

The Village Voice



Volume 15, Number 6

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

September 13, 2005

INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday, September 20, 2005 , 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 4, 2005, 7:00 p.m.

Agenda

- I. Mayor/Council/Committee Reports
- II. Ordinances and Resolutions
- III. Citizen's Forum

Indian Springs Village Telephone Directory
Number is 982-1755

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

or E-Mail: ISVillage@aol.com

Website: www.indianspringsvillage.org

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 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: Alison Stigers, Editor, 5110 Split Rail Trail, Birmingham, Alabama, 35244 (981-1750), Fax: 980-0408, or e-mail: villagevoice@indianspringsvillage.org.

The Village Voice is published the second Tuesday of each month. Articles for publication in the October edition should be submitted by Friday noon, September 30, 2005. All materials submitted for publication may be edited, including **letters to the editor, which must be signed and 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

Indian Springs Village couriers for hand delivery
Mildred Wyatt for the masthead drawing
Herb Robins for proofing

Message from the Mayor

by Steve Zerkis

Katrina

I'm not going to try to add any detail to all that we all have seen and read on TV and the papers about Hurricane Katrina. For many of us the damage hits closer to home because we have lived, gone to school in, or just visited those areas from Mobile through New Orleans that are now destroyed. It's hard to imagine all of that as rubble and sewage.

Destruction of property is one thing, but the destruction of lives, jobs, neighborhoods, schools and the economy of these areas is another. Our state has welcomed thousands of people from the destroyed areas who, when told to evacuate, just threw a few things in their vehicles and got out before the hurricane hit. They assumed they would be back home in a couple of days and could get on with their lives. For many now those lives are gone. No home, no possessions, no income, no jobs and for many, no family. I think it's safe to say that virtually none of us have experienced this level of total destruction of lives that covers several states. Many of these people are going to be hurting for years and years.

In a Town Council meeting in August, a resident described ISV as a town where “neighbors help neighbors.” Well, we have a lot of new neighbors in our midst. Their children are being enrolled in our Oak Mountain Schools and the several private schools in our town, and in various county schools. These people are trying to find places to live, and that includes the camp grounds at Oak Mountain State Park. I know of at least one church in town that is opening its doors this coming weekend to provide meals to any and all evacuees. Many will need jobs so they can survive. And they also need people who will listen, to help them deal with the emotional impact of this tragedy.

We, as a town, need to be looking for ways to help. We don't have a detailed assistance plan to follow yet. But your town council has begun to meet to identify ways we can all help. I'm asking everyone to make suggestions, and more importantly look for ways to contribute in some way. This can be with money, time, skills and compassion. In speaking with Commissioner Lindsey Allison, the county will be needing volunteers who can give of their time to provide on-going assistance. Those needs will be publicized.

The issue here is that this is a long-term problem. One pass of the hat will help but cannot be final. We need to be looking at ways to help for months and months, possibly years. Our town “birthday” is the third Tuesday in October as it is every year. Great food will be served as usual. We will ask everyone who attends to consider making a donation that will be used specifically to assist Katrina evacuees. Any amount is welcome. We will be looking at using our town events for the next year or two as fund raisers for this cause. I hope you will help as you can. It will be most appreciated.

Town Council Meeting

July 19, 2005

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met on Tuesday, July 19, 2005 at 7:00 P.M. at the Indian Springs Village Town Hall.

Town Clerk Shirley Church called the roll and noted the presence of Mayor Steve Zerkis, Council Members Herb Robins, Brian Stauss, Brenda Guercio and Jack Mendel. Also present were Chief Financial Officer Paul Stephens and Administrative Assistant Bart Trammell.

The minutes of July 5, 2005 were presented and unanimously adopted as amended on a motion by Stauss; seconded by Guercio. The financial report for June, 2005 was presented to the Council and unanimously adopted as amended on a motion by Robins; seconded by Mendel.

There was discussion regarding whether a separate bank account is needed for monies received from the Alabama Trust Fund. A motion was made by Robins, seconded by Mendel, to table a decision on this until the next Council meeting.

