

The Village Voice



Volume 18, Number 11

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

February 6, 2009

INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday, February 17, 2009 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 3, 2009 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 **327-8791**

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; Tel: 253-1605, Fax: 949-6279, or e-mail: alison@indianspringsvillage.org.

The Village Voice is published the first week of each month. Articles for the March edition should be submitted by Friday, February 27, 2009. 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*

Although it's the dead of winter, and as I type this it's 20 degrees outside, spring is coming and so is our annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Town Hall. We usually hold this fun event on the Saturday before Easter, so please mark your calendars for the afternoon of April 11, 2009. This is a fun event for children from almost zero to twelve years of age. There will be more details to follow.

What is U-Verse? I'm not sure either but it's a new service and technology from AT&T that offers to provide your TV, high-speed internet and phone service needs through the same phone line now coming into your house. AT&T is marketing their program a little differently in that they are planning to send their representatives to your home to talk to you about it. I know some home owners in town have been approached and more will hear from AT&T in the next few months.

Update on the Highway 119 project. Thought it would be done by now? So did we. Council Member Herb Robins is staying in contact with the state engineers who are monitoring the contractors doing the work. There are several reasons for the delay but the main ones are the rain and cold weather which makes it difficult to excavate and lay asphalt. The original completion date was the end of November 2008. The best date now is for May 2009. The state is well aware of our concerns for the safety of everyone using Highway 119 through the construction areas, and the continual erosion of the edges of the roadway. Please be careful.

The next time you are going by the Town Hall, you will notice a change in our parking. A neighbor has reclaimed his property by putting a privacy fence on his property line. That eliminates most of the parking on the right side of the Town Hall. A driveway does remain for access to the handicapped parking spaces on the side. When parking at the Town Hall, please use the driveway on the left side of the property next to the flag pole. We will be looking at how to expand the parking area on that side of the building. One more thought; please be careful parking around the flag area itself. There are some flag-stone areas that are even with the grass. Please be careful to not drive over them.

There is a notice in this newsletter for a special Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) Meeting on February 23, 2009. Our Lady of the Valley Church would like to construct a columbarium on their property. A protest has been filed by a resident and this meeting was called to hear the protest. Please feel free to attend.

Town Council Meeting

December 16, 2008

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met at 7:05 p.m. at the Town Hall.

The Mayor called the meeting to order and the City Clerk called the roll. Council members attending were Mayor Steve Zerkis, Herb Robins, Jack Mendel, Brenda Bell-Guercio and Brian Stauss. Planning and Zoning Chair Wayne Jones was also present. Stewart Dudley did not attend the meeting.

The Council reviewed the December 2 meeting minutes. Robins made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Stauss. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Stauss reported for the Zoning Board of Adjustment. The December 10 meeting has been cancelled at the request of the property owner, and at the advice of the City Attorney, since there is no contract on the subject property. Stauss received a letter from St. Francis Episcopal Church inquiring if it was okay to spread human ashes on their property and if a special exception use permit is required. The ZBA is researching the request and has also contacted the Health Department.

Jones reported for the Planning and Zoning Board. They are researching a few issues. Davis Plumbing has requested rezoning for a daycare with a cell tower on the property. The zoning for the columbarium at Our Lady of the Valley Church is also being researched.

Mendel presented the November Financial Report. There are CDs coming due, and he will deposit the funds into the General Fund. Mendel made a motion to endorse the report, seconded by Bell-Guercio. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Robins met with Duke Farmer of Delta Electric regarding the recent power surges at Town Hall. The photo cell and flagpole transformer were damaged and have been replaced. Alabama Power repaired the damaged neutral line coming into the Town Hall which was the source of the problem. Jones reported that Alabama Power requested that the tree closest to the building be cut down or the power rerouted away from the tree.

Robins discussed with Gary Ray of ALDOT the potential effects the new larger culverts could have on the 2370 Cahaba Valley Road property and areas downstream. Ray stated that the current road project contained plans for a dissipation basin at the discharge point of the culverts. The basin is designed to meter the discharge at a rate that will not cause erosion or flooding downstream. The project should be completed in early spring, weather permitting.

Robins contacted Scott Holladay, County Engineer, regarding the slick pavement reported at the intersection of Indian Crest Drive and Caldwell Mill Road. The intersection was repaved three years ago but he will look into it. If necessary, he will add it to the list for repaving next year.

The Children's Fund shopping trip was last Saturday, December 13, at Wal-Mart in Inverness. Volunteers shopped for sixteen children from 10 different families. Hayden Belisle, Oak Mountain counselor, Kristi Wade, Oak Mountain counselor, her husband Scott and her children, Molly Grace and Jacob, as well as friends Andrea Shores and Lisa Essman assisted with the shopping. Indian Springs Village residents participating were: Brenda Bell-Guercio, Alison Stigers, Debbie Markey, Shannon Markey, Margie Robins and Herb Robins.

Mendel reported that the issue with Dr. Allison's pool has been resolved. Dr. Allison was at the meeting and stated that he has applied for a building permit with the County and will install a fence. Mendel updated Mayor Zerkis on a recently reported issue with a neighborhood dog that is biting passersby and is running loose in violation of the State leash law. Neighbors have already contacted the owner with no effect. The Mayor will write a letter to the dog's owner.

City Engineer Frasier Christy and his co-worker David Henderson were both unable to attend this evening's meeting. Their request for proposal for the due diligence survey of the 2370 Cahaba Valley Road property includes inspection for potential asbestos in the house, sinkhole research and Phase I Environmental Survey. Three proposals were received for the services ranging from \$4,600 to \$19,000. The \$4,600 proposal from Gallet and Associates was accepted. The cost for Christy's services will be approximately \$1,000.

