

# The Village Voice



Volume 19, Number 1

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

April 4, 2009

## INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday, April 21, 2009 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 5, 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](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:  
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*The Village Voice* is published the first week of each month. Articles for the May edition should be submitted by Friday, April 1, 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*

The Town has been doing its due diligence on the property at 2370 Cahaba Valley Road that includes obtaining engineering studies, a survey of the property, an evaluation of the structure on the property, title information and various cost estimates. This material should be ready for review by the Town Council at its April 7, 2009 meeting.

I am very pleased about an article in this issue that describes how six young men and women at Indian Springs School have been selected as finalists in the National Merit Scholarship program. This is a unique academic achievement on the part of these students and this school. The total enrollment of ISS is less than three hundred students and they are enrolled in grades eight through twelve. To put this achievement in perspective, out of one and a half million applicants, approximately fifteen thousand students nation-wide become finalists. I understand that there are over thirty-five thousand high schools in the US.

The Easter Bunny is coming on Saturday, April 11th, at 3:00 p.m. and she would love to have her picture taken with your children and grandchildren. So bring your kids and their baskets so they can find and collect their eggs and, of course, don't forget your camera. Brenda Bell-Guercio has been doing an outstanding job in organizing this annual Easter Egg Hunt on the grounds of the Town Hall. She does need volunteers, so please come out and help. You can reach her at 987-2628.

The snow is gone; flowers are blooming; the dogwoods and cherry trees are in full blossom. What can we do to make our town even prettier? Spring cleanup! It is time to take care of our yard work, pick up road-side trash and generally make our properties look better. If a neighbor can't get out to do their work this year, maybe you can spend a few minutes to give them a helping hand. You know it will be well appreciated. Let's make Indian Springs Village continue to be the best looking town in Shelby County.

Oak Mountain Ministries has moved to a much larger facility in Pelham. They are now at 2699 Pelham Parkway, a mile south of Hwy 119. Their new phone number is 685-5757.

**Saturday, April 18, 2009 will be a free day at the Shelby County Landfill, located on Route 70.**

**Times of operation and fees are available at [www.shelbycountyalabama.org](http://www.shelbycountyalabama.org) or call 669-4169.**

# Town Council Meeting

February 17, 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, Brian Stauss and Stewart Dudley. Planning and Zoning Chair Wayne Jones also attended the meeting.

The Council reviewed the minutes of the February 3 meeting. Bell-Guercio made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Robins. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Mendel presented the January financial report. Bell-Guercio made a motion to endorse the report, seconded by Mendel. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Jones presented a proposal to the Council to include verbiage from the wireless ordinance as an article in the zoning ordinance. He gave a detailed description of the changes. There was a discussion about lights on cell towers. Jones reported that the next issue before the PAZ is to hear a rezoning request for Davis Plumbing from M-1 to B-1. The PAZ is looking at all other ordinances related to zoning to be codified into the zoning ordinance. A notice will be published for the next hearing.

Mayor Zerkis made a motion to change the next council meeting date to Thursday, March 5, seconded by Robins. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Robins notified Marlin Bennetch of Outdoor Lighting Perspectives of approval of the lighting contract. Robins contacted Jim Loper to arrange a meeting Thursday at 4:00p.m. to determine options for additional parking and landscaping in the flagpole area.

Zerkis inquired about the timeline for paving Double Oak Lane. Robins will follow up with Scott Holladay, County Engineer.

Mendel reported that the problem dog on Brook Green Lane is now in a dog run.

Bell-Guercio reported that she is preparing for the Easter Egg Hunt on April 11.

Dudley reported that he has read the AAPA in its entirety. Funding for municipal projects will be pushed down through the states. There was a discussion about the funding possibilities. A work session is scheduled for February 24 to discuss projects and determine what paperwork is needed to apply for grants.

Mayor Zerkis gave an update on the 2370 Cahaba Valley Road property. The engineer has walked the property and hopes to evaluate for sinkholes next month if the lake level continues to drop. A third quote was received for asbestos removal in the house and it is in line with the other two. Zerkis is waiting on a bid from the County to tear down the house. There were questions and discussion about the road contractor removing fill they placed in the flood plain area of the lakebed.

Mayor Zerkis is waiting on a quote from the County for the Town Hall property drainage improvement project. Representative Mary Sue McClurkin will assist with obtaining funding.

The recycling sign up list is complete and will be forwarded to Waste Management.

Mayor Zerkis presented a FEMA Mitigation Planning Resolution that he and Chief O'Connor drafted. Dudley made a motion to accept the resolution as presented, seconded by Bell-Guercio. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Mayor Zerkis proposed a HVAC maintenance contract with Guin Service Company. The contract includes inspection, maintenance and filter replacement in the Spring and Fall for \$78.00 each visit. The Council approved the contract.

