

The Village Voice



Volume 19, Number 2

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

May 7, 2009

INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday, May 19, 2009 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 2, 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:
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The Village Voice is published the first week of each month. Articles for the June edition should be submitted by Friday, May 29, 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 Zerki*

First, the bad news. The contractor doing the Highway 119 three-lane project has gone out of business. As we all know, no work has been done in some time. Our understanding from the State Engineer is that the bonding company who guarantees the completion of the work will obtain another contractor to finish the job. The big questions are when will they start and when will the job be done. At this point we know nothing. We will continue to press the State for information and action. The State is well aware that the edges of the roadway are crumbling in areas and are sharp enough in other areas to cause tire and wheel damage. The construction area is dangerous so please be careful entering or leaving 119. The original completion date was to have been the end of November 2008. We will pass on any information we obtain.

On the positive side, Shelby County has informed us that they have agreed to repave several residential streets this year. That will help get rid of some pot holes and bad pavement.

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt was a huge success. Kids from almost zero to twelve years of age were crawling and running around scooping up baskets full of eggs and claiming prizes. Everyone went home with handfuls of goodies. The Easter Bunny paid a visit and enjoyed the company of the children. A big THANKS to Brenda Bell-Guercio for leading this effort and to everyone who worked hard to make it happen. What was also nice was to see all the volunteers who came out at 9:00 a.m. to help set up, and again in the afternoon to conduct the event. Thank you for your help in making this a success for everyone.

The next big event is our Annual July 4th Celebration. It will on a Saturday and will follow the same approach as we did last year. The same fun parade, great barbeque and lots of it, and especially the great homemade cakes and pastries baked by our residents. So get out your favorite recipes, bake them and lets all enjoy. We will have a contest for the best of the best. The parade starts from the Winn-Dixie parking lot at 10:30 a.m. and the festivities start off at 11:30 a.m. at the Town Hall with the raising of the flag and ceremonies followed by the wonderful barbeque. We look forward to seeing you there. Again, we will need volunteers to help with the set up of the event so please contact Brenda Bell-Guercio for more information.

Recycling Program. Waste Management Inc. has decided to expand the recycling program to other areas of Shelby County. You should be hearing more information from them shortly along with start dates.

Town Council Meeting

March 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 Jack Mendel, Brenda Bell-Guercio and Brian Stauss. Council Members Herb Robins and Stewart Dudley did not attend.

The Council reviewed the minutes of the March 5 meeting. Mendel made a motion to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Bell-Guercio. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Mendel presented the February 2009 Financial Report. He noted that the engineering fees related to the 2370 Cahaba Valley Road property have been categorized separately so that if the property is purchased those fees can be capitalized. He also noted a charge of \$525 for the repair of the HVAC that was related to the incident in which the incoming power neutral line was severed, causing multiple electric problems throughout the Town Hall building and property.

Mendel stated that copies of the monthly financial reports, after endorsement by the Council, will be distributed in PDF format. Interested citizens of ISV should make arrangements with the City Clerk for distribution.

Mendel made a motion to endorse the February 2009 Financial Report, seconded by Bell-Guercio. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Stauss reported for the ZBA. The appeal hearing regarding the proposed OLV columbarium was held last week. Both sides presented their case and the ZBA voted in favor of the City. Stauss is waiting to hear from the court reporter if the transcript is complete. There was a discussion about distribution of the transcript.

Stauss also reported for the PAZ. The committee is reviewing all ordinances related to zoning so that they can also be incorporated into the ISV Zoning Ordinance. Stauss has been asked to draft verbiage for nuisance abatement and Nelda Kelly is reviewing the sign ordinance.

Bell-Guercio reported that she has completed the shopping for the Easter Egg Hunt and has submitted her receipts to the City Clerk for reimbursement. No volunteers for the event have contacted her yet. The Easter Egg Hunt will be on April 11 at 3:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. The fire ant exterminator has inspected the grounds and will return before the Egg Hunt. Zerkis asked the City Clerk to contact the lawn care company and ask them to not cut the grass before the Egg Hunt.

Stauss reported that several residents have made inquiries about the absence of the Highway 119 turn lane project contractor.

Zerkis reported that Highway 119 at Interstate 65 will be closed tonight and tomorrow night at 11:00 p.m. for pillar work.

Mayor Zerkis reported that he contacted AMIC regarding the insurance cost on the potential purchase of the 2370 Cahaba Valley Road property. The City will be covered if the property is purchased and there will be no premium increase. However, flooding liability is not covered and AMIC does not offer flood insurance. There was a discussion about surveying the property and the FEMA flood plain. Zerkis asked the Council to consider increasing the amount of liability insurance in the future.

The rules were unanimously waived by roll call vote. Bell-Guercio made a motion to proceed with the survey of the 2370 Cahaba Valley Road property at an estimated cost of \$3,000-\$3,300 above the previously approved engineering fees. The motion was seconded by Mendel and accepted unanimously.

