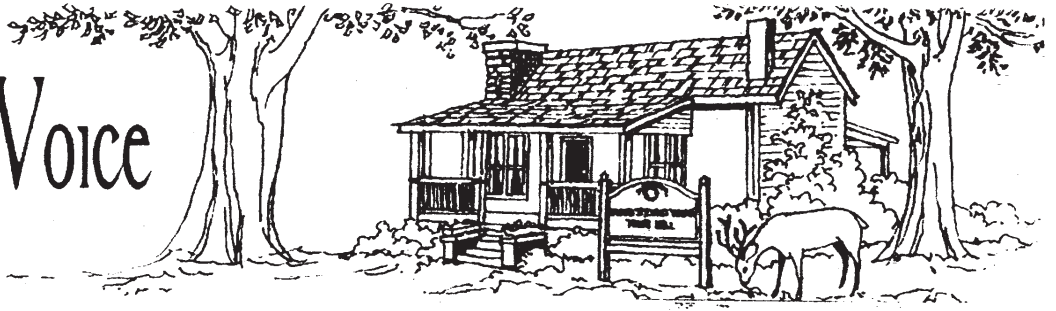


The Village Voice



Volume 24, Number 9

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

December 17, 2014



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

I am hoping the blanket of Christmas magic wraps itself around you and your family, and even though we may dread the rush and bustle, we will still find that warm feeling we had as children at this special time of year.

Thank you for letting me continue to serve the people of this valley as your Mayor. I will strive to do my best for Indian Springs Village in the coming year.

Jake joins me in wishing you a Merry Christmas and Peace and Joy in the New Year.

Sincerely,
Brenda Bell Guercio

GARDEN CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY

By Ruth Goodwyn, Publicity Chair, Indian Springs Garden Club

The Wayne and Laura Jones home on Choctaw Lane was the site of the Indian Springs Garden Club Christmas

party held December 8, beginning at one o'clock. Wayne and two of their children, Sierra and Winn, joined the group for the bountiful feast. prepared in members' kitchens. Betty Michaels came as a guest.

Member Jennifer Bondi brought Santa Christmas crackers, a British tradition dating back to Victorian times. When the crackers are pulled open, they make a cracking sound and have all sorts of surprises inside—in this case, jokes, which the children helped read aloud. Then the group played the game, "Dirty Santa," which has become more or less an annual tradition.

Mostly plants and other garden-related items were brought for "Dirty Santa," such as a shooting star hydrangea of blue blooms, an unusual vase, bird feeders, etc. Players were very enthusiastic as they claimed some of the gifts that had been previously drawn.

The Garden Club usually meets on the fourth Thursday of the month. The January 2015 meeting will be January 28 at the Town Hall beginning at 6:30 p. m. Marge Dunn will bring soup for all, and hot chocolate will be available as members discuss programs for the new year.

SPEAK UP 4 SCHOOLS!

By Brenda Bell Guercio

Dear Community Members,
We are currently participating in Speak Up 4 Schools! This is a national survey project facilitated by Project Tomorrow. This survey gives parents, students, teachers, and community members the opportunity to share their view points on key educational topics and mainly those that focus on 21st Century education and technology. This survey allows each of these groups to have a voice on these issues and gives our school excellent feedback from each group. They send us our data and we can look at it as a school, how we compare to the other schools in our district, as well as nationally with other schools and districts around the nation that participate. We can then use this data for strategic planning budgeting or decision-making. We welcome your feedback and urge you to take a few minutes to complete the survey. Use the link below or visit the Indian Springs website to complete the survey for our school.

<http://www.speakup4schools.org/speakup2014/DistrictStart.aspx?DIST=50&SCH=17500&SURV=40>

EDUCATION MATTERS

By Larry Lee

You have to tip your hat to Bob Riley's Alabama Opportunity Scholarship Fund and the great job they do with public relations. Hardly a day goes by without someone trying to convince us the best way to help kids in struggling schools is to take resources from them and give tax breaks to big business.

A few days ago Cameron Smith, an AL.com columnist told us that Riley's AOSF has awarded 2,800 scholarships and is the greatest thing since sliced bread.

Next came a column in the Birmingham News from the executive director of Riley's group. She said they have awarded 2,700 scholarships through the Alabama Accountability Act and that too many folks opposed to it twist facts.

Of course, she had to take a political shot by saying the Alabama Education Association was opposed. However, she failed to mention so was the state school superintendent, state board of education, school board association and superintendents association.

