

# The Village Voice



Volume 16, Number 2

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

May 9, 2006

## INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday, May 16, 2006 , 7:00 PM

Tuesday, June 6, 2006, 7:00 PM

### 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](mailto:ISVillage@aol.com)

Website: [www.indianspringsvillage.org](http://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](mailto:villagevoice@indianspringsvillage.org).

*The Village Voice* is published the second Tuesday of each month. Articles for publication in the May edition should be submitted by Tuesday, May 30, 2006. 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

As I write this, I am looking at an article in the Birmingham News about a young man from Hoover by the name of Ryan Winslow who just lost his life in Iraq. Ryan was a nineteen year old Marine Private First Class. Nineteen. Some will say he was just a kid and in many ways he always will be. His parents and family will forever have their memories of him growing up. His comrades, friends and family also knew him as a man who asked to shoulder a rifle to serve his country. I don't know why he joined the Marines. He certainly didn't do it for the money. His interests were probably more about cars, girls and his friends.

The media seems to want us to think that winning at sports makes a person a hero. Those are nice accomplishments but that is not the real world, that is not heroic. Ryan is a hero and so are the other Alabamians who have given their lives in Iraq, Afghanistan, Viet Nam, Korea, and World War II and so on back to the birth of our nation.

Losses in combat often don't make an impact on a person until you put a face and memories with the name. A long time ago, when I was in the Air Force in the late '60s, I ran into an old flight school buddy in Japan and we got together to catch up. We started to talk about our friends and realized that fifteen out of the forty five in our flight class had been lost in combat, and I could remember every face, every voice. To me those were real heroes, and so is each and every one of thousands of men and women who gave their lives over the decades. People don't go into the military to die for their country; they go for a lot of reasons but dying is not one of them, however, the risk comes with the job.

So on Memorial Day, please let's all enjoy the day, take that trip to the beach, lake or park or just be with family and friends. But also remember that our lives and freedom are paid for in full measure by our military dead. Please remember to thank them in your hearts and prayers. That's the only way they can hear you.

# Town Council Meeting

March 21, 2006

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met on Tuesday, March 21, 2006 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, Brenda Bell-Guercio, Jack Mendel and Brian Stauss. Also present were Chief Financial Officer Paul Stephens, Assistant Town Clerk Jim Wyatt and Administrative Assistant Bart Trammell.

The Town Council Minutes of March 7, 2006 were accepted on a motion by Guercio, seconded by Robins. The January, 2006 financial report was suspended...

**Robins** reported missing roads signs will be ordered through Econo-Signs and replaced.

**Robins** is making another effort to contact ADEM regarding water testing for pollution in ISV creeks.

There was discussion regarding the walking track and problems involved in returning it to a usable track. Mayor Zerkis will contact the State Engineer to determine if we can obtain their assistance in the evaluation of this problem.

**Zerkis** reported Dudley is investigating whether Children Fund donations can be used as a tax deductible item.

There was discussion regarding the original water pipes along Highway 119 containing asbestos. The County Highway Department will be contacted to determine if this line will be replaced as part of the turn-lane project.

**Stauss** announced a one-day conference being held at the BJCC to determine how to apply for grants.

**Guercio** reported the annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 15 and as many volunteers as possible are needed. There was discussion regarding ways to get more citizens involved in town's civic events.

There was discussion regarding a place to display memorials for loved ones at the Town Hall.

An electrician has checked wiring at Town Hall and a new breaker was installed.

**Zerkis** presented a Birmingham Water Works Franchise Agreement to the Council for their review.

**Zerkis** announced the Shelby County Commission and ISV are pursuing a lawsuit regarding floodway and debris violations at the properties located at and near the corner of Caldwell Mill Road and Cahaba Valley Road owned by Larry Maddox. It was determined to give another week or so before filing a formal complaint.

