paid for.

Jerry Templeton, chairman of the Zoning and Planning Commission, reported that at the well-attended April 8 meeting the commission had denied rezoning at the intersection of Caldwell Mill Road and Highway 119 to allow for the erection of a Texaco gasoline station and convenience store. The applicant was Danny Bowers; the property owner, Larry Maddox.

Zoning and Planning approved a re-zoning request to remove a portion of land from the back of the Cook's Pest Control parcel on Caldwell Mill Road and add that land to the adjacent Bailey and Owens Construction, Inc., property.

The town's comprehensive plan was discussed briefly at the Zoning and Planning meeting. The commission hopes to present to council recommendations at the June 3 town council meeting, as well as a date and place for another public hearing.

Jim Wyatt, Assistant Town Clerk, presented one annexation request of contiguous property at 4946 Caldwell Mill Lane by owners Paul and Lynne Davenport, which was approved.

The rest of the meeting was the presentation of the Citizen Observer Patrol (COP) program in Chelsea, a volunteer organization of citizens who, after training, patrol neighborhoods and business areas to help deter crime and assist in emergencies such as auto accidents. Volunteers patrol in teams of two, committing to donate a minimum of three hours per week for patrols. COP volunteers are not armed, and they do not engage directly in enforcing the law. Instead, they observe and report suspicious activities and problem situations to the Sheriff's Department for investigation and action.

Sheriff Curry, Jay Jerman, and all presenters from Chelsea offered help and counsel in establishing a program here. Councilman Herb Robins has two Indian Springs volunteers already, but many more are needed.

Town Council Highlights

May 6, 2003

By Patricia Crapet, Town Council Place #2

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met on Tuesday, May 6, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. at the Indian Springs Village Town Hall. Mayor Gene Weingarten presided, with council members Patricia Crapet, Art Johnson, and Brian Stauss present.

Town Clerk Shirley Church presented the minutes of the previous meeting, which were adopted as corrected. There was no financial report given.

Councilwoman Patricia Crapet reported that the Easter Egg Hunt was very well attended. Certain blocks of prizes got very low, mainly due to children's requesting prizes that were not in their prize group. Next year specific prize requests will not be taken. Extra prizes will be on hand, but not in the general prize pool, just in case of a shortage.

Councilwoman Crapet reported having been contacted by the Birmingham Water Works Board for utility tax license fees due to the town. All paperwork has been presented, and the town will begin collecting fees from them soon.

Councilman Art Johnson reported that the next aluminum can pickup will be on Wednesday evening, May 21st. Volunteers are needed to assist in the can pickup, as there was no April pickup due to the Easter holidays.

Councilman Brian Stauss reported that Michael Felix, original webmaster of the Indian Springs Village website, will be home from college for the summer and has volunteered to assist the town on the website while he is here.

Councilman Stauss reported that all Zoning and Planning letters had been sent out to property owners affected by the request for rezoning of property at the corner of Caldwell Mill Road and Cahaba Valley Road, which would allow for a gas station/convenience store. The council will hear the proposal and make a final determination on this request, recommended denial by the Zoning and Planning Commission. Councilman Stauss also reported that Indian Springs Village will send representatives to the next meeting of the Chelsea Citizens Observer Patrol (COP).

Mayor Gene Weingarten read a letter that the town received from Coach Toney Pugh of Oak Mountain High School regarding the seven defibrillators purchased for the Oak Mountain Schools by ISV. The letter (see page 3) was signed by the principals of all the schools. The council had previously voted unanimously to donate the defibrillators to the schools after learning that there were none located on the premises. In recent weeks the lives of two students in the Birmingham metropolitan area were saved through use of defibrillators.

Chief Financial Officer and Town Clerk Emeritus Paul Stephens reported that there is a need for volunteers for the ISV Emergency Crews. Four crews will be needed to cover the different areas of ISV. These crews will be on call to assist with unblocking roads, etc., whenever there is inclement weather that causes problems. Anyone who wishes to be included on the lists is welcome. Most helpful would be persons owning chain saws and/or four-wheel-drive vehicles. To volunteer, please call Paul Stephens at 988-4672.

A Letter to the Mayor

Dear Mayor Weingarten:

Thank you for your help in providing seven defibrillators for Oak Mountain Schools. We feel very fortunate to have this equipment and training in our schools. Though we hope never to have occasion to use this equipment, it could easily save the life of a child.