Bell-Guercio suggested that the selected contractor do one step of the proposal at a time. If significant issues are found that would eliminate the property from consideration, then they should not continue with the other steps. Others commented that it may cost more to execute the proposal in stages. Bell-Guercio made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Robins. The motion was accepted unanimously by roll call vote. Bell-Guercio made a motion to allow Christy to proceed with the \$4,600 contract with Gallet Associates and up to \$1,000 for his services. Stauss seconded the motion. The motion was accepted by Mayor Zerkis, Robins, Bell-Guercio and Stauss. Mendel abstained. Mendel requested that the engineering fees for this project be broken out on bills received from Christy.

A resident attending the meeting expressed disagreement with purchasing the 2370 Cahaba Valley Road property for park use because there are numerous parks in the County. She would like to see our funds spent on improving roads. Another resident expressed support for this purchase in maintaining a green environment as described and defined in the ISV Comprehensive Plan

All the grant requests from the Oak Mountain schools have been received. The Middle School's request is for the Voyager math program software and site licenses; the Elementary School has requested two Promethean boards

and installation; the Intermediate school has requested listening stations and word programs; and the High School has requested two media carts. Stauss made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Robins. The motion was accepted unanimously by roll call vote. Mendel made a motion to fulfill the grant requests detailed in the letters from the schools up to \$16,000, seconded by Bell-Guercio. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Mayor Zerkis thanked Tricia, Michael and Joseph Crapet for bringing Santa Claus to Town Hall on December 13. The turnout was larger than usual, with lines extending out both the front and back doors of Town Hall.

The Mayor opened the floor for comments from residents. Zerkis suggested having several public hearings to allow residents to share what they would like to have done with the 2370 Cahaba Valley Road property. A resident asked if donations made to purchase the property would be tax deductible. Zerkis and Mendel responded that donations to municipalities are tax deductible, but they will confirm this with the Alabama League of Municipalities.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Rasco, City Clerk

Town Council Meeting

January 6, 2009

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

The Mayor called the meeting to order and called the roll. City Clerk, Kelly Rasco, was ill and unable to attend the meeting. Council members attending were Mayor Steve Zerkis, Herb Robins, Jack Mendel, Brenda Bell-Guercio and Brian Stauss. Planning and Zoning Chair Wayne Jones was also present. Stewart Dudley did not attend the meeting.

The Council reviewed the December 16, 2008 meeting minutes. Stauss made a motion to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Mendel. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Jones reported for the Planning and Zoning Board. Davis Plumbing has requested rezoning for a portion of their property from M-1 (high industrial district) to B-1 (local shopping district) to allow for a daycare center and retail sales. No hearing date has been set.

Robins read a letter received from Kristi Wade, OMIS counselor, thanking the community of Indian Springs Village for their continued generosity for the students in the Oak Mountain schools. The Children's Fund provided Christmas gifts and food for sixteen children and their families.

Stauss reported for the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Stauss met with City Engineer Frazier Christy and representatives from Our Lady of the Valley Church to discuss their proposed columbarium. As there is no zoning

requirement listed for columbariums in the ISV Zoning Ordinance, it is the responsibility of the City Engineer to determine in which zoning classification columbariums would be listed. It was determined that a columbarium does not fit the ISV definition of a cemetery and it is an extension of a place of worship and therefore does not require re-zoning or a variance because places of worship are allowed under the current OLV zoning of E-1. Bart Trammell disagreed with the decision stating that Alabama State Code includes columbariums in the definition of a cemetery and therefore the property would need either a variance or be re-zoned. Wayne Jones stated that he had discussed the issue with the County Health Department and they don't consider a columbarium a cemetery. Stauss will ask City Attorney Russ Allison for his opinion.

Stauss reported receiving a letter from a representative of the Hindu Temple, which had a previous contract to purchase the property at 2370 Cahaba Valley Road. The contract expired in September and was not renewed. The representative offered their due diligence reports that they had conducted on the property to ISV at their cost. The representative also requested that the ZBA application fee be refunded. There was discussion concerning accepting their offer or to continue with the ISV due diligence study presently approved by the Council. Mendel suggested sending a letter to the representative thanking them for their offer and referring them to our due diligence contractor for further response. The contractor would be in a better position to determine if the completed study would cover the areas of concern for ISV. The general consensus of the Council was that they would have more confidence in a study that is overseen by the ISV City Engineer. It was noted that the application form for the ZBA states that fees are non-refundable. Stauss will send a copy of the letter to City Attorney Russ Allison for his opinion.

Mayor Zerkis gave an update on the due diligence studies commissioned by the Council on the property at 2370 Cahaba Valley Road. Zerkis signed the contract with Gallet and Associates to begin geological studies on the lakebed portion of the property. They are waiting for drier conditions to begin the study. They will conduct an inspection of the house on the property in conjunction with the County Inspector.

A new restaurant, Quiznos, has opened in the Valleydale Shopping Center.

A problem continues with an aggressive dog that is running loose in a neighborhood. If the problem continues, the Mayor will write a letter to Shelby County Animal Control requesting their assistance and enforcement of the state leash law.

AT&T has completed installation of lines for their digital television service which will begin soon. ISV will receive a 5% franchise fee from AT&T.