**Wyatt** discussed the drainage problem on the Swatek property, the Morman Church and the Highway 119 right-of-way. State Highway Engineer Gary Ray will be contacted regarding this situation.

**Zerkis** adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shirley Church, Town Clerk

# Voter Registration

by *Bart Trammell, Administrative Assistant*

I am sure everyone has received their Voter Registration I.D. Card. If your ZIP Code is 35124, please note that your mailing address is Pelham. I spoke with Marty Dillard, Board of Registrars and County Commissioner Larry Dillard's wife, about the incorrect mailing address. She says she has no control over it and the Post Office handles it. I can't believe this little computer glitch can't be corrected if we can get men on the moon and build space stations out in space. I encourage everyone with a 35124 Zip Code to return their cards with a corrected address indicating Indian Springs, Alabama. Please encourage your neighbors to do likewise. I would like for our town officials to contact our County Representatives/ Commissioners and express their displeasure. Remember, this is an election year and I am sure all the politicians will look into this matter and finally get it resolved for the good citizens of Indian Springs Village.

# Yard Signs

by *Steve Zerkis, Mayor*

It is election season and campaign signs are sprouting up like weeds all over town. Please do everyone a favor and do not place any of these signs in the public right-of-way. They need to be back on your own property otherwise they may be subject to being removed. Let's also please keep the number of signs to a reasonable amount.

# No Burning

by *Steve Zerkis, Mayor*

Just a reminder that Shelby County's mandatory NO BURN season began as of May 1, 2006. We cannot do any outdoor burning until the fall. For further information please contact the Shelby County Manager's Office, the North Shelby Fire Department or the Alabama Department of Environment Management (ADEM) at 334-271-7700 or visit their website: [www.adem.state.al.us](http://www.adem.state.al.us).

# Alabama Wildlife Center Needs Volunteers

by *Anne Miller, Director*

April through August is Baby Animal Season at the Alabama Wildlife Center, when more than 900 orphaned songbirds, raptors and mammals are brought in for care and preparation for release back into the wild. Volunteers are critical for helping the Center perform daily tasks necessary to provide quality care to the wildlife creatures. For more information about the Alabama Wildlife Center and volunteer opportunities, contact [Media@awrc.org](mailto:Media@awrc.org) or call 205-663-7930.

# Indian Springs Village 2006 Easter Egg Hunt

by Brenda Bell-Guercio, Council Member

The 2006 Indian Springs Easter Egg Hunt was a big success. It was great to see our kids with happy faces and full Easter baskets! The Easter Bunny himself paid us a visit and lots of parents got special pictures of their kids with the Easter Bunny.

We would like to thank our volunteers and helpers including Pat and Russ Favorite, Abbey Smith, Herb and Margie Robins, Alison Stigers, Mayor Steve Zerkis, Marge Dunn, Joan and Lana Burwell, Emily and Matt Casey, Bobby Bell, C.J. Guercio and Jake Guercio.

A Special Thanks goes to Bruster's Ice Cream for donating free ice cream cone certificates for all our participants. Dr. Lisa Wilson graciously donated a large bag of eggs stuffed with candy, trinkets, and money!

We hope to be able to continue this event and others like it, including the Fourth of July BBQ and Founder's Day Celebration and Cookout in October, but this won't be possible unless we get new volunteers to head committees and be in charge of events with Council members offering help and support.

Our next scheduled event is the Fourth of July BBQ. We need volunteers for:

- 1) Decorations
- 2) Parade
- 3) Parking
- 4) Food
- 5) Clean-up

Please consider signing up for a committee and/or for an event and mail the enclosed card back to us at the Indian Springs Town Hall, 2635 Cahaba Valley Rd., Indian Springs, AL 35124 OR e-mail us care of: [Shirley@IndianSpringsVillage.org](mailto:Shirley@IndianSpringsVillage.org).