Mayor Zerkis reported he is arranging a meeting with CAWACO representatives to discuss the drainage project for the Town Hall property.

Zerkis recently attended a meeting at the Regional Planning Commission. An economist spoke on the impact of the recession. Stimulus aid is already available to the State of Alabama and is funding projects already approved.

Mayor Zerkis opened the floor for comments from residents. Bart Trammell requested that the Council correct the actions of the February 3 meeting in which he perceived there were too many supernumeraries appointed to the ZBA. Trammell read pertinent sections of minutes from previous council meetings and the ISV Zoning Ordinance. Zerkis responded that the two previous supernumeraries, Jane Martin and Alan Keith, had resigned. There was discussion between Zerkis and Trammell regarding the process of resignation. Trammell read a resolution that he prepared asking for the State Attorney General's opinion on the matter, and he asked that the Council accept it. Mendel stated that the Council could find out, without the Attorney General's help, if the two had resigned. After further discussion on the process of appointing ZBA standing members and supernumeraries, Zerkis stated he would call Brenda L. Smith with the State Attorney General's office and ask her opinion on the in-place ISV process.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Rasco, City Clerk

Town Council Meeting

April 7, 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, Brenda

Bell-Guercio and Brian Stauss. Councilman Stewart Dudley arrived at 7:13p.m. Councilman Jack Mendel did not attend the meeting.

The Mayor read the evening's agenda. The Council then reviewed the minutes of the March 17 meeting. Bell-Guercio made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Robins. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Stauss reported for the ZBA. The court reporter has completed the transcript for the recent hearing. The document has been emailed to city officials. Hard copies were also received and available to city officials. The invoice total was \$518.55.

After review of the February 17 minutes, it was realized that there was an omission of the contents of the letter, dated February 6, from Mayor Zerkis to Stauss announcing appointment of ZBA members and their terms as follows:

"Effective immediately, the following are appointed to the Zoning Board of Adjustment for the following terms:

Brian Stauss, for a three-year term and as Chair

Bruce Monical, for a two-year term

Ralph Bodie, for a two-year term

Benton Baker, for a one-year term

Steve Zerkis, for a one-year term

In addition, the following are appointed as supernumerary members:

John Strozier, for a three-year term

Art Johnson, for a three year term

These actions are taken in accordance with the Code of Alabama, 1975, 11-52-80."

Bell-Guercio made a motion to amend the February 17 meeting minutes to include the ZBA appointments, seconded by Stauss. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Wayne Jones reported for PAZ. The hearing for Davis Plumbing to change zoning will be next Tuesday. All certified notices have been mailed. The committee is continuing to review zoning ordinances for updates.

Robins contacted Scott Holladay, County Engineer and Gary Ray of ALDOT for updates. Holladay is out of the office. The latest on the Highway 119 project is that the contractor is still working on another project in North Alabama.

Robins reported that Jim Loper is working on a site plan for parking at Town Hall.

Bell-Guercio needs volunteers to help prepare for the Easter Egg Hunt. Interested volunteers should report to Town Hall on Saturday at 9:00 a.m. The Easter Egg Hunt will be at 3:00p.m.

Mayor Zerkis reported on the Town Hall drainage project. He distributed a plan and diagram from Shelby County that was similar to the CAWACO RC&D plan. The County plan notes the choke point at Highway 119 where the main drainage pipe makes a 90-degree turn, but their plan should help with the flooding and flow through the grounds. Shelby County cannot get started until May at the earliest because of the weather (more rain is expected). Bell-Guercio asked if this project is funded

by Representative Mary Sue McClurkin. Mayor Zerkis responded that is was. The City will pay for the project and then be reimbursed. The estimated cost is between \$15,000 and \$18,000.

Robins motioned to approve the County to proceed with drainage renovations to the Town Hall property, seconded by Stauss. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Mayor Zerkis gave an update on the recycling project. Waste Management has decided to have a county wide recycling initiative that includes ISV. A questionnaire will be in the next customer billing.

City Engineer, Frazier Christy, gave an update on the 2370 Cahaba Valley Road property survey. Originally, the property was 42 acres, but pieces have been sold off over the years. There is not an accurate title to complete the survey. Christy presented the survey that has been done on the 8.83 acres and described the property. He will send it to the title company and work with them to get a legal description.

Christy also gave an update on the due diligence on the lake. He reported that he will have a report by Thursday. There may be little sinkholes, but it is mostly clay against exposed rocks causing slow seepage and it can be repaired. Currently, the lake is not functioning like a detention pond. He suggested getting permission from the property owners of the dam so that it can be modified so that the lake will function as a detention pond but could also function as a soccer field or something similar. With this suggestion, it will be wet in the winter and dry in the summer.