Checks for \$4,000 each will be sent out to the four Oak Mountain Schools for grant requests previously approved by the Council. The grants cover a variety of materials

including Voyager math program software, Promethean boards and installation, listening stations, work programs and media carts.

The Mayor opened the floor to comments from residents. Receiving no comments, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Herb Robins for Kelly Rasco

Town Council Meeting

January 20, 2009

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

The Mayor called the meeting to order and the City Clerk called the roll. Present at the meeting were Mayor Steve Zerkis, Council Members Herb Robins, Jack Mendel, Brenda Bell-Guercio and Brian Stauss. Planning and Zoning Chair Wayne Jones, also attended the meeting. Council Member Stewart Dudley was not present.

The Council reviewed the minutes of the January 6, 2009 meeting. Stauss made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Bell-Guercio. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Stauss reported for the ZBA. In a recent discussion with City Engineer Christy and Planning and Zoning Chair Jones regarding the proposed columbarium at OLV, it was decided that it is an extension of the church and no rezoning or variance is required. City Attorney Russ Allison stated the following opinion in an email to Stauss: "I agree that the Code of Alabama would override our local ordinance. The State always wins over the local. However, just because the State definition is more restrictive does not mean that it controls. There is not actual conflict, just a local ordinance that is less strict. If we use our definition and issue the permit without a rezoning or variance process, I believe we would be correct to do so. We could err on the side of caution and make them jump through the rezoning/variance process, but I do not believe that is necessary. I assume there is no objection to the columbarium and believe the City would be within its authority to allow the building with permit only." Stauss communicated to the church that they could proceed with applying for a building permit.

Bart Trammell protested before the Council the issuance of a building permit for a columbarium at OLV without a formal hearing because he believes a columbarium fits the definition of a cemetery as defined in the City's zoning ordinance and the Code of Alabama. Trammell recounted related events over the last year documented in the meeting minutes published in *The Village Voice*. Jones reiterated that proper procedure was carefully followed over the past year and that the City Engineer had deemed the columbarium as an extension of the worship facility.

Bell-Guercio commented that the decision should be put before the State Attorney General and that neighbors should be notified. She also added that if there are OLV church members on ZBA or the City Council, they should abstain from voting the issues.

Stauss reiterated that, as allowed in the Zoning Ordinance, the City Engineer made the decision that rezoning or a variance was not required. Trammell stated that he believes it is an unclassified use as defined in the City's Zoning Ordinance. Trammell then presented an Appeal Notice to ZBA Chair Stauss, and a related letter to Mayor Zerkis, expressing that the issuance of a building permit for a columbarium is in violation of the ZBA regulations.

Jones reported on the 2370 Cahaba Valley Road property. Gallet and Associates inspected the house this past Friday and will prepare a report on their findings relative to the presence of asbestos. They will also begin work on a Stage I evaluation of the property and its surroundings. A County Services representative has been given access to the house to determine its condition, and what is needed to be done to make it habitable or have it moved.

Mendel redeemed the First Commercial CD for \$388,852.29 and deposited the proceeds into the general fund money market account. The remaining general fund and road fund Regions CDs are currently earning 4% interest.

The pre-audit books for fiscal 2008 have been prepared. Mendel requested that the Council review the reports, particularly the detail ledger, and plan to vote at an upcoming meeting to submit the books to the auditor.

There was a discussion about the documentation of traffic fines in the financial reports and having something in writing to verify that monies are deposited in appropriate accounts prior to distribution to ISV.

Robins reported that there is a damaged signpost at Choctaw and Indian Forest. He will have Jimmy Rhodes repair it this weekend. Robins will conduct a survey of roads in ISV to determine paving needs and communicate those to the County.

Robins confirmed with Carl Musselman, the project manager for the 119 turn lane project, that the drainage culverts installed a few months ago are permanent.

Jackie Johnson, wife of former Councilman, Art Johnson, passed away and a memorial service was held this week. Robins asked to please keep Art in your thoughts and prayers.

The heavy rain a couple of weeks ago caused flooding on the Town Hall property and an adjoining Indian Highlands' property. Thomas McDaniel has provided an engineering study and proposal for drainage improvements and Shelby County is in the process of preparing a bid to perform the work.

A resident inquired about the status of the 119 turn lane project. Robins will follow up.

Mayor Zerkis reported on the grounds keeping bids. The County has submitted a bid of \$163 per mowing. Bobby

Trussell stated he would do the mowing for an additional \$100 per mowing and his bookkeeper asked if the billing could be annualized and paid monthly. Mendel suggested initially keeping it at a per mowing price instead of monthly. The rules were waived by roll call vote. Zerkis made a motion to accept the proposal presented by Bobby Trussell. Robins seconded the motion. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Mayor Zerkis reported that Carol Farr, director of the North Shelby Library, has retired. Zerkis has sent her a letter of congratulations thanking her for her twenty years of service to the community.

Zerkis recognized that Rasco's son, Matthew, is the 2009 Easter Seals Ambassador and he was featured in a recent article in The Birmingham News.

On February 10, the Greater Shelby County Chamber of Commerce will sponsor a Focus On Indian Springs Village event at the Town Hall.

Trammell mentioned that there is a 5.3 acre private park in the Parkview subdivision and encouraged the Council to investigate park improvements.

Mayor Zerkis opened the floor for comment. A resident noted that Johnny Ray's at Highway 31 and Highway 119 is under new management.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Rasco, City Clerk

Zoning Board of Adjustment Will Meet This Month

by Brian Stauss

The Zoning Board of Adjustment will meet on Monday, February 23, 2009 at 700pm at the Town Hall. The agenda will include two items: 1) a wireless communication tower variance request from Davis Plumbing and 2) hear an appeal filed against the City by a resident concerning a recent opinion made by a city official regarding the use of a proposed columbarium facility at Our Lady of the Valley Church.