# First Annual “Bless Them All..Great and Small”

by Brenda Bell-Guercio, Council Member

The Shelby County Humane Society’s First Annual “Bless Them All...Great and Small” event was held on the grounds of the Indian Springs Town Hall Saturday April 29<sup>th</sup>.

Blessings of the animals were performed by Rev. Rebecca DeBow of St. Francis Episcopal Church. Pets and their families enjoyed a wonderful morning with music provided by the Cahaba Trio, members of the Alabama Symphony.

Sponsors of the event included Edgar’s Bakery, Starbucks Coffee in Trussville, and Panera Bread. Many vendors had booths set up for browsing and buying. These include Epic Dog Training, ERA Oxford Realty/Robert and Betty Slaughter, High Style Pets/Alyse McMeans, Mary Kay Beauty Consultant/Mary Harrison, Molette’s Pet Boutique/Molette Durham, Organic Harvest, Posh Pets/Angelia Browning, ShareXpress/Natalie Shroyer, Sporty Girls/Mary Perry, Two Sisters/Mary Weiss, and Taste of Home Entertaining.

This event kicked off the Shelter’s Guardian Angel Program. This program allows an individual or business the opportunity to sponsor a kennel at the Shelter for one year and become a guardian angel to an animal that is waiting for a home.

It was great seeing so many of our community and neighbors come out to help make this event a success. We enjoyed seeing all the cute pets, many dressed in costumes. The music was delightful, and the coffee, bagels, muffins, and fresh fruit delicious!

Both the Humane Society and Indian Springs would like to make this an annual event. We hope to see you all there next year!



## Art Fair at Heardmont Park

by Steve Zerkis, Mayor

An annual Art Fair was held at Heardmont Park on Saturday, April 29. A number of artists were present to display their work both in the open air and in the Senior Center. One of the artists exhibiting her beautiful work was Nelle O’Connor, wife of Michael O’Connor, Chief of the North Shelby Fire Department.

A lot of people took advantage of a beautiful day to enjoy the art.



## 4th of July Celebration

by Steve Zerkis, Mayor

A reminder to pencil in your calendar for our Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration. It’s where you want to be for the best barbecue and chicken you can find, wonderful cakes and pies and just a great time. Our next issue of *The Village Voice* will have a lot of details on this wonderful event to be held at the Town Hall pavilion.

We need your help to make this event happen. The event itself takes a lot of volunteers to make it work. We have a parade, the buying and cooking of food, balloons to be filled, tables to be covered, booths to be set up, music to obtain, parking to be handled, food and drinks to be served, tables to be cleaned up, and so on. All of this and more takes a lot of work by the residents of our Town and we are going to need your help. The work isn’t too hard and is actually fun. You’ll be meeting other town residents and participating in a wonderful effort. If you can spare even just an hour of your time, it would be most appreciated. We are looking for you to volunteer some time to help make this important event a success. Please contact Council Member Brenda Bell-Guercio for more information at [Brenda@indianspringsvillage.org](mailto:Brenda@indianspringsvillage.org), or 987-2581.

## New Neighbor *and* New Courier

by Alison Stigers, Editor

One of Indian Spring Village's newest residents, Heather Henriques, has volunteered to deliver *The Village Voice* to residents on Spring Garden Street and Alpine Way. Originally from Windsor, CT, the Henriques family moved to Spring Garden Street just as Hurricane Katrina moved out of Indian Springs. Heather's husband, Yurii, was recruited to work at Briarwood Christian School, and Heather homeschools the couple's 5 children – Kathryn, 13; Nathaniel, 9; Emily, 7; Hannah 5 and Amy who is 18 months old. Heather anticipates that the kids will be a big help delivering the newsletter, and we thank them all for their volunteer spirit. Our thanks to Nora and Jim Boyett for their years of dedication to Indian Springs and to *The Village Voice*.

## Garden Club News

by Lynn Hendricks, President, Indian Springs Garden Club

May is the month the roses at the Botanical Gardens are in peak bloom, so we have tentative plans to visit for our monthly meeting. Date and time are to be announced.