A resident, who has been out of the country, presented the Council with a list of questions regarding the 2370 Cahaba Valley Road property. In response, the Council members and City Engineer summarized the events of the last few months of meetings pertaining to the property. Mayor Zerkis remarked that there are very few volunteers for city events and that it will take volunteers to participate if the property is purchased.

Stauss noted that the contract on the property expires today. Dudley suggested asking for an extension since we are still in the due diligence process.

Stauss made a motion to appoint Wayne Jones to approach the owners and request an extension to the first Tuesday in June. If rejected, the Council will cancel the contract. The due diligence will include the geological inspection survey and legal description completing. The motion was seconded by Dudley. Bell-Guercio abstained.

Mayor Zerkis received an introductory letter from the Alabama Green Initiative, Inc (AGI). It is a 501(6)c organization that employs grant writers to write proposals for green initiatives for its members. Proposed annual dues are \$2,225. The Council declined to join AGI.

In response to a question posed by Bart Trammell at the March 17 meeting, Mayor Zerkis responded that according to the Attorney General, the ZBA Chair is not authorized to make appointments to the committee. Therefore, the previous appointments are invalid. Trammell asked if

Mayor Zerkis inquired about his hearing appeal status. He also argued that the Council made the appointments, not Stauss, and referenced the February 5, 2008 meeting minutes. He requested that the Council submit a request to the Attorney General in the form of a resolution.

Robins made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Rasco, City Clerk

Business License Update

by Kelly Rasco, City Clerk

Thank you to all the businesses operating within Indian Springs Village. We appreciate your decision to conduct business here and encourage our residents to contact you. As of April 30, ISV has granted 2009 business licenses to the following new businesses: ADT, Focus Four, LLC, Slapppy Telephone, Custom Pharmacy Solutions, K&K Construction, Inc., Five Star Lumber, Dave's Lawn Care, G & RK Consulting Associates and Innovative Building Services, LLC.

Eighty businesses renewed their license for 2009 and three are currently delinquent. As a reminder, if you are conducting or operating a business in Indian Springs Village, including a home-based business, you are required to have a business license. For more information, please go to our website, www.indianspringsvillage.org, or contact City Clerk, Kelly Rasco via email at Kelly@indianspringsvillage.org.

Building Permits

submitted by Frazier Christy, Town Engineer

Applicant: James W. Dow
Owner: Same
Address: 76 Indian Forest Trail
Proposed Use: New Screened Porch

Applicant: Jonathan D. Lind
Owner: Same
Address: 250 Indian Trail
Proposed Use: New Gazebo, Deck, Remodel Kitchen & Bath

Applicant: Bob & Laurie Flayhart – K&K Construction, Inc.
Owner: Bob & Laurie Flayhart
Address: 230 Swann Drive
Proposed use: New Horse Shelter/Tack Storage

Applicant: Pam Allison
Owner: Thomas Allison
Address: 3094 Cahaba Valley Road
Proposed Use: Remodel Pool House

AT&T U-Verse Service

by Steve Zerkis, Mayor

If someone comes to your door wearing a bright orange golf shirt, they are either (1) a proud Auburn fan or (2) from AT&T wanting to talk to you about their new U-Verse product. AT&T is sending these representatives through our neighborhoods to give you information about this service and to do sign-ups. I have been assured that they will be carrying identification and you should examine it to verify their identity. U-Verse is AT&T's program for TV programming, internet access and phone service.

Oak Mountain Middle School Holocaust Lesson

Pam Holton, OMMS PTO Publicity

As part of the Oak Mountain Middle School sixth-grade Social Studies unit on World War II, the Red, White and Blue Team teachers created a "Holocaust Experience" for their students. A simulated railroad boxcar was constructed in a classroom to demonstrate the space available to Jewish people being transported to concentration camps during the war. Students came to the classroom, took off their shoes and were seated in the "boxcar" to view a multi-media presentation. The boxcar's walls featured yellow stars like those that the Jewish people were forced to pin on their clothing during the war plus documents signifying Jewish relocation and deportation notices. The resulting pile of students' shoes in the center of the floor during the lecture signified the multitude of shoes recovered from the camps after the war.

The presentation featured biographical accounts from actual survivors of the Jewish concentration camps. The survivors, who were children during the war, told their personal stories of internment, survival and release from the camps after the war. The students learned about life in the camps, the horrors of the gas chambers and that we, as a people, must never forget the lessons learned from this terrible tragedy in history. The sixth grade teachers that created the educational and moving experience are Christy Holt, Carla Higginbotham and Leslie Wheeler.

(l-r) Sixth graders Brooke Randall, Alex Pate, and Katie Denney with Social Studies teacher Carla Higginbotham



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

Tuesday, May 19th - 12:00 p.m.