Guercio reported that Shelby County Humane Society Representative Diane Henderson would like to make a presentation at our August 16, 2005 town meeting.

Zerkis stated that a work session will be held on Tuesday, July 26, 2005 at the town hall to begin work on the Fiscal Year 2006 budget. Sheriff Curry will attend and discuss his proposal and a contract for additional sheriff's services for our town. Sheriff Curry also plans to attend our August 16, 2005 town meeting where a public hearing will take place on the same subject. All residents will be invited to attend the meeting.

Zerkis reported there is discussion in progress with the Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Services regarding the walking track.

Stauss made a motion, seconded by Robins, that the rules be suspended to consider two annexation petitions. The vote to suspend the rules was unanimous. The first petition completes the annexation of the Town Hall property initiated and approved at the Town Council meeting June 17, 1997. The second petition is a new petition for property owned by Johnny and Carolyn Driskill. Guercio made a motion, seconded by Robins, to adopt these annexations. Both petitions were adopted unanimously.

There was discussion between the Town Council and Villager Jenny Girardeau, who resides at 483 Indian Trail, regarding zoning ordinance requirements when building or rebuilding accessory buildings. Mrs. Girardeau also requested the Council contact proper authorities on the replacement of County Road No. 365 sign at the intersection of Indian Trail and Cahaba Valley Road. Trammell stated that County Road No. 367 sign at the intersection of Valley View Road and Cahaba Valley Road also needed to be replaced.

There was discussion regarding inspections made by the city engineer on private property.

There being no further business, Robins made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Shirley Church, Town Clerk

Town Council Meeting

August 2, 2005

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met on Tuesday, August 2, 2005 at 7:00 P.M. at the Indian Springs Village Town Hall.

Town Clerk Shirley Church called the roll and noted the presence of Council Members Herb Robins, Brian Stauss and Jack Mendel. Council Chairman Pro Tem Herb Robins presided. Also present were Assistant Town Clerk Jim Wyatt and Administrative Assistant Bart Trammell. Because a quorum was not present, no official business could be conducted. No financial report was given.

Robins reported a workshop/fact-finding meeting was held by the town council on Tuesday, July 26, 2005 with Sheriff Chris Curry to discuss the possibility of ISV contracting with the County to provide additional law enforcement services on a part-time basis with another municipality, possibly Westover. Sheriff Curry will plan to attend the town meeting on August 16 where the public will have the opportunity to discuss this proposal.

Robins reported Earthworks has closed its operation in Indian Springs Village. It is unknown what the new owner's plans are for the site.

Wyatt displayed a 1994 map which outlined the town limits at that time. There being no further business, the council accepted a motion by Mendel that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Shirley Church, Town Clerk

Town Council Meeting

August 16, 2005

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met on Tuesday, August 16, 2005 at 7:00 P.M. at the Indian Springs Village Town Hall.

Town Clerk Shirley Church called the roll and noted the presence of Mayor Steve Zerkis, Council Members Herb Robins, Brian Stauss, Brenda Guercio and Jack Mendel. Also present were Chief Financial Officer Paul Stephens, Administrative Assistant Bart Trammell, Assistant Town Clerk Jim Wyatt and Chairman of Planning & Zoning Wayne Jones.

The minutes of July 19, 2005, August 02, 2005 and August 19, 2005 were suspended on a motion by Robins; seconded by Stauss. The financial report for July 2005 was suspended on a motion by Robins; seconded by Mendel.

Stauss reported the Board of Zoning Adjustment will meet next Tuesday, August 23, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall to review and consider an application from the Indian Springs School for a special use variance.

Mendel reported a revision has been made in the financial report to incorporate a separate capital fund account and CD account reporting. This new spreadsheet will be discussed at the next town council meeting.

Trammell presented five petitions for annexation to the Council for consideration. **Zerkis** made a motion, seconded by Robins, that the Council suspend the rules to consider two annexation requests. The vote to suspend the rules was unanimous. Robins made a motion, seconded by Guercio, to adopt these annexations. Both annexations were adopted unanimously. One annexation involved the property located at 7002 Indian Ridge Drive and the other annexation involved properties located at 7005 Indian

Ridge Drive and parcels at 8001, 8002 and 8008 Woodfern Drive.