Zerkis asked Jim Wyatt to assemble the Iwo Jima re-enactors for the Fourth of July Celebration. He commented that Wyatt did a great job narrating the event. Zerkis would like to invite active duty service men and women in the area to attend.

Alabama Green Industry Training Center (AGITC) is leasing space at the North Shelby Library. This is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization focused on greening the environment. They will offer classes to industry professionals leading to state certification, and offer environmental programs to residents on how to go green.

Trammell asked if the Council has considered his suggestion regarding the park area in the Parkside subdivision. Stauss responded that it was privately owned by the neighborhood association and the City could not fund any improvements there.

Trammell requested a copy of the email dated January 6 between Stauss and the City Attorney. It was determined that the email was a privileged communication, and therefore would not be released to the public. Trammell also mentioned that a notice about the ZBA hearing scheduled for February 23 had not yet been posted.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kelly Rasco, City Clerk

After approval of the February 17, 2009 minutes, the Town Council later determined that there was an omission from the minutes that needs to be recorded. The Council will amend the 2/17 minutes at the April 7, 2009 meeting, and the omission will be included in the 4/7/09 minutes.

# Town Council Meeting

March 5, 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 for City Clerk Kelly Rasco who was out of town. Present at the meeting were Mayor Steve Zerkis, Council Members Herb Robins, Jack Mendel and Brian Stauss. Council Member Brenda Bell-Guercio arrived at 7:10p.m. Council Member Stewart Dudley was not in attendance.

The Council reviewed the minutes of the February 17 meeting. Stauss made a motion to accept the

minutes, seconded by Robins. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Stauss reported for the ZBA. The hearing for an appeal regarding the proposed OLV columbarium is scheduled for Monday, March 9 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Jones reported for PAZ. He presented an amended Zoning Ordinance, previously introduced at the February 17, 2009 council meeting, to replace the Town of Indian Springs Village Zoning Ordinance adopted June 20, 2006. Revisions were made to the 2006 Ordinance to incorporate the current Wireless Ordinance within the Zoning Ordinance with improved verbiage for clarification. He asked the Council if there were any questions regarding the ordinance or the changes made. He then requested the Council's approval of the ordinance. Mendel made a motion to approve the amended Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Indian Springs Village, Alabama, revised March 2009. Bell-Guercio seconded the motion. The motion was accepted unanimously. Jones will post the ordinance for 5 days as required.

Robins reported that he had surveyed all dedicated roads within the corporate limits of ISV to evaluate their condition. A letter was sent to Scott Holladay, Senior Civil Engineer, with the Shelby County Highway Department requesting that they include approximately eight miles of roads in their 2009 paving projects. The majority of these roads are the County's responsibility with approximately one mile being the responsibility of ISV.

Robins and Mayor Zerkis met with Jim Loper of J. Loper and Associates to discuss re-designing and landscaping the entry and parking areas of the Town Hall. Mr. Loper will do a site plan for our review.

Robins met with a technician from Guin Services, Inc. regarding repairs to the Town Hall heating system. The control board for the unit was replaced for \$450.00.

Robins talked with Eddie Neal with ALDOT regarding rumors that the road contractor for the Highway 119 project had defaulted on the contract. Neal stated that was incorrect and that the contractor would be back but had asked for an extension. ALDOT is charging him days against the original 120 day project for possible liquidated damages.

Mayor Zerkis reported that he will attend a meeting on March 11, 2009 of the Metropolitan Planning Organization, regarding the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and will get additional information to determine any potential benefits for ISV.

The Mayor will host a Greater Shelby County Chamber of Commerce focus meeting at the ISV Town Hall on March 10.

The Mayor gave an update on the due diligence study being conducted by Gallet and Associates on the 2370 Cahaba Valley Road property. The study has been completed with the exception of the pond review for potential sinkholes. Increased water levels due to recent rains have prevented study of the pond bottom. The conditional contract between ISV and the property owners has expired. The property owners, who attended the meeting, were asked if they would agree to extend the contract to April 7, 2009, to allow additional time to complete the pond study. They agreed.

Stauss made a motion to extend the contract until April 7, 2009, seconded by Robins. Mendel voted "no" on the contract extension. The motion was approved.

There was discussion regarding the dirt that was placed in the pond by the road contractor and whether it had been removed from the flood zone. There was discussion as to whether the dirt would have any impact on flooding down stream. Jones will contact the City Engineer for clarification. The Mayor said he would ask the City Engineer to survey the pond to determine if any dirt remained in the flood zone/flood way. There was discussion regarding an increase in cost for liability insurance for the Town should this property be purchased. The Mayor said he would talk with the insurance company regarding any potential cost increase. The Mayor stated that the County had submitted a quote of approximately \$15,000 to remove the old house from the property if the asbestos had been removed. Previous quotes for asbestos removal were between \$4,000 and \$7,000.