"Downsizing for Seniors and Boomers"

Bring your lunch and join your fellow seniors and boomers for a "brown bag" lunch at the North Shelby Library on Tuesday, May 19, 2009 at noon. Learn about the many housing, lifestyle and financial options available to you as you grow older. Receive accurate information and discuss the state of today's housing market. This program is presented by Christina Rickey, Associate Broker and Seniors Real Estate Specialist, RealtySouth-Inverness Office. To reserve your place or if you have questions, please contact Lori Skinner, North Shelby County Library at (205) 439-5511 or skinner.lori@yahoo.com

Master the Art of Reading !

North Shelby Library

5th Annual Adult Summer Reading 2009

"Master the Art of Reading" this summer at the North Shelby Public Library and explore the wide world of literature by reading books outside of your comfort zone. The 2009 Adult Summer Reading Program is open to adults ages 18 and older and offers programs, prizes, book discussions and hands-on creative opportunities. The adult program will run from June 1st – July 24th.

In addition to our programming events, we will have the **1st Annual Photo Contest**, also entitled "Master the Art of Reading". There will be three competition categories: *Marley & Me*, *A Walk in the Woods* and *Frankenstein*. There will be a 'Best Overall' winner and one 'Best in Category' winner per category. Photos will be judged by members of the Hoover/Shelby Art Association in late July. Photos will be on display in the library hall July and August.

Registration begins on Monday, June 1st. For more information, call the library at 439.5510, or check out our website at www.northshelbylibrary.org/asr2009.html.

Stamp Out Hunger

by Kelly Rasco, City Clerk

Each year, the United States Postal Service conducts the largest one-day food drive in the U.S. This year's drive will be held on Saturday, May 9. To participate, please leave a bag of non-perishable food items (canned and/or boxed goods) beside your mailbox prior to the time of your usual mail delivery. Your letter carrier will pick up your donations and they will be delivered to a local food bank.

Alabama Wildlife Center's Calendar *submitted by Janet Byars, Development Assistant*

The Alabama Wildlife Center is open to visitors every day, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Visitors can observe the care of Alabama native wildlife patients in the nurseries, solarium and raptor flight cages through one-way glass viewing windows. Currently at the Center, among about 170 other patients mainly brought to us because of the recent storms:

- An orphaned fox squirrel has recently been moved from the convalescent room to an outdoor enclosure where she will become acclimated and learn to forage for food before being returned to the wild in mid-May.

- Three pileated woodpeckers are among the many animals whose cavity nests were destroyed during the recent storms.



The 2 attempts at reuniting them with their parents being unsuccessful (Mother always knows best), they are currently in our baby bird nursery where they receive

species appropriate feedings every hour for 12 hours each day. There are at least 50 babies currently in our nursery (wrens, bluebirds, nuthatches, etc.), some requiring feedings every 15-30 minutes. Wildlife Hotline: 621-3333.

Alabama Wildlife Center Volunteer Orientation

May 23rd, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Call 663-7930 or log on to www.awrc.org & click "Register for Volunteer Orientation Classes". In addition to animal care volunteers, we need volunteers willing to help in other areas such as construction of animal enclosures, carpentry, plumbing, office work, gardening, grounds-keeping and housekeeping.

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.

Annual ISV Easter Egg Hunt

by Brenda Bell- Guercio, Council Member

We had a great Easter Egg Hunt this year, despite the previous day's rain and hail and early morning chilly weather. As the children took their places to begin the Hunt, the sun came out from behind the clouds! Local boys and girls, as well as visiting relatives, scrambled for eggs and prizes, including Dana and Charles Waldrop's grandchildren from Doha, Qatar and the Mayor and Pat Zerki's grandson from Chicago.

Kids got their pictures made with the Easter Bunny, who put in an appearance again this year. Many thanks to the volunteers who came out early to rope off the event and hide eggs, and those who helped with the Hunt and the "buffet line" of gifts and candies enjoyed by all the children and many adults, as well as those who helped clean up afterwards. A special thanks to our local dentist, Dr. Lisa Wilson, who donated a large box of eggs filled with goodies.



2009
ISV
Easter
Egg Hunt



Fallen Heroes Project

by Steve Zerlis, Mayor

Memorial Day is May 25th this year. I read an article recently in a VFW magazine about one individual, the renowned portrait artist Michael Reagan, who has made it his mission to draw a portrait of every uniformed American who has died in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. It's called the Fallen Heroes Project. As of March of this year, he has completed more than 1,630 portraits of these military men and women and has given them to their families at no cost.

When he starts a portrait, he obtains photos, letters and even videos from the family to get a better idea of the person. He did a portrait for one mother who then asked if he would do a portrait of her other son. He then realized she lost two sons, one in Iraq and the other in Afghanistan. Another mother asked for a portrait of her son with his 13-week old daughter. When he went through the photos she sent him, there were none of the two together. She then explained that he had died without ever seeing his daughter and she wanted the daughter to see them together someday.

Michael Reagan served with the 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, during 1967-68 with service in the DMZ in Vietnam.