Zerkis recognized the presence of member of Boy Scout Troop 93 who meets at Oak Mountain Presbyterian Church. Members of this troop were present to earn the Communications Badge toward achieving Eagle Scout.

Sheriff Chris Curry made a presentation outlining the proposal for the County to provide additional law enforcement services on a part-time basis to ISV with another municipality, possibly Westover. The floor was opened for a question and answer session. A show of hands of all present was taken and the majority of residents in attendance were in favor of the proposal as presented. Guercio made a motion, seconded by Robins, to verbally accept the concept of this proposal in the form of a written contract subject to final review by the Council. The motion was unanimously accepted,

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Zerkis.

Respectfully submitted,
Shirley Church, Town Clerk

Building Permits

by Frazier Christy, City Engineer

Date: 8-9-05 Applicant: Carter Homebuilders

Owner: Same

Subdivision: Indian Gate, MB 33, Pg 64

Lot: 17

Address: 151 Indian Gate Circle

Proposed use: NEW CONSTRUCTION

Date: 8-9-05 Applicant: Mark S. Williams

Owner: Same

Subdivision: Mountain Park 3rd Sector, MB 10, Page 13

Lot: 11

Address: 5314 Mountain Park Circle

Proposed use: Residence –Gazebo

Date: 8-10-05

Applicant: Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church

Owner: Same

Section: Part of Sec. 22, Twp 19 S, R 2 W

Address: 5514 Double Oak Lane

Proposed use: Social Hall

Date: 8-19-05 Applicant: Citation Homes

Owner: Same

Subdivision: High Gate Manor, MB 35, Page 78

Lot: 1

Address: Highgate Hill – Number not assigned

Proposed use: Residence

Board of Zoning Adjustment

Meeting Minutes - August 23, 2005

submitted by Brian Stauss, Chair

Present:

Brian Stauss

Benton Baker

Ralph Bodie

Steve Zerkis

Mr. Mel MacKay, Indian Springs School Director

Mr. Dick Pigford, ArchitectureWorks

The Indian Springs Village BZA met at 7:20pm to consider a request from Indian Springs School for a special exception use as a school in an A-1 zone. The School was grandfathered in when the Village incorporated and there is no record of a special exception use being granted since incorporation.

After an introduction by the Chair, Mr. MacKay and Mr. Pigford commented on the School's relationship with the Village and its planned expansion this year.

Benton Baker made a motion to accept the request for a special exception use as presented. Ralph Bodie seconded. The motion passed. The special exception use is perpetual.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.

Still Unclaimed

The Girl Scout vest from Troop 578 that was left at the Town Hall quite some time ago is still unclaimed. If this is your vest, or you know to whom it belongs, please contact Bart Trammell at 988-0094 and he will arrange to open the Town Hall so the owner can pick up the vest.

Hurricane Katrina Visits ISV

by Steve Zerkis, Mayor

Katrina came through ISV and left a lot of downed and broken trees in its wake. A good part of town was without power for up to two days. A number of street were closed because of fallen live power lines and downed trees. Luckily there were no serious injuries while repair crews from Alabama and North Carolina opened our streets and re-connected lines. It took them a while to get around only because of the extent of damage in our state. It was good to see so many fellow residents out with their chain saws and tools clearing streets and helping neighbors. Thanks to everyone for being good citizens.



Katrina Scams

by Steve Zerkis, Mayor

Katrina victims and evacuees do need our help, but please beware of the many scams that are now appearing on the internet looking to take your money. Sometimes they mimic the names of charities we know such as the Red Cross or Salvation Army. Others sound good but are totally false. Some are simply schemes to get your credit card numbers for their own use. Be careful. If in doubt, mail your donations to the local branch of your charity as you find it in the phone book or as they are known to you from previous experience. I'd avoid using the internet for this purpose.