Building Permits

submitted by Frazier Christy, Town Engineer

Applicant: Len Shannon
Owner: Len B. Shannon, III
Address: 230 Swann Drive
Proposed Use: New Garage

Alabama Wildlife Center Announces Fifth Annual Wild About Chocolate Valentine Gala

Saturday, 2/14/09, 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

WHO: Alabama Wildlife Center, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, located in Oak Mountain State Park, Pelham, AL.

WHAT: WILD ABOUT CHOCOLATE, the fifth annual Valentine Gala benefiting the Alabama Wildlife Center featuring chocolate desserts from at least 15 of Birmingham's best restaurants, bakeries and caterers. Guests are free to wander from table to table, sampling a wide variety of chocolate concoctions and can also enjoy fruits, cheeses, wines and coffees, dance to the music of Friends In Jazz, bid on silent auction items and participate in a raffle for a Caribbean island getaway to St. Bart's.

Entertainment/Music by: Friends In Jazz

Honorary Chair: Scott Mauldin, WVTM-TV news reporter/anchor

Silent Auction: featuring original artwork by local artists, sports memorabilia, getaways, round-trip airline tickets, jewelry, wine and much more.

Raffle: (need not be present to win) a Caribbean island getaway during 4/5/09 - 4/12/09 to a 2 bedroom/2 bath villa on St. Bart's, located 250 km east of Puerto Rico among the Leeward Islands in the Caribbean that comprise the French West Indies: duty-free port; restaurants comparable with the best in the world with French and Caribbean-influenced dishes prominently on the menus; about 20 beaches dotting the island's coasts; activities including wind-surfing, jetskis, waverunners, scuba, boat charters, small yacht or cruiser rentals; fishing; trips to other islands; golfing on neighboring islands.

Complimentary Food, Champagne and Wine

Estimated attendees: 500-700

Attire: Cocktail

Tickets: \$75 per person in advance (205-663-7930); \$100 at the door

Participating restaurants, bakeries and caterers include:

All Around Town Catering

Bean Hole Coffee Shop Full Moon BBQ-Downtown

Bottega Restaurant Hot and Hot Fish Club

City Hall Diner J. Clyde

Crave Chocolatiers Louise's Cakes & Things

Fish Market Restaurant Ocean/26

Five Star Catering Pastry Art Bake Shoppe

Franklin's Homewood Gourmet Standard Bistro

WHEN: Saturday, February 14, 2009, from 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

WHERE: WorkPlay, 500 23rd St., So., Birmingham, AL 35233. For directions: www.workplay.com

In Memoriam

JACQULYN TUCKER "JACKIE" JOHNSON, 66, of Indian Springs Village passed away at her home Saturday, January 10, 2009 after a long illness. She was born in Fayette, AL on August 21, 1942, graduated from Tuscaloosa High, attended the University of Alabama. She was loved by all that knew her and prior to her retirement in 2004, she worked for State Farm Insurance agents Jerome Sims and Dean Pappas. Jackie is survived by her loving husband of almost 36 years, Arthur; mother, Marie Wallace; step-father, Tom Wallace; sister, Pinkie Bumgarner (Bob); step-sister, Marci Welker (Wes); aunt, Mary Lou Segars (Henry); uncle, J Q Trimm (Grace); aunt, Mary Lee Whitehead (Gorman); niece, Robin Metz (Troy); great-nephews, Chandler and Quinton Metz; Godchildren, Justin and Jennifer Smith; cousins and many friends. She was preceded in death by her loving father, Lawrence "Buddy" Tucker. A memorial was held at Southern Heritage on Tuesday, January 13, 2009. The family requests that any memorials be made to the United Methodist Children's Home or the charity of your choice.

CARL E. HENDRICKS, of Indian Springs, passed away on Friday, January 30, 2009 at the age of 81. He was a former employee of Connors Steel and retired from G. P. Cochran Co. Mr. Hendricks was a graduate of the University of Alabama. He was preceded in death by his parents, Carl Hendricks, Sr. and Carrie Preston Hendricks. He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Mary Lynn; a brother, Robert L. Hendricks (Berna) from Concord, NC; and several nephews. A graveside service was held Monday, February 2, 2009 at Jefferson Memorial Gardens, South, Highway 150, Hoover, AL. The family wishes to thank Alacare Hospice. Memorial contributions can be made to Indian Springs Children's Fund, 2635 Cahaba Valley Road, Indian Springs, AL 35124, attention Kelly Rasco, City Clerk.. *(Reprinted from the Birmingham News)*

Medical Mission to Haiti

by Steve Zerkis, Mayor

Members of the St. Francis of Assisi Church in ISV are supporting a medical mission to Haiti. Church members, along with other medical personnel, are traveling to Haiti this spring to provide medical care in rural villages.

Haiti has the highest pre-natal death and malnutrition rates among infants and children in the Western Hemisphere. It goes without saying it is one of the poorest Third World countries in the world. Members of the medical mission are looking for support for this effort to bring medical care, medicine and supplies for the children, and to help with the costs of transportation and lodging. The team leader has been informed that her transportation in-country to reach the village where their clinic is located will either be by a four-legged creature or on foot. For more information, you can call the church at 988-4371, or C.J. Ross RN, the team leader, at 914-3866 or CJROSS@aol.com.

