

The Village Voice



VOLUME 30, NUMBER 3

INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE, ALABAMA

SEPTEMBER 2021 ISSUE

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

October 1 is Down Syndrome Day and October is National Down Syndrome Awareness Month. Please see the Proclamation supporting this also included in this issue of the Village Voice and on our Facebook page. Residents can also find a wealth of resources on the DSA website, downsyndromealabama.org. There is information for various age group activities, workshops for parents and professionals, a new parents' guide, etc. All villagers are invited to "Step Up for Down Syndrome" on Sunday, October 24 at Veterans Park. This will be a fun event with music, food trucks, and entertainment.

Another excellent way to help the children in our town is by joining our Indian Springs Kiwanis Club. We meet on the third Thursday at 6:30 at the ISV Town Hall Pavilion. We have excellent and interesting speakers on a variety of topics, share a meal or snack, and plan fundraising events to raise money for different needs of the children in our town and schools.

For instance, with only about 30 members, we raised approximately \$70,000 over two years to supply the Oak Mountain High School and Middle School with Chromebooks for kids that might not have those available at home. We even had extra to give to the Elementary for some of their students. This made it feasible for kids to be able to do their homework at home as well as during class and leveled the playing field in that regard so each student had the chance to be successful academically.

Then the former Oak Mountain Elementary School principal, Debbie Horton, approached our club to help build a new playground at the elementary school. The old one was in disrepair and had outlived its use. The club readily agreed, but I have to admit when we heard the expected cost was \$300,000, we were a little nervous about being able to reach that goal.

However, our club is made of up a lot of different people from different backgrounds, all with the desire to do positive things for our community. So we got to work and initially raised \$14,000 at our Pancake Breakfast. Then our Board pulled in the County and Board of Education, and through this team approach, the playground is there! They are loving it, and it is available to students of all capabilities.

Wouldn't you like to become a member of such a wonderful group doing so much good for our community? Please come try out one of our meetings. Our next meeting is Thursday, November 18th. We would love to see you there!

Sincerely,
Brenda Bell-Guercio

EDITOR'S NOTES

The Village Voice is the official organ of Indian Springs Village, AL – established October 16, 1990 – and is published four times a year. The mission of the newsletter is to foster community spirit and co-operation. It provides our elected officials and other Villagers a means of communicating – it is a "voice."



**October 1 as Down Syndrome Day and
October as National Down Syndrome Awareness Month**

WHEREAS, Down syndrome is the most frequently occurring chromosomal disorder and is the leading cause of intellectual and developmental delay in the United States; and

WHEREAS, approximately one in every 691 children are born with Down syndrome, representing an estimated 5,000 births per year in the United States with approximately 85 of those annual births occurring here in Alabama, and

WHEREAS, today through multiple efforts, people with Down syndrome are offered early intervention services, attend school, procure appropriate health care, choose to live at home or independently; receive transition services and vocational training; have meaningful relationships, volunteer opportunities, maintain a job, experience a life of inclusion and rewarding maturity; and

WHEREAS, yet despite significant increases in lifespan and intellectual opportunities over the past decade, there is still much work to be done regarding the rights to equality, inclusion, education, medical care, research, employment, and support for people with Down syndrome; and

WHEREAS throughout Indian Springs Village, we encourage all citizens to work together to celebrate the lives of individuals with Down syndrome, and remember to appreciate and regard every individual with dignity as a valued member of the community; and

WHEREAS, through public awareness, the City of Indian Springs Village supports the initiatives of organizations working to ensure people with Down syndrome have adequate services, are valued by society, and can lead fulfilling and productive lives in our community.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Brenda Reed-Buerio (Name),

Mayor

(Title) of Indian Springs Village (Entity),

do hereby proclaim October 1st as
Down Syndrome Day
and October as
National Down Syndrome Month

here in Indian Springs Village (Location).

FOUNDER'S DAY

October 19, 2021

6:30-8:30p.m.

Indian Springs Village Pavilion

Join us as we celebrate our 31st year as a town!

We will enjoy dinner by Texas Roadhouse, visiting with old and new neighbors and music under the stars. Please RSVP via the evite, or email

christy@indianspringsvillage.org

Hoping you'll join us!



FROM THE DESK OF THE TOWN CLERK

We are staying very busy with reservations for our rentals hear at Town Hall. If you are interested in renting one of the buildings, its never too early to reserve! Reservations and payments can be made on our website, indianspringsvillage.org. Simply check the calendar to see that your date is available, then go to Facility Rentals and fill out the application for your event. Lastly, select your method of payment and submit after the application is filled out. Please note that the rules for renting have been updated. There is a link on the application page to view these new rules. Regarding payment, a \$100 damage deposit has been added to the \$50 rental fee which is refundable if the property is properly cared for. If you have any questions regarding this process, please feel free to contact me, Joan Downs at 205-982-1755. I'm here M-Th, 9-1.