If you would like to see the portraits he has created, visit his website at www.fallenheroesproject.org. Let us not forget.

Google Street View *by Brian Rasco, Villager*

You may already know that *Google.com* is the most popular Internet search engine on the planet. Did you also know that Google has recently added panoramic images of several areas in Indian Springs Village, including private residences, using their Street View technology? Google Street View allows for someone to type in an address into the Google site and bring up a map as well as what could be described as a virtual tour of that location. The application allows for the camera to be moved up and down a street and turned 360-degrees. There is even a 'Zoom-In/Zoom-Out' feature.

While this functionality may be desirable for business and government addresses, it can also create security risks for individual homeowners by allowing their homes and properties to be viewed at various angles in great detail. In fact, several articles have been written on this topic that are also available on the Internet.

I requested that Google remove the Street View images of our personal home and property, which it did within a couple of weeks. If you would like to check to see if Google Street View has images of your home and property and/or would like to have them removed, follow these steps:

1. Type *www.google.com* in the address bar of your Internet browser
2. Select "Maps" in the top left-hand corner
3. Type your home address in the search bar and click on the Search Maps button
4. If images are available in Street View, you should see a small photo in a word balloon with a link for Street View (note: this may be an anchor address of a home in your neighborhood; click on this and you should be able to maneuver the images from there to your address using the on-screen controls)
5. To request removal of images, move the camera to your property and center your home using the on-screen controls
6. Click on the link in the lower-left corner that says, "Report a Problem" (very small font)
7. A separate window should appear with a form to complete titled, "Report Inappropriate Street View"; fill in the appropriate information, use the on-screen controls to center the image in the red square, and click on the Submit button.

Brian Rasco, CISSP, is an Information Security professional and can be reached at *brian_rasco@yahoo.com*.

Oak Mountain Middle School Scholar's Bowl Success!

Pam Holton, OMMS PTO Publicity

Congratulations to the undefeated Oak Mountain Middle School 8th grade Scholar's Bowl Team who won the Shelby County tournament! Brue Harrington was the 8th grade team high scorer at the tournament as well as the 2nd place highest scorer for the county. Team members include Stephen Atwood, Nick Burgess, Bruce Harrington (Captain), Reese Koehler, Becca Nation and Robert Rives. The 8th grade team sponsor/coach is Anthony Walker.

The 7th grade OMMS Scholar's Bowl Team placed second in the 7th-grade county tournament. Matteo Macaluso was the individual top scorer! The team sponsor/coach is Tabitha Odom.

The combined 7th and 8th Grade State Team won first place in their qualifying match at the district tournament and will compete in the Alabama State Tournament Saturday, March 7th at Hoover High School's Freshman campus. The team members are: Nick Burgess, Bruce Harrington (Captain), Reese Koehler, Matteo Macaluso, Becca Nation and Brett Walton.

Congratulations to the 6th-grade Scholars Bowl Team for winning 2nd place at the Shelby County Tournament. Individual recognition goes to Jack Emerson, our high scorer who also won 3rd place in the county!



Shelby County 8th - grade Scholar's Bowl Champions (l-r) Sponsor Anthony Walker, Reese Koehler, Robert Rives, Bruce Harrington, Stephen Atwood, Nick Burgess and Becca Nation.



7th Grade OMMS Team (l-r): Sean Thompson, Maria Smith, Jared Hudson, Joseph Price, Brett Walton, Katherine Simmons, Matteo Macaluso, Sponsor Tabitha Odom and Hannah Say.



OMMS 6th-grade Scholar's Bowl Team: Pat Romano, sponsor, Jack Emerson, Alexa Pappanastos, Andrew Winters-Davis, Matthew Tindal, Matthew Handley, Priya Shah and Cheryl Beckham, sponsor.

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

The Library will be closed on May 24th – 25th in observance of the Memorial Day Holiday

Special Programming

Monday, May 4th, 11th and 18th – 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.

Tuesday, May 12th – 4:00 p.m.: **Craft – “Flowerpot Display”.** Use this beautiful flower to display favorite photos, recipes or other important information. Give as a gift or keep for yourself. Registration begins Tuesday, April 28th. All ages. Registration required. Call or email the Children’s Department at 439-5504 or *NorthShelbyYouth@gmail.com* for more information.

Thursday, May 14th – 2:00 p.m.: A theatrical performance by the group “Play”. A children’s book will be used as the basis for the play.

Wednesday, May 20th – 1:00-1:45 p.m.: “**Homeschool Hangout: Do the Dewey**”. Come find out what the Dewey Decimal System is and how it can work for you. Play games, have snacks and get smart! Snacks will be provided. Ages 8-12. Registration required. Call or email the Children’s Department at 439-5504 or *NorthShelbyYouth@gmail.com* for more information.

Saturday, May 23rd – 1:00-2:30 p.m.: **Family Movie Day – “Sleeping Beauty”.** Embark on a fantastical journey with this beloved classic children’s fairy tale from Walt Disney. All ages. Snacks served.