We appreciate your generosity and feel that the community can take comfort knowing that we now have the best equipment and training in our schools. You are truly a friend to our schools and your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Toney Pugh

Athletic Director and Head Football Coach

Oak Mountain High School

Randy Fuller, Principal, Oak Mountain High School

Jane Hampton, Principal, Oak Mountain Elementary School

Mary Howard, Principal, Inverness Elementary School

Dr. Linda Maxwell, Principal, Oak Mountain Intermediate School

Dr. Mary White, Principal, Oak Mountain Middle School.

Aluminum Recycling - May 21

By Art Johnson, Town Council Place #4

In May, aluminum recycling is Wednesday evening, May 21, 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.

There was no collection in April due to the Easter holidays. In March the recycling volunteers were Margie and Herb Robins, Trudy and Paul Scokel, Bo Holmes and Jackie Johnson, and Bryan Bidy and Art Johnson. For more information on recycling or to volunteer, please call 988-3217.

Wildlife Center Needs Volunteers

Volunteers are urgently needed at the Wildlife Center to provide care for Alabama's injured and orphaned native wildlife and to educate Alabamians to understand and appreciate our wild neighbors. The next training session for new volunteers is scheduled for Sunday, May 18, 2003, from 1:30 - 5:00 p.m. at the Wildlife Center, Oak Mountain State Park. To receive your volunteer information packet call 663-7930.

March Building Permits

By Marty Martin, Town Engineer

Address, applicant, request, comments:

Lot 13 Mountain Cove, Dobbs Realty, new residence, approved.

Resting S. Ranch, Paragon Engineering, grading, approved.

Garden Club Tours Garden

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

Our garden tour originally scheduled for late Thursday, April 24, was moved to Sunday, April 27. Nine members and a guest visited the woodland garden of Nell and L. O. Ferris in Alabaster. It was a beautiful afternoon with a crisp, cool breeze. Everyone enjoyed seeing the beauty that this couple had created on one end of their 18 acres. It's hard to believe that the Ferrises are in their eighties! They graciously treated us to refreshments in their lovely home. It was an afternoon to remember, especially for the inspiration it gave to us as gardeners.

Inclement weather caused the May 8 visit to the garden of Karen Jones on Valleydale Road to be postponed.

May 22 is our annual plant exchange. We will be joined by members from the Heatherwood Garden Club and the Morning Glory Garden Club from the Russett Woods area. We will meet at the town hall pavilion at 7:00 p.m. We invite all garden enthusiasts to be our guests for an evening of fun and fellowship. Please bring along an established perennial or houseplant to exchange. It is always rewarding to get something new for your gardening pleasure. Refreshments will be served.

Mark your calendars for the Fern Society's sale on June 18. There will be an evening as well as a daytime activity. Look for details in the next *Village Voice*.

We look forward to seeing new faces at our plant exchange on May 22. Let's help our plants GROW TOGETHER. Call Marge at 987-4765 or Del at 987-5029 with any questions.

Fire Ants Alert!

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

The Shelby County Extension System is hosting a fire ant management program, "Stop Chasing Those Fire Ants Around." Alabama Cooperative Extension System Specialist/Auburn University Professor Dr. Kathy L. Flanders will be presenting the program on Thursday, May 29, 6:30 -8:30 p.m. in the meeting room of the North Shelby Library. The program is free. Contact Agent Nelson D. Wynn at 669-6763 to pre-register before Wednesday, May 28, as space is limited.

When Life Gives You Scraps, Make Quilts

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

The organizational meeting for a quilting circle will be held Wednesday, May 21, 10:00 a.m. at the Indian Springs Village Town Hall, according to Elizabeth Eastman, who had several calls from Villagers indicating interest in learning and promoting the art of quilting. At this meeting, please bring something to share--quilts made, quilting squares, or handwork having to do with quilting.

Good News at the Library

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

Things are looking up at the debt-ridden North Shelby Library, with new Director Darryl Heritage and the Board of Trustees now spending time talking about acquiring books and materials and checking improved circulation statistics, instead of sweating over the wherewithall of acquiring funds. Not only that, but the director is busy applying for grants and scheduling programs of interest to patrons.

Following the defeat of two referendums seeking to increase the annual \$15 fee residents pay and adverse publicity these attempts generated, trustees were plagued with budget woes and discontent of patrons who found no new books on the shelves. All this after the new library was built when only \$1 million of the \$3 million building cost was raised.

The Board and Director worked very hard to tighten the budget, refinance loans, and uncover new sources of funds. Trustees sought the opinion of Attorney General Pryor, who agreed the commercial rate of 1.75 mills could be extended to business personal property, which includes equipment, computers, cash registers, etc., but not merchandise.