Have you been receiving our ISV E-blasts? If not, we don't have an email for you. Please email me, joan@indianspringsvillage.org or christy@indianspringsvillage.org so we can add you to our contact list and you can begin receiving time sensitive important info regarding ISV.

Respectfully,
Joan Downs



*Editor's Appreciation:
Mildred Wyatt for the
masthead drawing. Although
Mrs. Wyatt has passed away,
this acknowledgement will
continue in honor of the
contributions of Mrs. Wyatt
and her family to The Village
Voice and the town of Indian
Springs Village.*

UPCOMING TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday, October 5
Tuesday, October 19
Tuesday, November 2
Tuesday, November 16
All meetings start at 7 p.m.

INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE OFFICIALS

Brenda Bell-Guercio
Mayor
brenda@indianspringsvillage.org

Herb Robins
Town Council, Place 1
Road and Grounds Maintenance
herb@indianspringsvillage.org

Mary Sue McClurkin
Town Council, Place 2
Legal/Communications

Richard Harley
Town Council, Place 3
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Ed Whatley
Town Council, Place 4
Chief Financial Officer
edwhatleyoo@gmail.com

Dale Elliot
Town Council, Place 5
Revenue Liaison
cdelliot@bellsouth.net

Joan Downs
Town Clerk
joan@indianspringsvillage.org

Wayne Jones
Chairman
Planning and Zoning
Commission
wayne@indianspringsvillage.org

Jack Mendel
Zoning Board of Adjustments
jack@indianspringsvillage.org



INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB

Submitted by B.J. Scharath

Summer is always a great time to be a member of the Indian Springs Garden Club. Garden Club members had a wonderful time exploring the Birmingham Botanical Gardens in lieu of an in-person meeting in June. More than half of the club members made the trip, and spent a lovely day on a guided walking tour conducted by one of the BBG guides, learning not only about the plants but also about all its lovely art treasures; some easily recognized (the red Japanese gates), and some hidden in plain sight. Almost all the art structures in the Gardens were created specifically for the Gardens and Jason Kirby, the tour guide, gave the group intimate details of the beautiful, strange, and sometimes weird pieces found in the gardens.

And what better activity for July than an Ice Cream Social? Members gathered at the Town Hall, and shared ice cream, delicious toppings, and fun social interactions. There was even Cucumber Sorbet for all the gardeners there, made with garden fresh cucumbers...a surprisingly light and refreshing sorbet for a hot day that everyone liked as evidenced by the numerous requests for the recipe.

The August meeting had a garden theme of home grown vegetables and quick and innovative ways to prepare fresh vegetables using Instant Pot and Air Fryers. The keynote speaker was the well-known food blogger and host of Grits & Gouda, Kathleen Phillips. She demonstrated several cooking methods, primarily using fresh green beans and broccoli and handed out recipes to recreate her demonstrations.

All garden club meetings are open to anyone interested in attending; just contact President Robyn Morris, 28arete@gmail.com if you are interested in attending a meeting.



Left to Right: Pres. Robyn Morris and BBG Tour Guide Jason Kirby; BBG garden art; Kathleen Phillips of Grits & Gouda



Kiwaniis®

CLUB OF INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE

Submitted by Brian S. Rodgers

Flexibility and relevance have been the keys to successfully navigating the pandemic for the Kiwanis Club of Indian Springs Village. Under the leadership of Club President Buddy Tyler, we have continued to hold monthly meetings featuring excellent speakers from throughout the community. Some have been live in a socially distanced setting; others have been a hybrid of both in-person and virtual. But service and connection have been the bedrock that has helped us stay active during this challenging time.

One of the biggest celebrations has been seeing Phase 2 funding for the new playground at Oak Mountain Elementary School become a reality. Because of the support of our community, the children of OMES have a new, safe, and fun play area. We look forward to the 3rd phase of this project in the coming years.

One of the big projects this Fall will take place on Saturday, October 23rd when we join Kiwanis Clubs from around the world for Kiwanis One Day, This is one day of service aimed at positively impacting communities in a united effort. In Alabama, we will be focusing on stocking Alabama's food pantries. Stay tuned for ways that you can help us stock Oak Mountain Missions.

While our annual Pancake Day celebration was postponed- because of the dynamic duo of COVID and the tornado- we look forward to bringing this fun community event back to OMES next year.