Katrina Evacuees with Disabilities

by Steve Zerkis, Mayor

If you are aware of any Katrina evacuees with disabilities please inform them that The Arc of Shelby County is available to assist families or individuals who have developmental disabilities. They should contact Karen Stokes, Executive Director, The Arc of Shelby County, 1960 H Chandalar Drive, Pelham, 35124, 205-664-9313. If needed, Karen can also provide developmental disabilities support information on a stateside basis.



Email Access at North Shelby Library

by Steve Zerkis, Mayor

North Shelby Library reported that there were lines of people waiting to use personal computers. These were people who are victims of Katrina who are staying in our area and are using PC's to contact family and friends, and printing out their needed FEMA and insurance forms.

Your Help is Needed

by Brenda Bell-Guercio, Council Member

The devastation from Katrina affects not only people but dogs, cats, horses, livestock and other creatures.

The Shelby Humane Executive Director and Animal Control Officer will be taking a 16ft. truck full of needed items to Jackson, Mississippi on September 9th. More trips, with supplies to help the animal victims and survivors and misplaced pets, will be forthcoming.

Below is a list of needed items. Any help will be greatly appreciated. Also cash donations are greatly needed and can be made through several sources including the United States Humane Society for Katrina Relief or our local Humane Societies:

Small sandwich bags/poop bags
Wheelbarrows
Spray bottles
Outdoor kennels
Towels/rags
100 foot water hoses
Cat food dry/can
Rabbit food
Small disposable litter pans
T-N-A hay
Ziploc 1 gallon storage bags
Biogard (or other pet safe) ant killer
Lime/sulfur shampoo
Spout watering buckets
Trash can liners
Brooms

Digital thermometers
Portable puppy fencing
Squeeges
Puppy food dry/can
Dog food dry/can
Small animal food
Wire crates
Intake collars
Nalvason bath shampoo
Garden pump sprayers
Portable tables
Bleach
Muck mop buckets
Push brooms
Leashes/collars
Copy Paper

Please call the Shelby Humane Society Shelter for collections locations and dates/time: 669-3916. If you would consider fostering a dog or cat or offering a temporary home, please call the Shelby Humane Society or Birmingham Humane Society to put your name on the list.

Village Personals

Jessica Allison Hegarty and Gregory Francis Zerkis are pleased to announce their engagement and forthcoming marriage. Jessica is a graduate of the Chicago-Kent College of Law, and a former Assistant State's Attorney now in private practice in Chicago. Greg is a graduate of Purdue University, and received his MBA from the Lake Forest Graduate School of Management. He is a corporate manager at Motorola. They plan a winter wedding in the Caribbean. Greg is the son of Pat and Steve Zerkis of Indian Springs Village.

ISV Birthday Time

by Steve Zerkis, Mayor

A reminder to all that we will be celebrating Indian Springs Village's 15th birthday on Tuesday, October 18, 2005 at the pavilion. The Town Council will have its meeting and there will be food and drink for all. Hope to see you all there.

IS Villager Leads #1 Math Team

The Vestavia Hills High School Math Team has been participating in the annual Mu Alpha Theta National Convention for the past 16 years, placing first for fourteen out of those 16 years, the last two years placing second. This year, led by Vestavia Hills High School math teacher and Indian Springs Village resident Kay Tipton, the team brought home the 1st place trophy once again.

Congratulations to the team and Kay Tipton for their achievement as the number 1 Math Team in the United States.

Pilates Classes

Indian Springs resident April Crunk will be instructing a basic mat Pilates program at Christ Church United Methodist Church beginning September 12, 2005. Monday and Wednesday morning and evening classes are now forming for the month of September. For more information and registration, please call Lynne Fortunis at 991-5065 or April at 478-0120. We need six pre-registered participants for the classes to form, so call now!