Mayor Zerkis reported that the County submitted a quote of \$15,000 to \$18,000 to correct the drainage problem through the Town Hall property. Representative Mary Sue McClurkin has offered assistance with the cost through the CAWACO RC&D organization. ISV would pay for the project and send cost receipts for reimbursement.

The Mayor stated he was sending an updated list of interested residents to Waste Management for the recycling program.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted for Kelly Rasco,  
Herb Robins, Councilman

## **Building Permits**

*submitted by Frazier Christy, Town Engineer*

Applicant: John Bryant  
Owner: Steve Bryant  
Address: Lot 87, Buckboard Road  
Proposed Use: New Residence

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

Applicant: Mary Alta Kurtis  
Owner: Same  
Address: 1333 Indian Crest Drive  
Proposed use: Replace Existing Water Line

## Zoning Board of Adjustment Meeting - March 9, 2009

by Brian Stauss, ZBA Chair

The Zoning Board of Adjustment met on March 9th to hear an appeal filed by a resident against the City. The appeal concerns a decision made by City Engineer Frazier Christy regarding the proposed use of a columbarium by Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church. Two supernumeraries sat on the Board to replace Board member Steve Zerkis and Board Chairman Brian Stauss, both of whom recused themselves as members of OLV Church. In January 2009, Mr. Christy determined that a columbarium is a place for the storage of cinerary remains and is an integral part of a place of worship. Therefore, the OLV columbarium does not require rezoning or a variance as OLV is already a place of worship in zoning district E-1. OLV would only need a building permit to proceed with construction of the columbarium.

Resident Bart Trammell believes that a columbarium is a cemetery that requires rezoning and a variance as cemeteries are not a listed or special exception use in E-1. He presented documentation from the ISV Zoning Ordinance and the Code of Alabama to support his position. He also presented an opinion from the General Counsel's office of the Alabama League of Municipalities. The City presentation consisted of comments from Glenn Bush (a member of the OLV columbarium team) about what a columbarium is within the Catholic Church, followed by discussion that took place between Mr. Bush, Mr. Stauss, Mr. Christy and Wayne Jones (Planning and Zoning chair) about how Mr. Christy arrived at his decision, and concluded with an opinion from City Attorney Russ Allison on Mr. Christy's decision. There was also discussion about interpretations of Zoning Ordinance language pertaining to what the City Engineer is allowed to do. A motion by the Board to deny Mr. Trammell's appeal passed unanimously.

A court reporter recorded the proceedings of the meeting. Contact Brian Stauss for information on how to obtain a copy of the transcript. Brian can be reached at 987-9997 or [brian@indianspringsvillage.org](mailto:brian@indianspringsvillage.org).

## Burning Restrictions

by Steve Zerkis, Mayor

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) has implemented a ban on open burning from May 1st through October 31st in Shelby County and eleven other counties. This is done to assist us in meeting regional air quality standards.

## Green Training Center Now Open

by Steve Zerkis, Mayor

Alabama Green Industry Training Center, known as AGITC, is now open. Its training facility is located in formerly vacant space in the North Shelby Library. It is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization which has been created to help business professionals, home owners and students to become better stewards of the environment.

Several officials gathered at an open house to celebrate the completion of the facility. They included Alex Dudchuck, Shelby County Manager; Commissioner Ron Sparks, Alabama Department of Agriculture; State Representative Mary Sue McClurkin; Tony Cofer, Director, Alabama Department of Agriculture; and Fred Kapp, AGITC.



The center is the home of the Alabama Urban Forestry Association, The Greater Birmingham Association of Landscape Professionals and Fred Kapp, AGITC's educational liaison. Regional Extension Agent David Hubbard, staff from the Alabama Turfgrass Association, the Alabama Landscape and Nursery Association and the Alabama Sustainable Agriculture Network will be using the center for testing and training. During the past three years, AGITC and partners have presented over 120 seminars and workshops reaching many thousands of industry professionals in the Southeast.

Although the Training Center is designed primarily to assist industry professionals in their education and certification, area homeowners and students will also benefit. Future activities include homeowner classes on landscaping, lawn care and other traditional subjects taught with the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service.

Key partners in supporting the AGITC include the U.S. Forestry Service, Alabama Forestry Commission, Shelby County, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Environmental Protection Agency and the Green Industry Professional Associations.

Generous contributions, valued at over \$350,000, from a number of charitable foundations will enable this organization to open with no debt. The North Shelby Library will also receive a completed 2,000 square foot Young Adult Area to directly benefit the residents of the community. Their website, [www.agitc.org](http://www.agitc.org), provides details.

## Indian Springs School News *submitted by Melanie Kieve, Assistant Director of Development*

Six seniors from Indian Springs School (ISS) have been named finalists in the prestigious National Merit Scholarship Program competition. They are:

- Rebecca Barr of Birmingham
- Johann Choo of Hoover
- Veronica Ciniglio of Odenville
- Matthew Dix of Helena
- Matthew Greve of Birmingham
- Robert Vance of Birmingham.