In June for the first time businesses in the North Shelby Library district will receive bills on personal property in addition to the bills they will receive in October at the 1.75 mill rate.

The money from approximately 15,000 businesses in the district is projected to bring in an extra \$30,000 to \$40,000 to the library's operating budget.

More good news. The library will receive \$10,000 to buy more current fiction, nonfiction and reference material for adults, young adults, and juveniles as the result of a Shelby County Quality of Life Enrichment Grant. North Shelby Library was among several libraries and museums and the University of Monteville to divide \$83,000 in the first round of this program to provide support for cultural programs.

This enrichment grant will actually amount to \$20,000 in new materials, said Director Darryl Heritage, as the grant requires matching funds. Heritage has talked with school librarians in the district concerning summer and fall reading lists and other material needs for school children.

A continuing source of funds has been the Friends of the North Shelby Library organization, which contributes \$500 per month to buying books and other materials. The Friends combined with the Board of Trustees and Jefferson State Community College in a welcome reception for the new director April 6. Jeff State's refurbished Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management Program supplied the outstandingly delicious refreshments.

Library statistics showed 10,000 books and other items circulated last month, a 5-10 percent increase, according to Heritage, who announced the following schedule of programs secured thus far for the library's meeting room:

June 30, Karen Utz, the curator of Sloss Furnace, will talk about its history; October 28, Dr. Alan Brown of the University of West Alabama will present a Halloween program; and on December 4, Dr. Joan Nist, Auburn University, who lived in Hawaii on December 7, 1941, will present a program on the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Summer Reading 2003

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

Books Ahoy! is the title of the summer reading program, and children are invited to "sail with us for boatloads of fun and reading adventures!" The program will run from May 31 to July 11, with prizes awarded on the last day of the program.

Each Tuesday during the six-weeks will be craft day. Programs scheduled at 2:00 p. m. have titles such as "Fish Windsock," "Make an Ocean," "Aloha Lais," "Pirate Hats," "July 4th Crafts," and "Pet Rocks." Story Time with Mr. Mac will occur at 10:30 a.m. each Wednesday.

For the first five Thursdays at 2:00 p.m., various programs are scheduled. On June 5 Mark D. Seymore will present "A Drum and Music Extravaganza," June 12, McWane Center, "Razzle Dazzle Chemistry," June 19, Ruffner Mountain, "Alabama Animals" (limit: 50 children); June 26, Mad Science, "Fire & Ice," July 3, Ronald McDonald, "Stories & Magic." July 10 is the last day for logs to be stamped and entries for prizes turned in for the drawing July 11. A wrap-up party from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon will take place at Skates 280 on Friday, July 11.

Pre-registration at the library begins May 19 (no phone registrations, please). Pre-schools should call 439-5500 for special Summer Reading arrangements.

Lakeshore Flies Olympic Flag

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

The Lakeshore Foundation in Homewood, founded by **Michael E. Stephens** of Indian Springs, now provides a permanent home to the Olympic Rings, a flag of five interlocking rings that bring to mind the ideals of excellence, hard work, and success. It is the first time the Olympic Rings will fly at a training site in the Southeast, with Alabama being one of only five states to have this distinction.

The United States Olympic Committee (USOC) executive committee has approved Lakeshore Foundation as an official Olympic and Paralympic training site, the first time in eight years that the USOC has approved a request for official training site designation. It is also the first time a designation has specifically provided for the Paralympic athlete to train alongside the Olympic athlete. For many Olympic and Paralympic athletes, the road to Athens in 2004 and Beijing in 2008 will come through Birmingham.

Birmingham supported Olympic soccer in 1996 and landed the men's Olympic marathon trials in 2004. Lakeshore Foundation's commitment to people with disabilities began more than 20 years ago with a single wheelchair basketball team, founded by Mike Stephens, and formed to give people with disabilities the opportunity to be active and independent. A devoted staff and board of directors implemented the plans that secured the Olympic Rings for Lakeshore Foundation, bringing to fruition Stephens' vision.

Village Personals

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

In Memoriam

A resident of the Village for seven years, **William E. "Bill" Morrow**, age 92, passed away on April 16. Graveside services were held April 19 at Elmwood Cemetery; visitation was Friday evening at Southern Heritage Funeral Chapel.