(For the record I am not, nor have I even been, a member of AEA. I am retired and do not get a salary from anyone. I have driven more than 10,000 miles this year visiting schools and studying education. I buy my own gas.)

She implied that the \$25 million taken from the state education trust fund for business tax breaks was no big deal and no one should squabble about sending this money to private schools.

She needs to go to Winston County and tell this to Amy Hiller, the principal at Meek Elementary. I will never forget the day I asked Amy if I were to give her

a blank check, what she would spend it on. "I would run the heat and air-conditioning when it should be run," she quickly replied. Her school system was scrimping every dollar it could and not having a cool or warm school was one of the consequences. But then I suppose the folks at AOSF probably don't worry much about their utility bill.

You see, last year Riley's SGO raised \$17,825,594 from 25 donors. They keep five percent to run their program. That's \$891,279.70 to pay for power bills, salaries, slick videos, direct mail, robo calls, travel, food, lodging, etc.

When we pay our state income tax, it goes straight to the education trust fund--unless you are a contributor to an SGO. Then you send the money to them and in return, you get a dollar for dollar tax break on your state taxes.

This means that every penny of the \$891,279.70 to run AOSF is a penny straight out of the ETF.

The fact that someone professing to be concerned about education would trivialize the value of \$25 million when there are elementary classes with 30+ students, when neither libraries or technology have not been funded in six years and when rural school systems are struggling to run buses is very telling.

It is also telling that someone applauds taking money from 733,000 public school students to send only 2,700 of them to private schools

Now let's look at some "non-twisted" facts:

- In 2013, the Riley SGO raised \$17.8 million and did not award a single scholarship according to their annual report filed with the revenue department.

- The AAA was passed without input from Alabama educators. Legislative leadership boasted they kept professional educators in the dark. Would the legislature pass a law impacting business and not consult with the Business Council of Alabama or Manufacture Alabama?

- AAA has been ruled unconstitutional by a Montgomery circuit court. Thirty superintendents have filed a "friend of the court" brief supporting this decision. Only eight of them have failing schools.

- According to superintendents in 20 counties with 37 failing schools, only 40 students have received scholarships because of AAA.

Which begs the question? Who are these kids getting scholarships? Local school systems can't find them, the state department of education can't find them, the revenue department can't find them.

Do we need an Amber Alert? Or will AOSF tell us who they are and what failing schools they came from?

Until they do, it's all just more PR.

Larry Lee led the study, Lessons Learned from Rural Schools, and is a long-time advocate for public education and frequently writes about education issues. larrylee33@knology.net

INDIAN SPRINGS SCHOOL SENIOR EARNS PERFECT SCORE ON ACT

Indian Springs School is delighted to announce that ISS senior Tristan Trechsel '15 has earned a perfect score on the ACT college entrance exam.

The odds of achieving a perfect score are extremely low. Of the 1.8 million students who took the standardized test nationally as members of the graduating class of 2014, about 1,400—less than 0.08 percent—managed to score a perfect 36, according to data provided by ACT, Inc.

“Earning a perfect score on this nationwide test is no easy feat,” says ISS Director Gareth Vaughan. “We are extremely proud of Tristan and this exciting accomplishment and believe that it

speaks volumes about his aptitude, talent, and work ethic. It also represents well our students’ commitment to excellence in the classroom and beyond.”

The ACT includes tests in English, math, reading, and science as a way to measure what students have learned in high school.

Trechsel earned his perfect score on the Oct. 25 test—his first time to take the ACT. He didn’t use practice exams or guides to prepare but instead believes that staying relaxed during the test helped him do his best. “I’ve never had any kind of test anxiety, so before the test I remember looking up at the painted ceiling tiles in my test room, feeling nostalgic about Freshman English.” A stop by Starbucks on the way to the test might not have hurt, either, he says. “I got up early enough to get a double shot and a breakfast sandwich!”

Trechsel, who is also a 2015 National Merit Semifinalist and an AP Scholar with Distinction, comes from a long line of ISS graduates, including Dr.

Frank Trechsel '69, Hayden Trechsel '72, Mary Trechsel Smyer '82, Julia Trechsel Davis '03, and Lake Trechsel '04. A singer/songwriter and member of the Indian Springs School Choir, he plans to study physics in college and is currently applying to some of the most selective schools across the country.

Indian Springs School is a national leader in coed boarding and day education for grades 8-12. Located just south of Birmingham, the school seeks to develop in students a love of learning, a sense of integrity and moral courage, and an ethic of participatory citizenship.

For more information, please visit www.indiansprings.org.