As finalists, they have an opportunity to continue in the competition for 8,200 National Merit® Scholarships worth more than \$35 million that will be offered this spring.

The six ISS students were among 1.5 million students who entered the 2009 competition by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®) during their junior year. Of those 1.5 million entrants, approximately 15,000 of the highest scoring students were selected as National Merit Scholarship Program semifinalists last fall.

Finalists were selected from the pool of semifinalists after a review of an application that included academic records, a recommendation, SAT scores, a self-descriptive essay and information about participation and leadership in school and community activities.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is conducted by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), an Evanston, Ill., not-for-profit organization.



*National Merit Scholarship finalists (l-r): Johann Choo, Matthew Dix, Rebecca Barr, Veronica Ciniglio, Robert Vance, Matthew Greve*

The following Indian Springs School students are serving as student government leaders for the second half of the 2008-2009 academic year. They are:

- Mayor: Tullia Rushton, Birmingham
- Commissioners of Citizenship: Elliott Bell, Birmingham and Collin Janich, Birmingham
- Commissioners of Education: Kevin Lee, Birmingham and Michelle Luo, Vestavia Hills
- Commissioners of Boarding: Robert Joung, Kyunggi, Korea and Julie Shooner, Milton, Ga.
- Commissioners of Recreation: Austin Guthrie, Birmingham and John Long, Birmingham
- Commissioners of Protection: Tennyson Horn, Santa Rosa Beach, Fla. and Chee Lee, Seoul, Korea
- Commissioners of Services: Richard Baxley, Birmingham and Keith Marson, Birmingham
- Grade 11 Class Representatives: Erin Abraham, Birmingham and Michele Guthrie, Birmingham
- Grade 10 Class Representatives: Khadija Jahfiya, Sterrett and Colin Simon, Birmingham
- Grade 9 Class Representatives: Leah Fox, Birmingham and Virginia Smith, Mountain Brook
- Grade 8 Class Representatives: Morgan Ciniglio, Odenville and Dala Eloubeidi, Hoover
- Judiciary: Erin Abraham, Birmingham; Mary Margaret Barr, Hoover; Elliott Bell, Birmingham; Julia Fawal, Birmingham; Kate Hawley, Birmingham; John Long, Birmingham; Keith Marson, Birmingham; Everett Smith, Mountain Brook; and John Willingham, Birmingham.

Student self-governance is at the heart of Indian Springs School. The student body governs in a town hall format, with a mayor who provides leadership to the community and commissioners who direct various aspects of student life. Class representatives represent their grades in student government meetings and organize class activities, and judiciary members rule on infractions of student rules and standards.

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## Happy Feet and Happy Hearts *by Dr. Andrew J. Rózsa, Villager*

In the March issue of *The Village Voice*, I saw that Curt and Wendy Johnson are offering ballroom dancing lessons at Heardmont Park, on Wednesday afternoons at 1:00 p.m., starting April 1.

Let us tell you a little bit about the incredible pleasure that ballroom dancing has brought us. Notoriously, both of my wife and I have always been considered (and told) to have two “left feet.” Regina is a church pianist, so she is mostly into sacred and classical music and I was a band-leader in the “old country.” Neither one of us ever had the opportunity to even attempt to dance. Education, career, raising a child took up all of our adult life. About 6 years ago, Regina’s brother came to Birmingham from the Florida panhandle where they have been taking ballroom dancing lessons and strong-armed us into going to Concordia Club. We went with great reluctance because we felt doomed to be the laughing stock of the club. The evening was magic and left us wanting to learn to dance properly. Luckily for us, Curt Johnson walked up to our table and asked us, “would you like to learn to dance?”. The rest, as the cliché says, is history.

Ballroom dancing has brought us more pleasure than anything we have ever done together. Brought us also closer – it’s hard to stay mad at your wife while she is in your arms and you feel compelled to grin from ear to ear. Twice a week we break away from the pressures of work and we take out one evening for lessons (we are in the more advanced group or silver style now) and

one night we go out dancing at one of the many clubs in town. We have met some of the most delightful and decent people in Birmingham and are part of a social circle with no pretenses, yet with elegance, style and the courtesy I still expect from Southerners. Birmingham has more ballroom dancers than any other city in the Southeast, more even than Atlanta. There are clubs for youngsters (swing, salsa) and for those of us who are, shall we say, more mature. You get to play dress-up, just like in the movies, listen to some of the best music America has ever produced, spend enchanted evenings with people who are happy just to see you and – get this – participate in the best form of thoughtful exercise ever. At Concordia and at the Birmingham Fraternal Council dances, we have dancers who are in their 90's or who have had knee or hip replacement surgeries. We even used to have a dancer who was blind. In my 45 years in America, I have never had more pleasure socially than going out ballroom dancing.