Adult Programming *by Lori Skinner,* *North Shelby Library Adult Services Coordinator*

Overcoming Clutter with All Spaced Out

February 17th - 12:00 p.m.

Organizing your life doesn't have to be hard! Come hear how to make your resolution a reality with easy-to-follow steps. Understand why clutter is a problem and how you are the solution. Certified Professional Organizer and owner of All Spaced Out, Kim Sumpter will share from her personal experience of overcoming the challenge of clutter and teach you better methods to manage your life.

Home Buyer Seminar – Separate Fact from Fiction

Yes, You Can Purchase in Today's Market!

Monday, February 23rd – 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

It's a buyer's market! Now is a great time to purchase a home. Learn the secrets of homeownership from a team of professionals. This informative seminar will provide everything you need to know about the loan qualification and buying process from the start of your home search to closing. We will discuss and guide you through the changing Birmingham real estate market; whether you should rent or buy; who represents whom in a real estate transaction; foreclosures and short sales; how do you qualify for a loan and more. The program is presented by Christina Rickey, Associate Broker of RealtySouth—Inverness in conjunction with Beau Bevis, Broker of RealtySouth—Inverness and Mark Achuff, Senior Loan Officer of Mortgage South. Please contact Lori Skinner at the North Shelby Library, (205) 439-5511 or skinner.lori@yahoo.com if you have questions and to reserve your place.

Mobile playwright Elyzabeth Gregory Wilder will speak about her latest play, "The Furniture of Home," at 6:00 p.m. March 2 at the North Shelby Library. Her appearance is the second in the two-part "Southern Accents" series that brings ASF playwrights to the North Shelby library.

Wilder is the author of "Gee's Bend" and recently won M. Elizabeth Osborn New Play Award for an emerging playwright, given by the American Theatre Critics Association. She recently returned to Mobile after living in New York and L.A.

Her new play is set in Bayou La Batre one year after Hurricane Katrina. It tells the intersecting stories of a Vietnamese shrimper's son and a widow who is trying to rebuild her home and raise her teenage granddaughter. "Furniture of Home" has its world premiere March 6 and runs through March 29, and plays again May 12-17.

Wilder will discuss turning people's stories into plays. Admission is free.

February Happenings

by Katie Guerin, North Shelby Library Youth Services
Coordinator

Special Programming

Monday, February 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd – 3:15-4:15 p.m.: “Sit, Stay, Read!” A non-profit organization through Hand-in-Paw dedicated to providing volunteer services to children. “Sit, Stay, Read!” brings children together with specially trained dogs to help them gain more confidence in their reading abilities in an individual setting at the North Shelby library that is supportive, relaxed and furry! All ages. Registration required. Call or email the Children’s Department at 439-5504 or NorthShelbyYouth@gmail.com for more information.

Thursday, February 12th – 4:00 p.m.: Craft - “Valentine Ladybug Mailbox”. Make this special mailbox to hold all your Valentines this year. When Valentine’s Day is over, use it to store phone messages, to-do lists, notes, etc... Registration begins Tuesday, January 20th. All ages. Registration required. Call or email the Children’s Department at 439-5504 or NorthShelbyYouth@gmail.com for more information.

Saturday, February 14th – 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. Family Movie Day – “Kung Fu Panda”. Take a journey with Po, a panda that loves to eat, as he transforms from a slacker noodle cook to a kung fu master. All ages. Snacks served.

Tuesday, February 24th – 12:30-1:30 p.m.: “Homeschool Hangout: The History of Mardi Gras.” Come find out what Mardi Gras is all about, how it got its start and what it has become now. Bring your lunch and we’ll provide the drinks and cookies. Ages 8-12. Registration required. Call or email the Children’s Department at 439-5504 or NorthShelbyYouth@gmail.com for more information.

Story-Time Programming

Toddler Tales

Mondays, February 2nd, 9th and 16th – 10:30 & 11:30 a.m.: Registration begins Monday, January 26th. Ages 18-36 months. Registration required. Call the Children’s Department at 439-5504 to sign up.

Baby Tales Story Time

Tuesday, February 10th – 10:30-11:00 a.m. A new story-time designed especially for babies and their caregivers. Stories and music provide interaction for the babies and time for caregivers to talk and share with each other. No siblings please. Ages: Birth to 18 months. Registration required. Registration begins Monday, February 2nd. Call the Children’s Department at 439-5504 to sign up.

Mr. Mac (Storyteller Extraordinaire!)

Wednesdays, February 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th at 10:45 a.m. All ages. No registration required.

P. J. Story Time

Thursdays, February 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th at 7:00 p.m. Come in your PJs, have milk and cookies and hear some wonderful bedtime tales. All ages. No registration required.

Teen Scene

Teen Writer’s Club/Teen Advisory Group – Monday, February 23rd – 6:00 p.m.

This club is for aspiring writers and people who want to improve their writing. Bring what you are working on to share with fellow members and offer suggestions for other works. Pizza and drinks served! Call or email Katie at 439-5504 or NorthShelbyYouth@gmail.com for more information.

Teen Book Pick of the Month – *Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson

From the author of numerous award winning children’s and teen books, comes *Chains*, the story of Ruth and Isabel. At the beginning of the Revolutionary War, these sisters and slaves are promised their freedom when their master dies. When things don’t work out as planned, the sisters get involved in something that will change their lives forever.

The Month of February – Online Book Club

Want to find another teen book to read? Join our Online Book Club and receive portions of a teen book each week through your email! Sign up at www.northshelbylibrary.org to get started!