INDIAN SPRINGS SCHOOL RECEIVES \$2 MILLION GIFT IN HONOR OF FORMER BOARD MEMBER

Indian Springs School has received a \$2 million gift in memory of former ISS parent, grandparent, and Board member Leo Kayser, Jr., from his family—alumnus Leo Kayser III

'62 of New York, alumnus parent Deborah K. Strauss of Birmingham, and alumnus Kayser Strauss '96 of New York—for the completion of a new academic center that will celebrate their appreciation for the “warm and generations-long relationship between ISS and the Kayser family.” The gift is among the top gifts in the school’s history.

The Leo Kayser, Jr., Academic Center will unite the school’s Academic and College Advising Offices, Technology Center, Library, and Research Services at the heart of campus and feature an openair gathering porch overlooking the ISS Lake. Part of the \$20 million Campaign for Springs Eternal, the largest capital campaign in the school’s history, the center and 18 new classrooms will open in August 2015.

“This extraordinary gift is a momentous occasion for Indian Springs School,” says Director Gareth Vaughan. “It represents the deep commitment that our devoted alumni and alumni parents make to the school as well as the lifelong love that ISS families carry with them long after graduation. We are grateful to the Kayser-Strauss family for choosing to honor the memory of their father by investing in the future of Indian Springs.”

Leo Kayser, Jr., who served on the ISS Board from 1970 to 1973, served his country during

World War II as an officer in the Army Air Corps. Known for his optimism and generosity, he headed investment banking at Kayser & Company for 60 years. He died in October 2013 at age 95.

“Indian Springs School has been

important to the Kayser family for more than 55 years,” says Leo Kayser III. “Our father, who supported the school as an active parent, grandparent, and Board member, held the school in extremely high regard, and we are delighted to be able to honor his memory with what we believe is a fitting tribute to the warm and generations-long relationship between ISS and the Kayser family.”

The joint family gift brings total Campaign contributions to date to \$18 million. Vaughan and ISS trustees and administrators will formally announce and celebrate the new academic center at a gathering hosted by Leo Kayser III in early December at The Yale Club of New York City.

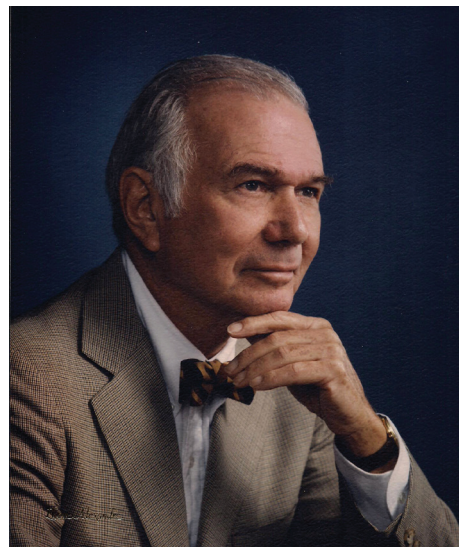
The Campaign for Springs Eternal was created in response to the school’s new Campus Master Plan, which seeks to maintain the spirit of the extraordinary 350-acre campus while replacing aging classrooms dating from 1952, when the school opened its doors. Prepared by internationally recognized architects ArchitectureWorks, LLP, of Birmingham and Lake|Flato Architects of San Antonio, the plan impacts a large portion of the campus and comprises three phases: a) new classrooms to accommodate emerging technologies for greater flexibility and global connectivity; b) a new dining hall that includes an outdoor dining area, new appliances, and flexibility to accommodate groups of various sizes; and c) a new arts center that features art studios, an art gallery, and an outdoor art yard. The ISS Board of Governors will finalize the timing and details for the arts

center and dining hall phases as fundraising continues.

Indian Springs School is a national leader in coed boarding and day education for grades 8-12.

Located just south of Birmingham, the school seeks to develop in students a love of learning, a sense of integrity and moral courage, and an ethic of participatory citizenship.

For more information, please visit www.indiansprings.org.



ANNUAL I.S.V. CHRISTMAS PARTY

— Brenda Bell Guercio

The Annual Indian Springs Village Christmas Party will be held following the Council Meeting on Tuesday, December 16th. There will be a short meeting at 7, followed by refreshments and social. The Town will host the main courses, but we would love to have you bring your favorite dessert or appetizer!