I am a health psychologist with Southern Pain Specialists at the OneNineteen Health & Wellness Center, so I know about pain, illness, depression and sleep problems. I always look for activities that will help our patients feel better, get better or heal faster. Ballroom dancing is something that I consider an outstanding means for having fun, exercising both your mind and your body and socializing with kind and genteel people. In 2003 (see the reference at the end), the New England Journal of Medicine, the most prestigious medical journal in America, published an article about activities that reduce the risk of developing dementia. Guess what? "Dancing was the only physical activity associated with a lower risk of dementia." Look at us at: <http://www.rozsa.org/Page2.html> - you see that grin? That's a 64-year-old man feeling, once again, like a spring chicken. You can visit our Dance Club's Web site <<http://www.vikingsdance.org/>> and look around – see if I am wrong when I say that dancing brings not only happiness to our feet, but also gladness to our hearts. The motto of our Club, the Vikings, is, "We don't stop dancing when we grow old, we grow old when we stop dancing." As a professional, in my 29 years of practice, other than prayer, I have never found anything that has so many benefits as does ballroom dancing. Give Curt & Wendy a try. It will be the best five bucks you will ever spend.

*Reference: Joe Verghese, M.D., Richard B. Lipton, M.D., Mindy J. Katz, M.P.H., Charles B. Hall, Ph.D., Carol A. Derby, Ph.D., Gail Kuslansky, Ph.D., Anne F. Ambrose, M.D., Martin Sliwinski, Ph.D., and Herman Buschke, M.D. Leisure Activities and the Risk of Dementia in the Elderly. The New England Journal of Medicine, 2003. 348 (25):2508-2516.*



## 16th Annual ISV Easter Egg Hunt



Saturday, April 11, 2009  
3:00 p.m.

Indian Springs Village Town Hall

All children through the age of 12  
are invited!

Bring your own baskets, and be ready  
to hunt for eggs, trinkets,  
candy & cash prizes!

In case of rain, please stop by between  
3 & 5 to pick up a "Goody Bag"



## Meet the Easter Bunny!

VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED  
to help with the Easter Egg Hunt.  
Contact Brenda Bell-Guercio at 987-2581.

## **April Happenings** by *Cecelia Dean, North Shelby Library Youth Services Department*

### **Special Programming**

**Monday, April 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th – 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](mailto:NorthShelbyYouth@gmail.com) for more information.

**Saturday, April 11th – 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.:** **“Easter Egg Hunt.”** Join us for a special Library Easter egg hunt. Four year olds and up will hunt eggs from 10:30-11:00, then babies to 3 years will hunt eggs from 11:10-11:45 a.m. Snacks will be served and special prizes will be given. Call or email the Children’s Department at 439-5504 or [NorthShelbyYouth@gmail.com](mailto:NorthShelbyYouth@gmail.com) for more information.

**Tuesday, April 14th – 4:00 p.m.:** **Craft – “Welcome Spring Door Hanger.”** What better way to “Welcome Spring” than with this adorable door hanger, complete with flowers and bees? Registration begins Tuesday, March 31st. All ages. Registration required. Call or email the Children’s Department at 439-5504 or [NorthShelbyYouth@gmail.com](mailto:NorthShelbyYouth@gmail.com) for more information.

**Saturday, April 18th – 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m.:** **Family Movie Day – Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.** Come and enjoy a kids classic book turned film. Join Chitty and his family as they embark on many adventures, both dangerous and fun! All ages. Snacks served.

**Wednesday, April 22nd – 1:00-1:45 p.m.:** **“Homeschool Hangout: Alabama Wildlife Center.”** Join special guest, Kathy Moultrie, from the Alabama Wildlife Center for a special presentation on what the Alabama Wildlife Center is all about. Snacks will be provided. Ages 8-12. Registration required. Call or email the Children’s Department at 439-5504 or [NorthShelbyYouth@gmail.com](mailto:NorthShelbyYouth@gmail.com) for more information.

**Thursday, April 23rd – 4:00 p.m.:** **American Girl Tea Party.** Bring your favorite American Girl doll and dress up in your party clothes for a fun tea party! We’ll have delicious cake and cookies with our tea and punch! And a special craft that American Girl fans will enjoy! Ages 7-11. Registration required. Call or email the Children’s Department at 439-5504 or [NorthShelbyYouth@gmail.com](mailto:NorthShelbyYouth@gmail.com) for more information.

### **Story-Time Programming**

**Toddler Tales Mondays, April 6th, 13th and 20th – 10:30 & 11:30 a.m.:** Registration begins Monday, March 23rd. Ages 18-36 months. Registration required. Call the Children’s Department at 439-5504 to sign up.

**Baby Tales Story Time Tuesday, April 14th – 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 Wednesday, April 1st. Call the Children’s Department at 439-5504 to sign up.