The annual Fern Society Lecture Series will feature Eddie Watkins, a native of Alabama, who has studied the ecology of ferns in northern Alabama as well as in Costa Rica. To be held May 17th at the Linn-Henley Lecture Hall at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, lectures are scheduled at 10:30 and 2:30 with a walk through the fern glade between lectures. The Fern Society will also hold its annual Fern Show and Sale at the Botanical Gardens on June 21st from 1-6 p.m. Admission to both Fern Society events is free.

The Cahaba Lily Festival will take place May 27th in West Blocton, AL. There will be plants for sale at the Cahaba Lily Center on Main Street in West Blocton, lunch available for a donation and canoe rentals so you can see the lilies up close. For more information you can contact the West Blocton City Hall at 205-938-7622 or email [info@cahabalily.com](mailto:info@cahabalily.com).

If you have any questions please contact me at 988-0099.

## Indian Springs School News

by Shelby Hammer, Director of External Affairs

Dr. Robert Cooper, a history teacher for 32 years at Indian Springs School, has been selected from a national applicant pool to attend one of 28 summer study opportunities supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Dr. Cooper will participate in a seminar entitled "History and Memory: World War I in British Culture." The four-week program will be held in London and along the Western Front in France and Belgium under the direction of Professors Carol Engelhardt and Barry Milligan of Wright State University.

Dr. Cooper, one of only 15 teachers out of 150 applicants to be selected, will receive a stipend of \$3000 to cover travel, study, and living expenses.

## Young Life comes to Shelby County

by Abbey Smith, Indian Springs Village Resident

Young Life is a middle school and high school ministry that I grew up with in Vestavia. It is still active there, as well as Homewood, Mountain Brook, Montgomery, Huntsville and Atmore and a million other places. About this time last year, Young Life Shelby County was launched. Young Life's Area Director, Jeff Cole, and his new wife, Mary, moved here from Atlanta to start in this new area. In case you are not familiar with Young Life, you can read more about in at [www.younglife.org](http://www.younglife.org). Here's a synopsis:

Young Life, which began in 1941, is a nonprofit organization committed to making an impact on kids' lives and preparing them for the future. Young Life leaders leave the comfort of their adult worlds and enter the arena of high school and middle school life. You will find Young Life leaders sitting in the stands at football games, walking the streets of inner-city neighborhoods, driving carloads of kids to the shopping malls or tutoring students in study centers after school. In fact, you will find them almost anywhere you can find kids. Young Life leaders model trust, respect and responsibility to their young friends, and they do it within a meaningful context, within the context of a teenager's world.

Each Young Life ministry stays true to the time-tested practices we've been using for more than 60 years: going where kids are, loving them unconditionally, earning the right to be heard and communicating God's love in terms kids can understand. Young Life is active in all 50 states and more than 45 foreign countries, reaching an estimated one million teenagers annually. Approximately 120,000 middle school and high school students are involved with Young Life on a weekly basis.

In this initial start-up, Young Life is working in Oak Mountain Middle School and Briarwood Christian School, though middle school kids from all area schools as well as home schooled children are attending bi-weekly club. For more information about Young Life in this area, folks should contact Jeff Cole at 994-5384 or [shelbyyounglife@hotmail.com](mailto:shelbyyounglife@hotmail.com).



## In Memoriam

Indian Springs resident **Betty Boezinger** passed away last month. Mrs. Boezinger, a lifelong horse enthusiast and dressage rider, had moved from her native California three years ago to be near her daughter and son-in-law, Kathy and Michael Moates, and their children, who live on Brook Green Lane. Mrs. Boezinger, who had her own horse, loved Indian Springs Village and was a member of St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church. In addition to her daughter and her family, she is survived by her brother, Bill Boezinger and his wife Shirley, of Anaheim, CA, and by a son, Bob, and his wife Teri and their children, of Davenport, IA.