BUILDING PERMITS

— Frazier Christy, Town Engineer

Applicant: MUI Corp.
Owner: Karen M. Crane
Address: Star Trek Drive
Proposed Use: Roof addition

Applicant: David Laney
Owner: Christopher & Margaret McGregor
Address: Cahaba Valley Road
Proposed Use: Auto storage

eVillage Voice

Have *The Village Voice* delivered to your email! Please forward your name, address and email address to: myvillagevoice@yahoo.com. Sign up now to make sure you don't miss any future issues! Hard copies of *The Village Voice* will be available inside the Town Hall, Neil's Pharmacy, the North Shelby Library and the Heardmont Senior Center.

NORTH SHELBY LIBRARY

Children, Teens & Adults December Happenings 2014

The library will be closed on December 24th, 25th, and 31st.

***Holiday Mail for Heroes: North Shelby Library is proud to offer you the opportunity to send Season's Greetings to a U. S. service member! We will provide the cards, you provide the messages. Stop by the Children's Department to pick up a card and to read the guidelines. Cards are due to the library by December 3rd.

December 19th from 10am-5:45pm

Patron Appreciation Day

Join us all day today as we say "Thank You" to our patrons. We will have holiday treats, hot cider, and door prizes. Everyone is welcome.

Sponsored by The Friends of North Shelby Library.

SPECIAL CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

Reindeer Craft

Stop by the Children's Department in December to pick up a craft to take home or make in the department. All ages are welcome. Supplies are limited.

December 1-23

Elves in the Shelves

The Library is being overrun by elves and we will be giving some away. To win an elf, stop by the library or check the library's Facebook page each Monday to see clues to help you figure out which book the elves have been reading over the weekend. Submit a guess in person or on the Facebook page. Winners will be drawn each Tuesday morning.

Smart Cookie Club (December-January)

Are you a Smart Cookie? Join the North Shelby Library's Smart Cookie Club this winter! Pick up a membership card at the Children's Department desk. Every time you come to the library to check out books through the months of December and January get your card stamped AND add a sticker to our cookie jar bulletin board. Help us fill up the jar and show everyone how many Smart Cookies we have here at North Shelby. Everyone who participates is invited to our Smart Cookie Party in February! All Ages.

Wednesday, December 3rd at 1pm

Newbery Pie Book Club

Join us for a new book club where we will be talking about Newbery winner and honor books and eating some delicious pie. All ages are welcome (including adults). Registration is required. Check our website for more information.

Saturday, December 6th from 9am – 10:30am

Breakfast with Santa

Join us for a great time of food, fun, and pictures with Santa. Breakfast will be from 9:00 – 9:30. Pictures with Santa and a Christmas craft will be 9:30 - 10:30. Registration Required. A \$5.00 fee per person is due at the time of registration. All Ages are welcome. Tickets go on sale November 17th.

Tuesday, Dec. 9th @ 4 pm

Pete the Cat Book Club

Pete the Cat is saving Christmas! Join us for stories, groovy crafts, and snacks. All ages welcome. Registration required.

Wednesday, December 10th @ 1pm

Homeschool Hangout: Birmingham Fencing Club

En garde! The Birmingham Fencing Club will be teaching us all about the sport of fencing and providing a demonstration. Ages 7-13. Registration is required.

STORY-TIME PROGRAMMING

Mondays, December 1st, 8th, and 15th @ 9:30 and 10:30am

Toddler Tales

Stories, songs, fingerplays and crafts make up a lively 30 minute program designed especially for short attention spans. Registration will begin one week prior to each storytime. Ages 19-36 months. Registration Required.

Tuesdays, December 2nd and 16th @ 9:30am

Baby Tales

A 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. Ages: Birth to 18 months. Registration Required. Registration will begin one week prior to program date.

Wednesdays, December 3rd, 10th, and 17th @ 10:45am

Mr. Mac (Storyteller Extraordinaire!)

Stories, puppets, and lots of music for every member of the family. All Ages. No Registration.

On December 17th, we will have a special Christmas snack during Mr. Mac.

Thursdays, December 4th, 11th, and 18th @ 7:00pm

PJ Story Time

Come in your PJs, have milk and cookies, and hear some wonderful bedtime tales. All Ages. No Registration Required.

* For more information or to register for any of our programs or storytimes, call or email the Children's Department at 205-439-5504 or northshelbyyouth@gmail.com or visit our website at www.northshelbylibrary.org/

TEEN HAPPENINGS DECEMBER 2014

Fridays, December 5, 12, & 19 – 3:30-5:45pm

Gaming

Come to the teen department each Friday afternoon for open gaming on the Wii and with board and card games. Teens need a parent permission slip on file to attend. Open gaming will not be held on the last Friday of each month. Contact Kate at 439-5512 or nsyouth@shelbycounty-al.org for more information.