Saturday, May 30th – 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.: **Summer Reading Kick-Off Party.** Bring the family for a day filled with fun, food, crafts, games and more. Call or email the Children’s Department at 439-5504 or *NorthShelbyYouth@gmail.com* for more information.

Summer Reading Early Registration – May 17th -May 23rd. Come by the Children’s Department to pre-register for our Summer Reading Program. Children will receive a special prize for registering during this time. No phone registration, please.

Summer Reading Regular Registration – May 24th – July 13th – No phone registration, please.

Story-Time Programming

Toddler Tales

Mondays, May 4th, 11th and 18th – 10:30 & 11:30 a.m.: Registration begins Monday, April 20th. Ages

18-36 months. Registration required. Call the Children’s Department at 439-5504 to sign up.

Baby Tales Story Time

Tuesday, May 12th – 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 Tuesday, April 28th. Call the Children’s Department at 439-5504 to sign up.

Mr. Mac (Storyteller Extraordinaire!)

Wednesdays, May 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th at 10:45 a.m.

All ages. No registration required.

P. J. Story Time

Thursdays, May 7th and 14th – 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 – Saturday, May 9th – 11:00 a.m.

Join us at Books-A-Million on Hwy. 280 and share your picks for what the library needs to add to the Young Adult Collection!!! Call or email Katie or Lori at 439-5512 or *nsyouth@shelbycounty-al.com* for more information.

Teen Book Club – Monday, May 11th – 6:00 p.m.

The Teen Book Club will hold the first meeting to discuss *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins at NSL in the Young Adult Dept. To participate, grab a book and start reading! Snacks served. Call or email Katie or Lori at 439-5512 or *nsyouth@shelbycounty-al.com* for more information.

Teen Summer Reading Kickoff Party – May 28th – 6:00 p.m. Summer Reading Kickoff with JAMM Entertainment!!! Start the summer off right with a party for you! Gaming, prizes, drinks & fabulous junk food! Call or email Katie or Lori at 439-5512 or *nsyouth@shelbycounty-al.com* for more information.

Teen Book Pick of the Month – *Need* by Carrie Jones
Quirky Zara has had a rough time lately. After witnessing her stepfather's death, she is sent to live with her grandmother in remote Maine. Things get interesting quickly with a love triangle and the realization that something unnatural has targeted Zara to be their new queen. (We love this book! ~ NSL staff)

The Month of June – 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!

Katie Guerin Is New Director of NS Library

by Ruth Goodwyn, member, "Friends of the Library"

Many North Shelby Library patrons already know Kathleen T. (Katie) Guerin as the one in charge of the very successful Young Adult and Children's Summer Reading Program, or may have been assisted by her with reference needs or finding the perfect book to read. She held the job of Youth Services Coordinator for the past two years before becoming Director of Library Services upon the recent retirement of Carol Farr.

As Youth Services Coordinator, Guerin also organized the monthly youth programs (story times, performers, authors and holiday events) and developed working relationships with public and private school administrators and teachers in the Shelby County area. She also made sure the media collection was up-to-date by ordering new materials and removing those damaged or outdated and supervised six staff members.

Guerin is not new to supervisory and managerial duties. While still a student at Birmingham-Southern College, she was a manager of Baptist Health Systems/YMCA:SportsFirst. At Birmingham-Southern she earned a bachelor of arts degree in political science and history, conferred in May 2001, and received the Guy E. Snavelly award for academic excellence. In 2001 she was a research assistant for McGraw-Hill Publishing Companies in Nashville, her hometown.

At the University of Alabama, in December 2005, she was awarded both a master's degree in Library and Information Studies and a master's in history. She held half and full tuition scholarships in each subject. She was a graduate assistant in the School of Library and Information Science and a graduate teaching assistant in the History Department. The teaching experience and working with students was especially pleasurable. She was also president of the Graduate History Student Association.

Guerin's University of Alabama professors gave her a strong recommendation when she was first hired as Youth Services Coordinator and when Carol Farr was considering her as her possible replacement as director. Guerin is grateful to Farr for the recommendation to the board of trustees that she be named director and said that she had always enjoyed working with her. She is also complimentary of the board and its president, Kay Kelley, who she termed "a great steward" of North Shelby Library, "a very special place that is growing every day."



Garden Club Program Is on Aldridge Gardens

By Ruth Goodwyn, Publicity Chair

Expecting to see a slide show on wildflowers, members of the Indian Springs Garden Club instead saw a presentation on the history of Aldridge Botanical Gardens presented by Larry Quick, Director. Mr. Quick was secured by member Ginny Lusk when our scheduled speaker on wildflowers could not attend.