ISV Survives Damage

by Steve Zerkis, Mayor

When Hurricane Dennis rolled through ISV a few weeks ago, a lot of trees were lost and there was damage to some homes and property. As an example, Indian Crest near Valley View was blocked and power lines were downed by several fallen trees. Fox Fire was also blocked, and a home on Indian Crest near High Gate Hill had a large tree crash into it, and there was flooding in all the usual locations. I know there was even more damage around town. We are having serious storms almost daily and I think that we can all be thankful that no one has been seriously injured. Some of these falling trees are also bringing down power lines. Please don't go anywhere near a line on the ground or dangling in the air. We can't be sure if its live or not and the prudent thing to do is to keep family members away until Alabama Power has been able to turn off power to those lines and get them repaired.



Deputy Sheriff – An Update

by Steve Zerkis, Mayor

At the September 16th Town Council meeting, Sheriff Chris Curry made a detailed presentation about the use of a deputy sheriff for the town. The deputy would be ours for twenty hours a week. After much discussion and positive input from residents present, the council voted to approve this in concept pending the review and approval of a written contract.

Last Reminder

by Bart Trammell, Administrative Assistant

Saturday, October 8 is the last free landfill day until next spring. This is an opportunity to dispose of large household items that are now cluttering your basement. The landfill is located on the north side of Highway 70, approximately four miles west of Columbiana.

Senior Center

The Senior Center at Heardmont Park has exercise classes weekly on Tuesday and Thursday at 10:00AM. They are led by a professional trainer. They last about 45 minutes and are free. Call 991-9206 for information.

September Happenings

North Shelby Children's/Teen Department
by Rachel A. Hodges, North Shelby Library
Children's & Young Adult Librarian

Visit our website www.northshelbylibrary.org for more details or call 439-5504 or email nsyouth@shelbycounty-al.org!

Special Programming

Join us for our new program series **Evenings at the Library**. Our first evening will be held **Thursday, September 22 at 6:00**. We will celebrate Scottish Heritage Month in style with the Heritage Pipe and Drum band. Refreshments served.

For all ages:

September is "**Read-a-New-Book**" Month! Read a book that is new to you, write a short review of it and turn it into the library to enter a prize drawing. Winners will be announced at the end of the month!

***Thursday, Sept 8 at 4:00—Grandparents Day Craft.**

Bring a picture of yourself and decorate a frame to give to the special someone who spoils you when your parents aren't looking! All Ages. **Limit 30, must register to attend.**

***Tuesday, Sept 27 at 4:00—Mad Hatter Tea Party.** We'll make hats, drink "tea" and be *MAD* for an afternoon! All ages. **Limit 30, must register to attend.**

***Saturday, Sept 24 at 12:00—Cinematic Saturday.** We'll be showing "Matilda" and serving popcorn and drinks.

For Grades 2-7:

***Thursday Sept 29 at 5:00—Shel Silverstein Poetry Contest!!** Write a poem inspired by Shel Silverstein, come read it at our poetry reading, and maybe win a prize! Grades 2-7. **Must register to attend.**

Teen Zone

***Sign up for the Teen Advisory Group!** Have a say in what your library does! Call or email Rachel—439-5504 or nsyouth@shelbycounty-al.org.

~Regular Programming~

Mondays, September 12, 19, and 26

Toddler Tales @ 10:30 & 11:30 am

For ages 18-36 months. Registration required. You can call the library at 439-5504 to sign-up or put your name down for the coming weeks after the program.

Wednesdays, September 7, 14, 21, 28

Mr. Mac (Storyteller Extraordinaire!) @ 10:45 am

For all ages.

Thursdays, September 8, 15, 22, and 29

P. J. Storytime @ 7 pm

For all Ages.

September is Library Card Sign-up Month

by Carol Farr, Director, North Shelby Library

Many cards in your wallet promise reward but can cost you the world. Only one card – your library card – can bring you the world. That's why it's called "The Smartest Card."

September is Library Card Sign-Up Month. What better time to get a library card? With school back in session, students can use their library cards to get homework help, research their papers or find a title for their next book report. It's no wonder that studies show that children who are read to in the home and who use the library perform better in school and are more likely to continue to use the library as a source of lifetime learning.