Monday, December 8 @ 6pm

Anime Night

Join us in the teen department for an evening of anime. The audience will pick what we watch. Treats will be served and costumes are welcome! Contact Kate at 439-5512 or nsyouth@shelbycounty-al.org for more information.

Monday, December 15 @ 6pm

Minecraft @ the Library

Show off your Minecraft skills! If you are able, please bring your laptop. We will have offline activities, too. Contact Kate at 439-5512 or nsyouth@shelbycounty-al.org for more information.

Thursday, December 18 @ 6pm

Ho, Ho, Who?

All the Holiday Whovian activities we can fit into the teen department -- trivia, costumes, food, and more. Fantastic!

Library Closed

The library will be closed Wednesday, December 24, and Thursday, December 25, for Christmas and Wednesday, December 31, and Thursday, January 1 for the New Year. The library will reopen the Friday after each holiday at 10 a.m.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>Center hours are Monday-Friday 9-3 pm Phone : 991-5742 Fax: 991-5657 Email: heardmontparksc@gmail.com</p>			<p>CENTER CLOSED REOPENS JAN 5, 2015 <i>Happy New year</i></p>	<p>CENTER CLOSED REOPENS JAN 5, 2015</p>
<p>5 9:30-10:30 – Tai Chi</p> <p><i>Welcome Back!!!!</i></p>	<p>6 10-10:45 Aerobics 10:45-11:30 Aerobics 11 Bible Study 10-2 Bingo & Board Games 12 LUNCH</p>	<p>7 9-12 Bridge 12 LUNCH</p>	<p>8 10:15-11:00 Aerobics 11:10-11:55 Aerobics 10-2 Bingo & Board Games 12- LUNCH</p>	<p>9 9-10 Zumba Gold 10-11 Intermediate Line Dancing 11-12 Beginning Line Dancing</p>
<p>12 9:30-10:30 Tai Chi 9:30- 12 Mah Jongg 10:30-2:30 – Canasta</p>	<p>13 10-10:45 Aerobics 10:45-11:30 Aerobics 11 Bible Study 10-2 Bingo & Board Games 12 LUNCH BISCUIT BASH</p>	<p>14 9-12 Bridge 12 LUNCH</p>	<p>15 10:15-11:00 Aerobics 11-Becky with Harrison Regional Library 11:10-11:55 Aerobics 10-2 Bingo & Board Games 12- LUNCH</p>	<p>16 9-10 Zumba Gold 10-11 Intermediate Line Dancing 11-12 Beginning Line Dancing</p>
<p>19 CENTER CLOSED MARTIN LUTHER KING BIRTHDAY</p>	<p>20 10-10:45 Aerobics 10:45-11:30 Aerobics 11 Bible Study 10-2 Bingo & Board Games 12 LUNCH</p>	<p>21 9-12 Bridge 12 LUNCH</p>	<p>22 10:15-11:00 Aerobics 11:10-11:55 Aerobics 10-2 Bingo & Board Games 12- LUNCH</p>	<p>23 9-10 Zumba Gold 10-11 Intermediate Line Dancing 11-12 Beginning Line Dancing</p>
<p>26 9:30-10:30 Tai Chi 9:30- 12 Mah Jongg 10:30-2:30 – Canasta</p>	<p>27 10-10:45 Aerobics 10:45-11:30 Aerobics 11 Bible Study 10-2 Bingo & Board Games 12 LUNCH</p>	<p>28 9-12 Bridge 12 LUNCH</p>	<p>29 10:15-11:00 Aerobics 11:10-11:55 Aerobics 10-2 Bingo & Board Games 12- LUNCH SOUPER THURSDAY</p>	<p>30 9-10 Zumba Gold 10-11 Intermediate Line Dancing 11-12 Beginning Line Dancing</p>

TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday, January 6, 2014 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 20, 2014 7:00 p.m.

Indian Springs Village Telephone
Directory Number is 982-1755
For Town Hall Reservations
please contact Patricia Crapet.
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.

The Village Voice is published the first week of each month. Articles for the December edition should be submitted by Friday, November 28, 2014. All materials submitted for publication may () be edited, including **letters to the editor, which should include sender'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.

Address letters to the editor and news items to: Michael Harrington, Editor, 291 Valley View Lane, Indian Springs, AL, 35124; Tel: 205.447.0273 e-mail: mbh0001@yahoo.com

Editor's Appreciation to:

Mildred Wyatt for the masthead drawing

Herb Robins for proofing