Town Hall’s New Thermostat

by Steve Zerkis, Mayor

For everyone who uses the Town Hall, the old, round thermostat is finally gone. It had a mind of its own and finally died and was replaced by a more modern device. There is no need to freeze in there. Of course, the new one seems more complicated, but it is easy enough to use. It has four buttons. The two on the right have arrows. These are the two buttons you will use the most because they control the temperature. The top button raises the temp and the lower one lowers the temp. Tap either one a few times and the temp will be reset up or down. There are also two square buttons along the bottom. The left one controls the fan, the right one switches from heat to air conditioning, or can turn the system off. It does take a little getting used to, but it is better than the old thermostat.

Sales Taxes

by Steve Zerkis, Mayor

The State and the County together collect a 5% sales tax. A number of cities and towns in our area add their own sales tax to that total. The town of Indian Springs Village does not levy its own sales tax so the total sales tax you should pay to ISV merchants is 5%. The same goes for products you purchase on-line and have shipped to your home. However, since we share ZIP codes with surrounding cities, you may find some on-line merchants trying to charge you a higher sales tax as if you were living in Pelham or Hoover. You can, and should, refuse those extra charges. There is no need to pay more tax than necessary. It’s up to the merchant to accurately collect the correct sales tax.

In the Mail



December 8, 2008

Dear Friends of Shelby Humane:

As 2008 quickly comes to a close, I would like to thank all of the shelter volunteers, donors and adopters for supporting Shelby Humane this year. The holiday season always brings a time for reflection and appreciation and this year is no exception.

It's been a tough year for many pet owners, and therefore many pets as well. It's also been a tough year at the shelter. *This is why I'm asking you to make as generous a gift to the shelter as possible this year.*

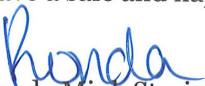
We've seen an unprecedented increase in both surrenders and strays this year. As of October 31, the shelter's animal intake was up 17% over the same time period in 2007. This has been a significant challenge to our resources. With costs up in all areas of operation (feeding costs alone have risen over 60% in less than 2 years), the increase in volume keeps us busy trying to raise funds and cut costs while keeping the quality programming we've worked so hard to put into place running smoothly and efficiently.

Despite the many challenges the economy has presented, Shelby Humane has lots of successes to share:

- Our Quick Fix program, kicked off on February 26, 2008, has facilitated the spay/neuter of almost 900 dogs and cats to date. That's 900 animals that will not be adding to pet overpopulation this year.
- Our Shelter Partners program has grown beyond what we ever imagined. To date, the program has transported 1661 dogs and puppies to our partner organizations in New England for placement in family homes.
- Our Community Low Cost Vaccination and Microchip clinics have provided vaccines and/or microchips to 412 owned pets so far this year.
- 1220 dogs and cats have been placed via local adoption.
- Shelby Humane now has an ASPCA SAFER trained assessment team evaluating all dogs over 6 months of age and over 25lbs before adoption.

Thank you for your ongoing support! Without your generous contributions we could not continue to grow and develop much needed proactive programming for our community and for our furry friends!

Have a safe and happy holiday season,


Ronda Mink Steciuk
Executive Director
Shelby Humane Society



Dear Margie, Herb, and the Community of Indian Springs,

Thank you so kindly for your continued generosity for the students in the Oak Mountain Schools. Words are not adequate enough to tell you how appreciative I am of all your donations of time and money. It warms my heart to know that we really can depend on each other to help those in need.

I have been doing this type of work for over 19 years, and we don't often get huge "thank-yous", but I wanted to share with you the joy of one mother as she told me that "angels" must have shopped for her children because the gifts purchased were so in line with their taste. She was truly appreciated and excited about Christmas morning. Thank you on behalf of all the families for making this happen.

May you and yours be richly blessed for being such a blessing.

Sincerely,
Kristi Wade
Kristi Wade
OMIS Counselor



TOPS Chapter Announces Open-House

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) meets every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. at the St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church. TOPS will hold a free open-house Tuesday, February 10 at St. Francis Episcopal Church on Highway 119 from 10:30 a.m. until noon. Please call for information: Mary at 995-2166 or Vivian at 408-9340.

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

I have been asked to serve as Honorary Ambassador for the third annual Easter Seals of the Birmingham Area “Walk With Me.” I will lead my own team, “Matthew’s Little Rascals,” at the walk on March 14th at 9:00 a.m. at Veterans Park in Alabaster. Please consider joining my team or sponsoring me in the walk on that day. We’ll have a lot of fun! Afterwards, there will be a moonwalk, face painting, the CVS health and wellness booth, live music by “Groovedaddy” (featuring Indian Springs’ very own Marc Phillips) and free refreshments.



I am a fun loving almost 3 year-old that can now communicate with my family using pictures and sign language with the help of Easter Seals. I have been receiving physical, occupational and speech therapy at Easter Seals since November 2007 and I am learning how to make choices for myself. My physical therapist has made it possible for me to do the things I love like jumping, swinging and wrestling with my dad.

Please join me and my wish to “help others.” You can send your tax-deductible donation to Easter Seals at 200 Beacon Parkway West, Birmingham, AL 35209. Please indicate on the check that the donation is for MATTHEW’S TEAM. Please make your check out to Easter Seals. Or you can visit www.walkwithme.org to join my team and/or make a donation.