**Mr. Mac (Storyteller Extraordinaire!)**

**Wednesdays, April 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th at 10:45 a.m.:** All ages. No registration required.

**P. J. Story Time Thursdays, April 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th 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, April 27th – 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](mailto:NorthShelbyYouth@gmail.com) for more information.

**Teen Book Pick of the Month: After Tupac and D Foster by Jacqueline Woodson.** This Newberry Honor book is a compelling story of two young women from different worlds. The one thing that binds them together is their love for and fascination with rapper Tupac Shakur.

**The Month of April: 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](http://www.northshelbylibrary.org) to get started!

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

**North Shelby Library  
Meeting Room  
Thursday, April 16th - 6:30pm  
“Economy Roundtable”**

The economy is constantly in the news as we try to find our way through these volatile times. Morgan Keegan Financial Advisor, Michael Prewitt, will be leading an Economy Roundtable discussion at the North Shelby Library to discuss the current economic climate and how you may be affected. Other topics covered will include:

- Do I need to reposition my assets in these tumultuous times?
- I’m close to retirement and can’t afford to lose any more money. How can I protect myself from the downturn in the market?
- Where is a safe place to park money until the market rebounds.

Attendees are encouraged to ask questions throughout the discussion. Please contact Lori Skinner at the North Shelby Library, (205)439-5512 or [skinner.lori@yahoo.com](mailto:skinner.lori@yahoo.com), with any questions.

## Exercising for Gardening

By Ruth Goodwyn, Publicity Chair, Indian Springs Garden Club

Almost everyone agrees that gardening, whether flower or vegetable, is a lot of hard work. In view of that, members of the Indian Springs Garden Club received a lot of information to get in shape for the work ahead at their Thursday evening meeting, March 26, at the Town Hall.

“Back Exercises for Gardening” was the topic of the presentation by Dr. Emily Bell Casey, daughter of ISV councilwoman Dr. Brenda Bell-Guercio. Emily Bell was introduced as “Miss Shelby County” at the 1993 Indian Springs Village Fourth of July celebration. She represented the county in the Miss Alabama pageant that fall. She is now a specialist in sports medicine and orthopedics. After finishing undergraduate work at the University of Alabama, she graduated from the University of South Alabama School of Medicine at Mobile. This was followed by her internship at the University of Tennessee’s Medical School at Memphis, her residency at Baptist Health Center and her sports medicine training at the American Sports Medicine Institute, both in Birmingham. Dr. Bell is married to Matt Casey, an attorney with the Jefferson County District Attorney’s office. They have a little girl, Belle, 21 months old.

Dr. Bell’s presentation covered muscles, strain, back pain, herniated disk and osteoporosis prevention. She demonstrated the recommended exercises and emphasized stretching before and during a workout. She also talked about maintaining healthy shoulders, elbows and knees. “In all, it was very informative and an excellent presentation,” said Garden Club member Marge Dunn.

Ginny Lusk had brought for sale potted plants, including oak-leaf hydrangeas. Money realized from plant sales goes into the club’s treasury. Delicious refreshments were provided by Malak McMinch. Mickey Farmer, the club’s historian, brought two scrapbooks covering activities of the club since its founding in 2000, which brought about much review and reminiscing over things past.

At the brief business meeting, it was announced that Patrick Daniel, curator of the wildflower garden at Birmingham Botanical Gardens, will give a slide presentation on wildflowers at the next meeting, Thursday evening, April 23, at 6:30, ISV Town Hall. All Village residents are invited to join us. Refreshments will be served after the presentation.

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

Celebrate National Poetry Month by joining Birmingham poet Irene Latham at the North Shelby Library for a “My Favorite Poem” reading. Modeled after Robert Pinsky’s “Favorite Poem Project”, Latham will share famous poems that have touched her life and invites others to share their favorite poems and why those words have been important. Irene Latham’s book of poems, *What Came Before*, earned a 2008 Independent Publisher Award (IPPY) and was named Alabama State Poetry Society’s Book of the Year. Her first novel, *Leaving Gee’s Bend*, will be released by Putman in 2010. Visit [www.irenelatham.com](http://www.irenelatham.com) to learn more about upcoming projects.

## Alabama Wildlife Center’s Calendar

*submitted by Janet Byars, Development Assistant*

**4/1/09 – 6/30/09** Baby Season at the Alabama Wildlife Center: Visitors can observe the care of wildlife patients in the nurseries, solarium and raptor flight cages through one-way glass viewing windows. Every day, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Free after Oak Mountain State Park admission.



**4/25/09** Alabama Wildlife Center Volunteer Orientation. Call 663-7930 or long on to [www.awrc.org](http://www.awrc.org) for more information.

**4/26/09** “Audubon Teaches Nature at the Alabama Wildlife Center: Blooming Into Spring-Enjoying the Wildflowers Around Us.” About 1:30 p.m. guests gather for refreshments followed by general announcements, the featured speaker, and an informal nature walk. Learn which wildflower species are found within Oak Mountain State Park, and maybe your own back yard. Free after Oak Mountain State Park admission.