A member of Briarwood Presbyterian Church, Mr. Morrow had served as a church elder at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church in Midfield. He taught school at Valley Elementary in Pelham and was a geologist for Tennessee Coal, Iron, and Steel Co. In Indian Springs Mr. Morrow served on the Zoning and Planning Commission after the town incorporated.

Survivors are his wife of 61 years, Alice Morrow, and daughter, Suzan Cochran, both of 631 Valley View Road; daughter, Marcia Murrah and her husband, Pat, of Columbiana; grandchildren, Kristan Jacobs and husband Jack of Tuscaloosa; Patrick Murrah and wife Leslie of Gardendale; Jeff Cochran of Vestavia; a brother, Jim Morrow and his wife Jeanenne; a sister, Ernestine Webb of Bessemer, and sister-in-law, Mary Morrow.

Pittmans Celebrate 50th Anniversary

The children of **Bill and Jennie Pittman** of Arrowhead Lane were responsible for a big family celebration honoring their parents on their Golden Wedding Anniversary, which was April 11. The children had asked their parents what kind of celebration it should be; Bill and Jennie opted for a family dinner.

Their children present were son Chuck and wife Amanda of Atlanta; daughter Dockery and husband, Dr. Jesse ("Ace") Austin, with son Matthew and twins Jennie and Jessie, all of Montgomery, and son Henry Pittman of Birmingham. Jennie's cousin, Robert E. Lee of Wadesboro, was a house guest at the time and joined in the festivities. Also cause for celebration was the candidacy of Matthew Pittman Austin for Presidential Scholar in the arts category (see col. 2).

Bill and Jennie have been area residents since 1966 and were active in the Indian Springs Civic Association. Chuck attended Valley Elementary and Thompson; Dockery attended Thompson schools; Henry attended Valley Elementary and Pelham High School.

We congratulate them on achieving this milestone anniversary and wish them many more.

Norman Church Has Surgery

Things are getting more back to normal in the household of **Shirley Church**, ISV's Town Clerk. Husband **Norman**, who is now back at work at Mazda on Highway 119, had

heart surgery involving five stints. What is remarkable is that his mother, Helen Church of Vestavia, had two stints at the same time and in the same hospital. She spent some time at the Church home on New Hope Mountain Road while recovering. Both patients are doing fine, Shirley reports.

He's a Presidential Scholar!

Matthew Pittman Austin, age 18, grandson of Bill and Jennie Pittman of Arrowhead Lane, is one of three 2003 Presidential Scholars from Alabama. An ARTS winner in the Visual Arts, he is one of 16 Presidential Scholars in the Arts chosen nationwide. Matthew is the son of Dr. Jesse ("Ace") and Dockery Pittman Austin of Montgomery and a senior at the Montgomery Academy, where he is an Honors student.

Matthew's picture as a finalist was in the April issue of *The Village Voice*. After graduation he plans to study at the Rhode Island School of Design.

As a Presidential Scholar in the Arts, Matthew will travel to Washington, D. C. in June (accompanied by many members of the family). There the 16 young artists chosen, who are also outstanding in scholastic achievement, will join the 137 Academic Presidential Scholars for National Recognition Week. The week includes a White House-sponsored Medallion Ceremony and in Matthew's case, since he is in the visual arts category, an opportunity to have his works displayed in a Washington, D.C.-area museum.

Matthew's teacher at the Montgomery Academy, Hope Brannon of Wetumpka, will also be honored in Washington along with teachers of the other winners as Distinguished Teachers.

Our congratulations to young Matthew and the Pittman family.

Local Schools Have 17 Finalists

Of the 12 Shelby County High School seniors named National Merit finalists, Oak Mountain High School set a system-wide record with nine students.

Those students are Janet Bowles, Allyson Brown, Michael Burns, who received Merit Scholarships; Bethany Firch, **Jeremy Gaskins (Indian Springs)**, James Gilbreath, Robert Goff, Kelly Henry, and **Jennifer Underwood (Indian Springs)**.

Indian Springs School has eight finalists in the 2003 competition for Merit Scholarship Awards. The finalists are **Vernon Chaplin (Indian Springs)**, son of Dr. David and Jane Chaplin, 403 Wildwood), Helen Eckinger (also a Presidential Scholar), Kent Haines, Alex McPhilips, Leah Tharpe, Jeremy Tobias, Julia Trechsel, and Kelly Zhai. Natalie O'Neal won the Certificate of Merit.