EASTER SEALS WALK WITH ME



Thank you for your consideration,
Matthew Rasco

Garden Club News

By Ruth Goodwyn, Publicity Chair Indian Springs Garden Club

While National Arbor Day is officially the last Friday in April, dates vary from state to state, usually from February through April, according to the best tree-planting time for that state. In Alabama, it is observed the last full week of February, and the time of preparation is now. Garden Club president Lynn Hendricks urges everyone to remember how much trees enhance the beauty of one’s property and suggests citizens might want to take advantage of an offer by the Arbor Day Foundation. With a 6-month membership in the Foundation (cost: \$10.00), you may receive 10 free trees.

The flowering trees are two each of the following: flowering dogwood, crabapple, Washington hawthorn, eastern redbud and golden raintree. You may order online from the Arbor Day Foundation or write to the foundation at 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410, or call toll free: 1-888-448-7337. Arbor Day originated in Nebraska in 1872 and, on the first tree-planting holiday, it was estimated that one million trees were planted in the previously treeless plain that was the Nebraska Territory.

In other “planting” news, Garden Club member Ginny Lusk has many paperwhite narcissus bulbs to be planted in the Town Hall garden. If anyone else in the Village has bulbs to donate for planting, please leave them in a paper box or sack near the back door of the Town Hall. Please do not delay, as the time for planting is now. And, plant a tree!

A representative of the Birmingham Audubon Society, Bob Tate, will speak to members of the Indian Springs Garden Club at the February 26 meeting, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Indian Springs Town Hall. The public is invited and refreshments will be served following the talk and discussion about the care and feeding of birds in your backyard.

Our own Ginny Lusk, master gardener, expertly filled in for our scheduled speaker (a no-show) at the January meeting. Ginny spoke on the timely topic of pruning, which turned into a discussion about winter gardening in general.

Dues (\$10.00/year) were collected and yearbooks distributed. The new yearbooks are the creation of Patsy Strozier and Ann Shoemaker.

Indian Springs School to Hold Admissions Open House

submitted by Melanie Kieve, Assistant Director of Development

Indian Springs School (ISS) will hold its semiannual Open House for prospective students on Sunday, February 8, beginning at 2:00 p.m. in the school’s library.

The open house will feature a multimedia presentation, a panel discussion with current Indian Springs students, remarks by ISS Director Gareth Vaughan, a brief concert by the Indian Springs School Concert Choir, a campus tour and a reception with faculty members, staff, students and parents.

Indian Springs School is a national leader in coed boarding and day education in grades 8-12, located 16 miles from downtown Birmingham. Founded in 1952, the mission of the school is to develop in students a love of learning, a sense of integrity and moral courage and an ethic of participatory citizenship. For more information, visit www.indiansprings.org.

Easter Seals Child Ambassador Defines Possibilities

by *Scottie Vickery, Birmingham News staff writer*

Matthew Rasco can only say a couple of words, but the determined toddler and his infectious smile speak volumes.

That's why the therapists and staff at Easter Seals Pediatric Therapy Clinic in Pelham selected 2½-year-old Matthew to be the Easter Seals Child Ambassador for 2009.

He is an example of the strides a child can make when his therapists and family join forces, they said.

"He tries so hard and he's made lots of great progress," said Kandis Harris, Matthew's speech and language pathologist. "His parents are so supportive, and they treat us like we're part of the family. We work together to help Matthew."

Matthew, who lives with his family in Indian Springs Village, is developmentally delayed. He can say three words - Mama, uh oh, and hi - and although he took a few steps last May, he just started walking for real in November.

Doctors have not been able to determine a diagnosis, his mother, Kelly Rasco, said. "Nobody has a reason for it," she said. "It turns out that a lot of cases like his go undiagnosed."

His parents first got concerned when Matthew was 6 months old and was not advancing like his older sister, Katherine, now 4, had.

"We had this whole list of concerns," Kelly Rasco said. "He didn't respond to his name or try to crawl or roll over. These were all things we thought he should be doing at 6 months old."

Other issues contributed to Matthew's delay. He had to get glasses when he was 16 months old and had frequent ear infections as a baby.

"Matthew spent the first year of his life in a little bubble," his mother said. "He didn't hear well because of ear infections, and he was far-sighted and we didn't know it. He missed out on some learning curves."

The Rascos were eventually referred to a neurologist when Matthew was a little over a year old. Matthew began getting speech, physical and occupational therapy at home a few times a month through a state early intervention program. Therapists also worked with him on his cognitive skills. Last year, his neurologist said it wasn't enough.

In November 2007, Matthew began going to Easter Seals, where therapists are helping him learn to communicate with his hands, eyes and pictures. They also are working to strengthen his core muscles to improve his balance and help him sit and stand.

"We've been blessed," Matthew's father, Brian Rasco, said. "He's come a long way in a short time. We know that God's healing Matthew, and one of the ways he's healing him is through Easter Seals."

As Ambassador, Matthew will be the "face of Easter Seals," according to Kelli Keith, the agency's director of marketing and development. His parents will speak to city councils, community

groups, churches or any other group that wants to learn more about the agency and how it helps children.

His picture will appear on posters in CVS stores, where customers will be able to donate a dollar to Easter Seals if they choose.

In addition to Matthew, three children were selected as Walk With Me Ambassadors for the agency's annual fundraiser in March.

Their role as ambassadors will be especially important this year, Keith said. Easter Seals, like many nonprofits, is being hit hard by the economy.

The agency, which serves children from all over Alabama, receives no state funding, Keith said, and relies on corporate and individual donations, as well as proceeds from the Walk With Me event, to keep its doors open.