The new Kiwanis year begins October 1st, and our slate of incoming officers is as follows: President David Bobo, President-Elect Brenda Bell Guercio, and Secretary/Treasurer Donna Tyler. We look forward to their dynamic leadership as we serve the children of the community and our world. We are also honored to have our Alabama District Vice Governor Keith McKendall as a member of our club. He has been a Charter Member, Past President, and District. Lt. Governor.

Kiwanis is a family-friendly organization. We invite you to come and join us for a meeting. We meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the ISV Town Hall from 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM. Come and be a part of making our community a better place. #KIDSNEEDKIWANIS

For more information visit our website at isvkiwanis.org and LIKE our Facebook Page facebook.com/kciv

SUBMISSIONS

If you have an announcement, obituary, or Indian Springs Village related column you would like to appear in The Village Voice, please email your submission to joan@indianspringsvillage.org or christy@indianspringsvillage.org. All materials submitted for publication may be edited.

IN SYMPATHY



Nick Bondi (pictured with his wife, Jennifer)

Nick Bondi was 88 years old and resided in Indian Springs. He passed away on Friday, May 28, peacefully in his sleep.

Nick was a member of St. Stephens Episcopal Church in Vestavia.

Nick was born in Harare Zimbabwe on August 23, 1932. Nick moved to Birmingham in 1980, where he settled and found his new home. Nick was the sole proprietor of the Command Post Army Surplus store in Pelham for over 35 years.

He additionally owned a printing company in Zimbabwe for a number of years as well as serving in the military in the Rhodesian Army before moving to the United States at the age of 48. Nick was a bold man, choosing to immigrate and start over in the United States to allow his children to pursue the American dream.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Albert and Rachelle Bondi; brothers, David, Zac, Elle, Joe; and sister, Becky. Nick is also preceded by his son, Steven John Bondi and Lesley Bondi Hernandez.

Nick is survived by his wife Jennifer of 61 years, David (son), Katie (daughter-in-law), and grandsons Steven and Daniel of Alpharetta, Georgia, as well as Trevor Hernandez, Lacey Hernandez.

Nick is also survived by his older sister Ester who is 90 years old from Capetown, South Africa. Nick is also survived by over 20 nieces and nephews around the world from South Africa, the US, Zimbabwe, Israel, Greece, and New Zealand.

A celebration of life for Nick was held in June at St. Stephens Episcopal Church in Vestavia.

Donations in Nick's memory can be made to the Wounded Warriors and Tunnel to Tower's foundation, as the military and service were important to Nick.

IN SYMPATHY



Rita Mendel

On June the 24th, 2021, Indian Springs Village lost one of the pillars of our community, Rita Mendel. Rita and Jack have lived here, in what has now become Indian Springs Village, for 37 years. Rita and Jack were the proud parents of three children, J. Michael, Amy and David. Michael passed away suddenly September 22, 2019. Rita left behind eight grandchildren and one great grandson. Rita and Jack had also recently celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary.

Rita was a member of the ISV Planning and Zoning commission. She was the face of the dessert booth every 4th of July at the annual BBQ.

Rita and Jack's home faces Cahaba Valley Road, but the driveway is on Mountain Vista, resulting in their mailing address being 70 Mountain Vista. Once, at an ISV event in the pavilion, Jack was asked by the moderator to tell the assembly where the couple's house was located. He pointed at the road and said the house was on Cahaba Valley Road just a short distance from the Town Hall. To Jack's chagrin, Rita dutifully and characteristically corrected him, telling the group that the location was on Mountain Vista. This became an ISV inside joke -- they lived together, but with two different addresses.

Rita's "Celebration of Life" was held July 1st at the Indian Springs Town Hall and hosted more than 200 people. She had a wide-ranging impact on so many people.

In 1985, Rita founded Special Equestrians, a therapeutic riding program for people with special needs. She and several volunteers operated the program at the stable at Oak Mountain State Park. The program moved to its current location on the Indian Springs School campus in 1993. It has grown to serve more than 100 riders annually, and draws help from more than 250 volunteers. One of the proudest things Rita said she had ever done was to start the Special Equestrians program and was impressed with the change it made in so many lives.

Rita also ran the equestrian clothing and gift shop, Carousel Tack Shoppe, in Indian Springs for many years. She loved dressing the kids for their horse shows. In her spare time, you could find her and Jack ballroom dancing. Even when she was suffering from being kicked in the ankle by her horse, she put on her cowgirl boots and danced the night away at the towns 25th anniversary Blue Jean Ball. Rita will be sorely missed by all her family and friends.