In election season, voters can find the information they need to help them make an informed decision about candidates for office and issues of local, state and national importance. Access to information has never been more crucial to the functioning of our democratic society, and the library is the perfect place for making that information available to all people.

From health to history, from food to fundraising, whether it's online or in print, you can find it at your library. And a library card will get you there. Visit your library and sign up for one today. It's your ticket to a world of opportunity and no doubt the smartest card you can own.

I Live in Indian Springs...

by Bart Trammell, Administrative Assistant

...and I am proud of it! Have you taken the time to look up your name and phone number in the white pages? We seldom do because there isn't any reason for us to refer to our OWN listed number. If your mailing address is Indian Springs, AL 35124, please take a moment and look at your listing and see if your **listed** address is Indian Springs. Over half of our residents list Pelham instead of Indian Springs. Remember, the **listing** in the phone book has no bearing on your mailing address. Please dial 1-888-757-6500. Listen for the option to speak to a BellSouth Customer Representative. Tell the Representative to "change my **LISTED** address to Indian Springs". There should be no charge for this change of **listing**. Remember, this is a change of listing and not a change of address.

If you have any questions concerning your call to BellSouth, or if you want additional information, call Bart Trammell at 988-0094.

Address Confusion

by Tricia Crapet

I was shopping in the ISV Winn-Dixie when the manager, Carl, related to me that some of the Indian Springs Village customers were bothered by the fact that the receipts from the Winn-Dixie store say "Birmingham" on them, and NOT Indian Springs. Unfortunately, the underlying problem rests with the U. S. Postal Service and is zip code-related.

Because the store is located in the 35242 zip code, the address recognized by the USPS is "Birmingham", even though the store is physically located in the town of Indian Springs Village. The nationwide Winn-Dixie computer program identifies each store by postal address rather than physical location. In an effort to please, Carl did try to have this information changed, but in the end, his efforts were stymied due to corporate intervention.

This dilemma does not just affect the businesses in our shopping center. ISV has many homeowners who have this same logistical conflict between postal zip code and physical location. This occurs in many other areas, such as Quail Run, which is located in Hoover, but has a Pelham mailing address. It can be confusing, but that's the government for you!

Rest assured that the Winn-Dixie is indeed inside the corporate boundaries of the Village, and that you are still only being charged **five percent sales tax** when you shop there. That's all that really matters, now isn't it?



Volunteers Needed

Submitted by Anne G. Miller, Executive Director,
The Wildlife Center

It's Wildlife Baby Mammal Season, and Alabama's native wildlife needs your help! Volunteers are urgently needed at the Alabama Wildlife Rehabilitation Center to provide care for this year's wildlife orphans so they can return to the wild. The next training session for new volunteers is Tuesday, September 27, 2005 at 6 PM, at the Alabama Wildlife Rehabilitation Center at Oak Mountain State Park. For more information call 663-7930.

Garden Club News

by Marge Dunn, President, Indian Springs Garden Club

We'll have an opportunity to Show and Tell about our garden successes and failures. This will be our "Beauty and the Beast" show. For our meeting this month each member will bring samples of their plants that have thrived or failed. This will also be an evening to share seeds or plant treasures (plants that have thrived and multiplied).

All gardeners like to talk about plants, so this sounds like a fun evening. We'll meet at the Town Hall on Thursday, September 22nd at 7:00 PM. As usual, our fellowship and refreshments will be a great part of the evening. Come join us or if you have questions, call Marge Dunn at 987-4765.

Tip of the Month: It is time to order or buy spring flowering bulbs. Store them in the refrigerator or a cool, dry place until you plant them in November or December. It is also time to plant cool season vegetables such as beets, carrots, kale, turnip, cabbage, and Swiss chard.

Garden Club Member Honored

by Del Levesque, Indian Springs Garden Club

Frances Dudley, a founding member of the Indian Springs Garden Club, was honored with the planting of a magnolia tree on the grounds of the Town Hall. It is the intention of the members that whenever people look at this tree they will fondly remember this great lady who loved her family, her community, and all things that grow in our gardens and landscapes. Pictured here are the officers and some members of the ISGC.