Jennifer Underwood, daughter of Dr. Edgar and Christine Underwood of Deer Mountain Circle, also received a four-year University of Alabama at Birmingham University Scholars Award valued at \$16,000 and a four-year Provost Award valued at \$8,000. **Jeremy Gaskins** won the Bell South Pioneer Award.

Jeremy Gaskins Is Eagle Scout

By Art Johnson, Town Council Place # 4

Jeremy Jaskins earned the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest honor in Boy Scouts. He is a member of Boy Scout Troop 5, which is led by Mr. Bill Gardner and sponsored by Christ Church United Methodist.



Jeremy Gaskins

For his Eagle Scout project, Jeremy helped organize resources for the Christ Church Children's ministry. He, and other scouts under his direction, copied information from over 100 books and then categorized and organized the material for later use as teaching aids.

In addition to serving as assistant senior patrol leader, patrol leader, and assistant patrol leader, Jeremy earned 34 merit badges. His scouting peers chose him for the Troop 5 Award of Merit and to be inducted into the Order of the Arrow.

Despite a kidney transplant in December 2001 and further kidney surgery in December 2002, Jeremy has won highest honors in the classroom. He is ranked first (tied with two other classmates) in his 349-student class with a 4.398 GPA on a scale of 4. Jeremy has been named to *Who's Who Among American High School Students* and is a National Honor Society member. Among his other academic awards are recognition by the *Birmingham Post-Herald* on their Alabama All-State Academic Team, which honors the top 10 students in the state, and a perfect score on the Shelby County Comprehensive Math Exam. He also scored a 33 on the ACT. Jeremy will be attending Auburn University in the fall, majoring in chemical engineering.

Jeremy's outside activities including playing the alto sax for the Oak Mountain High School Spirit of Cahaba Marching Band and Wind Ensemble. He has been selected to the Alabama All-State Honor Band, UAB Honor Band and will play for the Auburn University Marching Band next year. He is also a member of the Valleydale Baptist Church orchestra.

Jeremy is the son of Tommy and Rita Gaskins and lives on Willow Ridge Drive.

Don Keith Produces New Novel

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

Forge Books has announced the release of a major new novel by co-authors **Don Keith** of Indian Springs and retired Navy Cmdr. George Wallace. *Final Bearing* is a techno-thriller in the same vein as books by such best-selling writers as Tom Clancy and Stephen Coonts and has drawn praise for its authenticity and anticipation of events that are already beginning to appear in today's headlines.

The book tells the story of an aging U. S. Navy submarine, the *USS Spadefish*, sent on its last mission to support a SEAL team working in South America to destroy the empire of a maniacal drug lord. Juan de Santiago has developed a highly addictive strain of cocaine that he hopes will increase his customer base in the States. However, the new coke is so addictive it leads to a rash of overdose deaths. The SEALs and the crew of *Spadefish* have to destroy de Santiago's coca fields and processing plants before more of the product can be shipped to the USA. But they soon learn that another load is already on its way aboard a super-secret mini-submarine. Its cargo may be even more deadly than the cocaine that came before it.

According to a press release, much of the book is based on actual events, some only recently declassified. Commander Wallace is a former nuclear submarine captain and has worked extensively with SEALs.

Don Keith was a broadcast personality for over 20 years in Birmingham and Nashville. His first novel, *The Forever Season*, was published in 1995 (and written about in *The Village Voice*) and won the Alabama Library Association's "Fiction of the Year" award in 1997. It was recently re-issued by the University of Alabama Press as part of its prestigious Deep South Books series. His second novel, *Wizard of the Wind*, was based on Keith's years in radio. He next released a series of young adult/men's adventure novels, *The Rolling Thunder Stock Car Racing* series, co-authored with Kent Wright. He is currently working on a non-fiction historical work to be published by Forge Books in early 2004.

Rick, Glad Y'all Are Still Here

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

Richard Burgess of the "Rick and Bubba Show" on WYSF-FM 94.5 and wife, Sherri, recently purchased a new home in the Mountain Cove area of Indian Springs. The Burgess family has lived in the Village since 1998.

According to *The Birmingham News*, Rick and Bubba have a big percentage of the Birmingham radio listening audience in the mornings, and the show's popularity is expanding beyond the Southeast, where it is heard on 21 stations. The show was recently picked up by a station in Sioux Falls, S.D., where personnel heard the show and became interested in carrying it.

Rick and side-kick, Bubba, broadcast their radio show live on Turner South, Channel 73 on Charter Cable, Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. The show is repeated on the network at midnight each night.

To Rick, Sherri, and the four Burgess children, we are glad you have decided to stay in the Village!