## North Shelby Children's/Teen Department May Happenings

*submitted by Tess Bouvier, North Shelby Library Children's & Young Adult Librarian*

**The library will be closed May 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.**

**Visit our website** [www.northshelbylibrary.org](http://www.northshelbylibrary.org) **for more details or call 439-5504 or email** [nsyouth@shelbycounty-al.org](mailto:nsyouth@shelbycounty-al.org)!

### **Special Programming:**

\* **Tuesday, May 9th at 4:30-** “**International Firefighters Day**” Come and meet the firemen of Shelby County and hop aboard their big red fire truck! **All Ages.**

\* **Wednesday, May 31<sup>st</sup>** “**Pre-Registration for Summer Reading**” Get a head start and come and register for Summer Reading! Pick up your reading packets, sign up for awesome programs and more! (No Phone Registrations Please).

\* **Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> 10:30-2pm-** “**Summer Reading Kick-Off Party**” Once Upon a Time...there was a castle filled with books! Join us at **10:30** for a **magic show** with Mr. Chris Frings and his bunny Thumper! Then, enjoy crafts, music, games, food and even a castle to jump in! Register for Summer Reading and pick up your reading materials as you have lots of fun!

### **For All Ages:**

\* **Thursday, May 18th at 4:30-** Craft-“**Ladybug Visors!**” Come and make a ladybug visor-to help keep you cool this summer! **Registration Required.**

### **Teen Zone**

\* **Teen Summer Reading:** School is almost over!! Looking for something fun to do this summer?? How about *Free* movies, *Cool* programs and *Lots* of prizes??!! Keep your eyes open for our Teen Summer Reading Calendar - coming to you via our website *soon!*

\* **Teen Summer Reading Kick-Off Party:** **Relax** at The Villages' *Cambridge Coffee House* on Thursday June 1<sup>st</sup>,

from 6-8 pm. Awesome live **band**, free coffee and cake, prizes, registration materials and **fun** with friends!

\* **May YA Pick: Armageddon Summer** by Jane Yolen and Bruce Coville. *Summer is approaching and the end is near...* visit our Teen website for more...

\* **Participate in our MONTHLY YA PICK!** Suggest one of your favorite YA books and we will buy some copies for the library and have them ready for you all to check out! If we pick your book to display, you'll receive a cool gift as a thank you for your help!

### **~Regular Programming~**

#### **Mondays, May 1, 8, 15 and 22**

**Toddler Tales @ 10:30 & 11:30 am**

For ages **24-36 months. Registration required.** You can call the library at 439-5504 to sign-up. You may begin registration at the last Toddler Tale program of the month for the following month of programs.

#### **Wednesdays, May 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31**

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

**All ages.**

#### **Thursdays, May 4, 11, 18 and 25**

**P. J. Story time @ 7 pm All ages.**

## May at the North Shelby Library

*submitted by Michelyn Reid, North Shelby Library Reference Librarian*

The North Shelby Library will not be having Computer Classes June or July. Classes will resume again in August.

We are proud to be presenting Sir Gawain and the Green Night as adapted and told by Dolores Hydock, with medieval music trio PanHarmonium, Monday, June 12, 2006 at 6:30pm. For more information go to [www.northshelbylibrary.org](http://www.northshelbylibrary.org).

Adult Summer Reading Registration begins June 5th. The theme this year is “Print to Screen”. Patrons can check out books that were made into movies and movies based on books. Each book or movie the patron reads registers them for weekly prizes and a grand prize. Please contact Michelyn Reid at 439-5510 or [nsref@shelbycounty-al.org](mailto:nsref@shelbycounty-al.org) for more information.

The North Shelby Library Book Club's May book pick is The Eyre Affair by Jasper Fforde. We meet every 3rd Thursday. This month we'll meet in the Meeting Room on May 18th at 10:30am.