**5/2/09** Alabama Wildlife Center & Outdoor Alabama Expo: The Alabama Wildlife Center will feature educational programs including live birds of prey, tips on creating a backyard habitat for wildlife and children’s activities. There will also be a hawk released at the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Oak Mountain Interpretive Center located next door to the AWC. The Outdoor Alabama Expo is a hands-on, family-friendly event. Admission to Oak Mountain State Park will be free from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information: <http://www.outdooralabama.com/outdoor-adventures/expo/>

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**Brown Bag Lunch Program – Meeting Room**  
**“My Favorite Poem” Celebrating National Poetry Month**  
**April 21 - 12:00 p.m.**

# Retiring North Shelby Library Director Is Honored

by Ruth Goodwyn, "Friends of the Library" member

Carol Farr, Director of the North Shelby Library for the past five years and on the library staff the past 20, was honored by the Board of Directors at a party Sunday, March 15, at the library, 5521 Cahaba Valley Road. Hours were from six to eight in the evening.

Board of Directors president Kay Kelley and vice-president Tim Ryan were in attendance, as well as Edith Harwell, the first director of the North Shelby Library, and Katie Guerin, former library youth services coordinator, recently named director of library services. Also spotted in the crowd were State Representative Mary Sue McClurkin and husband, Van, as well as the honoree's husband Charlie and son Andy. Since Farr is an ardent Crimson Tide fan, crimson and white colors were much in evidence in the table appointments. In the lobby, wine, cheese and fruits were available; upstairs, guests could partake of sandwiches and other refreshments including a huge cake with white icing and red trimming.

Ms. Farr's last day at the library is scheduled for March 27. She was hired to the library staff by the first director, Edith Harwell, after she had volunteered to assist Harwell in preparing for the grand opening of the library's first location on Meadowlark Drive off Highway 280. (Harwell later resigned to become director of the Homewood Public Library.) In her words, Farr "just kept working myself up", being part-time business manager to full-time associate director. At that time, the library was struggling with a building debt incurred when the new library was built on Cahaba Valley Road. Three others had served brief terms as director before Farr was chosen by the Board of Directors five years ago.

The director was able to bring stability to the library and was responsible for many innovations. She is especially proud of the increase in circulation of materials from the library—books, videorecordings, etc., including DVDs. In 2003, the library circulated 130,000 items; that figure rose to over 199,000 last year, 2008. Part of this circulation increase was brought about by the summer reading program for children, and, for the past two to three years, the summer reading program for adults. Two book clubs meet once a month. Farr was the first library director in Shelby County to introduce "express checkout" whereby patrons can check out their own books or other media by themselves.

Farr attributes her success to the fact that the Board of Directors accomplished getting the library's building debt under control, enabling her to hire full-time professional staff members who, in turn, are able to give patrons more assistance. Staff members give lessons in computer technology and Internet use and assist patrons in research on the library's many machines. Five full-time and three part-time professional librarians are available.

Monthly brown-bag luncheons for patrons to bring lunches and eat while speakers speak is one of the programs

Farr introduced. She converted an unused small room off the library lobby to a self-serve coffee shop, "The Cup and Chaucer." The most recent change was renovating a large upstairs space left vacant for expansion when the library was constructed to become a Young Adult Room, which opened recently.

The director still must watch the library budget very carefully and purchase materials very frugally. "We don't buy anything unless we have the money to pay for it," Farr said. Nonetheless, the library has increased holdings (books and other media) from 40,000 items five years ago to 61,000 currently.

"We are lucky to get contributions, especially for the summer reading program," Farr said. The library is always very grateful for donations from businesses and organizations such as the "Friends of the Library" and individuals. There is always an on-going used book sale at the Book Nook, located between the elevator and stairway, which is a money-maker. When patrons donate books, if the library does not add them to its collection after perusal and scrutiny of its collection, they are placed in the Book Nook for sale – \$3.00 for hardbacks and \$.50 for paperbacks.

After retirement, Farr hopes to stay at home in Calera with her husband, spending more time with their grandchild and attending Alabama football games. She wishes the new director, Katie Guerin, much success at North Shelby Library, a wonderful asset to the community.



Above: Carol Farr, retiring director, was honored with a party recently at the North Shelby Library. Farr, who wore her red and white roses corsage on her left wrist, is pictured in the lobby with State Representative Mary Sue McClurkin

(middle) and Brenda Justice (left), new business manager of the library. Right: Staff member Michelyn Reid and Carol Farr.