Easter Seals provides vocational training, job school, job placement and commercial work contracts for adults.

In addition, the Pediatric Therapy Clinic provides speech, occupational and physical therapy to children from birth to 21. The clinic staff has served 260 this year, up from 217 children in 2007.

Although Easter Seals accepts all insurances, including Medicaid, about 60 percent of the patients are considered charity care, Keith said. That has accounted for costs of \$160,000 this year and is expected to be more than \$190,000 next year.

"We also offer a sliding pay scale," Keith said. "If a parent can only pay \$5, then that's what we accept. We never have and never will turn a patient away based on lack of ability to pay."

The Rascos know how important an agency like Easter Seals is because they've seen the difference it's made in Matthew.

He recently learned to drink with a straw, which will help strengthen his mouth muscles. His therapists are working with him on sound imitations and have determined that he has a vocabulary of more than 50 words. They're also working to improve his hand control.

"It's a special group of people who work with Matthew and the other kids," Kelly Rasco said. "I've always had a peace that Matthew will be just fine, and I've seen him progressing so fast at Easter Seals. He's really the star. We're just along for the ride."

Alabama Wildlife Center Asks for Volunteers

by *Lee McDonald, Outreach Coordinator*

Alabama's native wildlife needs your help! Volunteers are urgently needed at the Alabama Wildlife Center to provide care for orphaned and injured wildlife. Call 663-7930 or log on to www.awrc.org for more information about the next training session on March 7, 2009 from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Alabama Wildlife Center located in Oak Mountain State Park.

FEBRUARY 2009

HEARDMONT PARK SENIOR CENTER
 Phone (205) 991-5742 Fax (205) 991-5657

Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-4pm

Center Manager- Jaclynn Long Traffanstedt Email- heardmontpark@hotmail.com



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>Items with an * beside them will be a nominal fee.</p> <p>9:30-10:30 Tai Chi 10-12 Mah jongg 12 Lunch 12:30-4 Canasta *7-8:30 Heardmont Squares</p>	<p>You MUST sign up for the computer classes. Space is LIMITED!</p> <p>10-11 Exercise w/Janice 11-12 Bible Study 12 Lunch 12:15-12:30 Speaker- Allison Crowell w/Brookwood Hospital- "Bone Density Screenings" 1-2 Line Dancing</p>	<p>FREE AARP Tax Appointments for SENIORS will be available on Tuesdays & Thursdays February 10-April 2 from 9:30am-2:30pm. Call the center at 991-5742 to make your appt!</p> <p>9:00 -12 Bridge Club 10-4 Games & Fellowship 12 Lunch</p>	<p>After Classes are \$10 each and include instructor fee and fill materials. fill you have to bring is yourself ☺</p> <p>*1-3 ACRYLIC PAINTING WEDNA</p>	<p>AARP Driver Safety Class is \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for non-members. You must pay when you sign up! You <u>must</u> attend BOTH days. Space is limited.</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>9:30-10:30 Tai Chi 10-12 Mah jongg 12 Lunch 12:30-4 Canasta *7-8:30 Heardmont Squares</p>	<p>9:30-2:30 AARP Tax Apprs 10-11 Exercise w/Janice 11-12 Bible Study 12 Lunch 12:15-12:30 Speaker- Michelle Cleckler "Heart Wise" 1-2 Line Dancing</p>	<p>9:00 -12 Bridge Club 10-4 Games & Fellowship 12 Lunch 1:30-2:30 Computer Class- Basics for Beginners</p>	<p>9:30-2:30 AARP Tax Apprs 10-11 Exercise w/Donna 10-4 Games & Fellowship 10:30-11:30 BINGO w/Wes 12 Lunch</p>	<p>9:15-10:15 High Beg. Line Dancing 10:15-11:15 Beg. Line Dancing NO PILATES CLASS 12 Lunch</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>9:30-10:30 Tai Chi 10-12 Mah jongg 12 Lunch 12:30-4 Canasta *7-8:30 Heardmont Squares</p>	<p>9:30-2:30 AARP Tax Apprs 10-11 Exercise w/Janice 11-12 Bible Study 12 Lunch 1-2 Line Dancing</p>	<p>9:00 -12 Bridge Club 10-4 Games & Fellowship 12 Lunch</p>	<p>*9-1 AARP Driver Safety Class 9:30-2:30 AARP Tax Apprs 10-11 Exercise w/Donna 11:15-11:45 Laughter Yoga w/Becky 12 Lunch *1-5 ACRYLIC PAINTING WEDNA</p>	<p>*9-1 AARP Driver Safety Class 9:15-10:15 High Beg. Line Dancing 10:15-11:15 Beg. Line Dancing 11:15-12 Pilates w/Ellen 12 Lunch</p>
<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>9:30-10:30 Tai Chi 10-12 Mah jongg 12 Lunch 12:30-4 Canasta *7-8:30 Heardmont Squares</p>	<p>9:30-2:30 AARP Tax Apprs 10-11 Exercise w/Janice 11-12 Bible Study 12 Lunch 1-2 Line Dancing</p>	<p>9:00 -12 Bridge Club 10-4 Games & Fellowship 12 Lunch</p>	<p>9:30-2:30 AARP Tax Apprs 10-11 Exercise w/Donna 10-4 Games & Fellowship 12 Lunch</p>	<p>9:15-10:15 High Beg. Line Dancing 10:15-11:15 Beg. Line Dancing 11:15-12 Pilates w/Ellen 12 Lunch</p>
<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>