The presentation was very timely, as members will tour on May 30 the present Highland Lakes home and gardens of Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Aldridge, former owners of the property on which the Aldridge Botanical Gardens is located, a 30-acre plot in the middle of Hoover. The private property was formally dedicated as the Aldridge Botanical Gardens in 1997 and is known especially for its many varieties of hydrangeas.

Thank You, Indian Springs!

by Kelly Rasco, Villager

A huge "thank you" to all the Indian Springs residents who have supported our son, Matthew Rasco, the 2009 Easter Seals Ambassador, by participating in various fund-raising events held in recent months. Words cannot express our gratitude for your support and generosity!

Easter Seals night at Texas Roadhouse in Pelham raised \$400. The Walk With Me event in Alabaster in March raised \$67,000 with Matthew's team raising over \$3,000. The Easter Seal Golf Tournament held at Greystone in April raised \$80,000. All proceeds go directly to the Pediatric Therapy Center located in Pelham where the funds will provide therapy to children whose families have limited or no medical insurance. Easter Seals is a non-profit organization that is not funded by any government entity or the United Way. Please know that your support will bless many local children!

The **Valleydale Farmers Market** will open Saturdays, beginning May 23, from 7:00 a.m. to 12 noon and will run through the summer months. The market is located at Faith Church, 4601 Valleydale Road, across from Jeff State. It will feature regional and organic produce, local honey, baked goods and coffee, hand-made jewelry, arts and crafts, cooking demonstrations and live music. For vendor information, please call 531-1521 or email valleydalefarmersmarket@gmail.com.

Protecting Yourself from the Swine Flu – Type A Influenza (H1N1)

submitted by Steve Zerkis, Mayor

The U.S. has declared a public health emergency after confirming multiple human cases of swine flu in several states. Cases of swine flu have also been confirmed in Mexico, Canada, New Zealand, Spain, Israel and the United Kingdom. What is the swine flu? The swine influenza A (H1N1) virus is a respiratory disease in pigs. Although human infection is not typical, it can happen, causing symptoms similar to those of the human flu:

- sore throat
- fever
- headaches
- fatigue
- vomiting
- coughing
- chills
- body aches
- diarrhea

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the swine flu (Type A Influenza) is a contagious virus that can spread from human to human through coughs and sneezes. It is not spread by preparing or eating properly cooked pork.

Preventing the spread of a virus is difficult as there is not currently a swine flu vaccine. But you can help avoid becoming infected with the swine flu by taking the same actions you would to prevent other viruses:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Try not to touch your mouth, nose or eyes.
- Frequently wash your hands with soap and water. Alcohol-based hand sanitizer is also effective when soap and running water are not available.
- Practice healthy habits, including getting plenty of sleep, being physically active, managing your stress, drinking plenty of fluids and eating healthfully.

The CDC recommends avoiding nonessential travel to Mexico. If you must travel to an area that has reported cases of swine flu, make sure to follow the CDC recommendations provided online at: www.cdc.gov/travel/content/SwineFluMexico.aspx.

You can also help prevent the spread of a virus if you get sick:

- Limit contact with others.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you sneeze or cough. Throw tissues in the trash immediately after using them, and then wash your hands.
- Also, officials are asking those who are sick to stay home from work or school.

If you live in an area where cases of swine flu have been found – or if you have recently visited one of those areas – contact your doctor if you develop flu symptoms. Your doctor can determine whether you should be treated for flu. Those who become infected with the swine flu can be treated with certain antiviral medications that fight the virus. Antiviral medications can also ease symptoms

and help prevent complications. The swine flu (H1N1) can cause serious complications including pneumonia and respiratory failure. Seek medical attention immediately if you experience any of the following:

- difficulty breathing
- pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen
- sudden dizziness
- severe or persistent vomiting
- shortness of breath
- confusion

Children may show these additional emergency warning signs:

- fast breathing
- bluish skin color
- not waking up
- being so irritable that they don't want to be held
- symptoms improve but then return with a fever and a worse cough fever with a rash
- trouble breathing
- not drinking enough
- not interacting

For answers to frequently asked questions about the swine flu, visit the CDC Web site at www.cdc.gov/swineflu/swineflu_you. You can find additional swine flu information online by visiting the CDC (www.cdc.gov/swineflu) and the World Health Organization (www.who.int). This information is not a substitute for professional medical advice. Contact your health care provider whenever you experience symptoms that you are concerned about – whether they are related to the swine flu or any other medical issue.

On the Serious Side

by Steve Zerkis, Mayor

I've spoken to two residents in the past week who believe they have been victims of a scam. A group has been going to some homes offering to coat their driveways with an asphalt coating at a reasonable price. Their story has been "we are working in your neighborhood and have some material left over from the job. We can give you a good price." Well, they take the money and skip, leaving a poorly done and unfinished job, and the phone numbers are left unanswered or don't exist. My suggestion is to be careful in dealing with itinerate door-to-door vendors like this. We all hate to see good money wasted. This has been reported to the Shelby County Sheriff.