# APRIL 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   |
|--|--|---|---|--|
| Ballroom Dance Lessons are \$5 per person per class payable at the door.<br><b>Lunches are \$2 per person per meal. YOU MUST RESERVE YOUR MEAL IN ADVANCE.</b> | <b>You MUST sign up for the computer classes. Space is LIMITED! ART CLASSES ARE \$10 EACH AND INCLUDE INSTRUCTOR FEE &amp; ALL MATERIALS. ALL YOU HAVE TO BRING IS YOURSELF! ☺</b> | 9:00-12 Bridge Club<br>12 Lunch<br><b>*1-2 Ballroom Lessons w/Kurt &amp; Wendy (April-Fox Trot)</b>   | <b>*1-3 ACRYLIC PAINTING WEDNA</b><br>10-11 Exercise w/Donna<br>10-4 Games & Fellowship<br>12 Lunch   | 9:15-10:15 High Beg. Line Dancing<br>10:15-11:15 Beg. Line Dancing<br>11:15-12 Pilates w/Ellen<br>12 Lunch                                   |
| 6  | 7  | 8   | 9   | 10   |
| 9:30-10:30 Tai Chi<br>10-12 Mah jongg<br>12 Lunch<br>12:30-4 Canasta<br>*7-8:30 Heardmont Squares  | 10-11 Exercise w/Janice<br>11-12 Bible Study<br>12 Lunch<br>1-2 Line Dancing   | 9:00-12 Bridge Club<br>12 Lunch<br><b>*1-2 Ballroom Lessons w/Kurt &amp; Wendy</b>  | 10-11 Exercise w/Donna<br><b>11-12 Easter Egg Decorating Competition</b><br>12 Lunch<br><b>*1-3 ACRYLIC PAINTING WEDNA</b>  | <b>Center Closed for Good Friday</b>   |
| 13   | 14   | 15  | 16  | 17   |
| 9:30-10:30 Tai Chi<br>10-12 Mah jongg<br>12 Lunch<br>12:30-4 Canasta<br>*7-8:30 Heardmont Squares  | <b>DAY TRIP-McWane Center</b><br>10-11 Exercise w/Janice<br>11-12 Bible Study<br>12 Lunch<br>1-2 Line Dancing  | 9:00-12 Bridge Club<br>12 Lunch<br><b>*1-2 Ballroom Lessons w/Kurt &amp; Wendy</b>  | 10-11 Exercise w/Donna<br><b>11:15-11:45 Speaker-Author Thomas Feltnan "Destination Evil"</b><br>12 Lunch<br><b>*1-3 ACRYLIC PAINTING WEDNA</b>   | 9:15-10:15 High Beg. Line Dancing<br>10:15-11:15 Beg. Line Dancing<br>11:15-12 Pilates w/Ellen<br>12 Lunch                                   |
| 20   | 21   | 22  | 23  | 24   |
| 9:30-10:30 Tai Chi<br>10-12 Mah jongg<br>12 Lunch<br>12:30-4 Canasta<br>*7-8:30 Heardmont Squares  | 10-11 Exercise w/Janice<br>11-12 Bible Study<br>12 Lunch<br><b>12:15-12:45 Speaker-Larry Lebeau w/Century Medical</b><br>1-2 Line Dancing  | 9:00-12 Bridge Club<br>12 Lunch<br><b>*1-2 Ballroom Lessons w/Kurt &amp; Wendy</b><br><b>*1:30-2:30 Computer Class-Great Gardening Using Internet Resources</b> | 10-11 Exercise w/Donna<br><b>10:30-11 BINGO w/Patry Crocker-Oasis</b><br>12 Lunch<br><b>*1-3 ACRYLIC PAINTING WEDNA</b>   | 9:15-10:15 High Beg. Line Dancing<br>10:15-11:15 Beg. Line Dancing<br>11:15-12 Pilates w/Ellen<br>12 Lunch                                   |
| 27   | 28   | 29  | 30  |  |
| 9:30-10:30 Tai Chi<br>10-12 Mah jongg<br>12 Lunch<br>12:30-4 Canasta<br>*7-8:30 Heardmont Squares  | 10-11 Exercise w/Janice<br>11-12 Bible Study<br>12 Lunch<br>1-2 Line Dancing   | 9:00-12 Bridge Club<br>12 Lunch<br><b>*1-2 Ballroom Lessons w/Kurt &amp; Wendy</b><br><b>*1:30-2:30 Computer Class-Exploring the Computer-Inside &amp; Out</b>  | 10-11 Exercise w/Donna<br>10-4 Games & Fellowship<br>12 Lunch N Learn w/Brookwood Hospital<br><b>"New Emergency Room on Hwy 280"</b><br>*This event is free, but you <b>MUST</b> RSVP by April 23 for lunch*<br>NO PAINTING CLASS TODAY | <b>DAY TRIPS ARE 1<sup>ST</sup> COME 1<sup>ST</sup> SERVE SEATING IS LIMITED.</b><br><br><b>COMING IN MAY</b><br><b>MAY 20-SENIOR PICNIC</b> |