Another thing, if you see or hear something that is possibly criminal, please do not take it into your hands to confront the individual involved. Immediately call 9-1-1 and ask for the Shelby County Sheriff and give them what information you have such as a description of the individual, any vehicles, location and what is occurring. Do not attempt to confront the individual. If you are going to do anything it is to observe and get out of the way and let the Sheriff's deputies do their job. Just because an individual is prying at the back door of a house does not mean that they are burglars. They may have locked themselves out of their own house. It happens. Put your weapon away and call the sheriff promptly. That is being a good citizen.

MAY 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>LUNCHEES ARE A SUGGESTED DONATION OF \$2 PER PERSON PER MEAL. You MUST RESERVE YOUR MEAL IN ADVANCE.</p> <p>DAY TRIPS ARE 1ST COME 1ST SERVE SEATING IS LIMITED.</p>	<p>You MUST sign up for the computer classes. Space is LIMITED!</p> <p>ART CLASSES ARE \$10 EACH AND INCLUDE INSTRUCTOR FEE & ALL MATERIALS. ALL YOU HAVE TO BRING IS YOURSELF ☺</p>	<p>Ballroom Dance Lessons are \$5 per person per class payable at the door. (May-East Coast Swing)</p> <p>COMING IN JUNE JUNE 11-QUARTERLY LUNCHEON</p>	<p>Limited Complimentary Transportation to the Senior Picnic is available. Please call Jaclynn to reserve your seat!</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>1</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>4</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>5</p> <p>10-11 Exercise w/Janice 11-12 Bible Study 12 Lunch 1-2 Line Dancing</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:00 –12 Bridge Club 12 Lunch</p> <p>*1-2 Ballroom Lessons w/Kurt & Wendy</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10-11 Exercise w/Donna 10-4 Games & Fellowship 12 Lunch</p> <p>*1-3 ACRYLIC PAINTING WEDNA</p>	<p>8</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>11</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>12</p> <p>DAY TRIP-Tour Vulcan Park & Picnic Lunch</p> <p>10-11 Exercise w/Janice 11-12 Bible Study 12 Lunch 1-2 Line Dancing</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:00 –12 Bridge Club 12 Lunch</p> <p>*1-2 Ballroom Lessons w/Kurt & Wendy</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10-11 Exercise w/Donna 12:15-12:40 Speaker-Wendy Whitbred "Get Involved...Stay Involved" 12 Lunch</p> <p>*1-3 ACRYLIC PAINTING WEDNA</p>	<p>15</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>18</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>19</p> <p>10-11 Exercise w/Janice 11-12 Bible Study 12 Lunch 1-2 Line Dancing</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9-1 SENIOR PICNIC</p> <p>9:00 –12 Bridge Club 12 Lunch</p> <p>*1-2 Ballroom Lessons w/Kurt & Wendy 1:30-2:30 Computer Class- A Simple Computer Class</p>	<p>21</p> <p>*9-1 AARP Driver Safety Class</p> <p>10-11 Exercise w/Donna 10-11 Bingo w/ Patty Crocker/Oasis 12 Lunch</p> <p>*1-3 ACRYLIC PAINTING WEDNA</p>	<p>22</p> <p>*9-1 AARP Driver Safety Class</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>25</p> <p>Center Closed for Memorial Day</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10-11 Exercise w/Janice 11-12 Bible Study 12 Lunch 1-2 Line Dancing</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:00 –12 Bridge Club 12 Lunch</p> <p>*1-2 Ballroom Lessons w/Kurt & Wendy 1:30-2:30 Computer Class- Basic Computer Knowledge</p>	<p>28</p> <p>DAY TRIP- Tour Morgan Creek Winery</p> <p>10-11 Exercise w/Donna 10-4 Games & Fellowship 12 Lunch</p> <p>*1-3 ACRYLIC PAINTING WEDNA</p>	<p>29</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>

Indian Springs School's Sim named Semifinalist in Presidential Scholars Program

submitted by Melanie Kieve, Assistant Director of Development



Carolyn Sim, a graduating senior at Indian Springs School, has been named one of approximately 560 semifinalists in the 2009 Presidential Scholars Program. Inclusion in the program, now in its 45th year, is one of the highest honors bestowed upon graduating high school seniors.

Sim, a citizen of the U.S. whose family resides in Seoul, Korea, was selected from more than 3,000 candidates as a semifinalist on the basis of superior academic and artistic achievements, leadership qualities, personal character and involvement in community and school activities.

The Commission on Presidential Scholars, a group of eminent citizens appointed by the President, will make final selection of the Scholars and the U.S. Department of Education will announce the Scholars in May.

The semifinalists were initially selected as candidates for their exceptional performance on either the College Board SAT or the ACT Assessment. Semifinalists were chosen after a review of submitted essays, self-assessments, descriptions of activities, school recommendations and school transcripts.