

The Village Voice



Volume 12, Number 8

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

November 12, 2002

INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday, November 19, 2002, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 3, 2002, 7:00 p.m.

Indian Springs Village Town Hall

Agenda:

I. Mayor/Council Committee Reports

Town Meeting Discussion

II. Ordinances and Resolutions

III. Citizens' Forum

Indian Springs Village Telephone Directory Number
is 982-1755

For Town Hall Reservations please call

Patricia Crapet Voice Mail 802-2753,

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 the 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: Dr. Ruth Goodwyn, Editor, 151 Choctaw Lane, Indian Springs, Alabama, 35124 phone number (988-0896) FAX 988-0896, or e-mail Ruthgoodwyn@aol.com. Questions about circulation should be addressed to Patricia Crapet, 370 Valley View Rd., Indian Springs, AL 35124 (802-2753) or e-mail ISVillage@aol.com. Reporter for the Homestead neighborhood is Jana Hagan, 5121 Hollow Log Lane, Birmingham 35244 (980-9419) e-mail: byzx4nblsd@aol.com.

The Village Voice is published the second Tuesday of each month. Articles for publication in the December 2002 edition should be submitted by Tuesday noon, Dec. 3. The editor reserves the right to edit all materials submitted for publication, including signed letters to the editor, which will be published if space permits. All opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors of articles; any opinions expressed should not be attributed to the mayor or council.

Editor's Appreciation to:

ISV aluminum can recyclers for their support
Indian Springs Village couriers for hand delivery
Mildred Wyatt for the masthead drawing
Tricia Crapet, RealtySouth, for production

A Message From the Mayor

By Gene Weingarten

Welcome to our new town clerk, Shirley Church. Shirley is a long-time Indian Springs resident, living in the midst of ISV folks at 335 New Hope Mountain Road. She can be reached Monday through Friday, normal business hours, at 991-6148. With business experience at Rust International, AmSouth Bank, Secor Bank, and Brasfield & Gorrie, she brings a wealth of background to the position of town clerk.

Our original town clerk, Paul Stephens, will be working very closely with our new clerk, to ensure a smooth transfer of duties. Paul will still be the town's official bookkeeper, retaining the title of C.F.O. (Chief Fiscal Officer). He will also hold the title of "Clerk Emeritus." Paul will still be involved in many of ISV's functions, most of which are self-imposed.

Shirley's first town council meeting was November 5. If you did not get to meet her at that meeting, please come to the third Tuesday meeting (November 19th). The more faces that she can place with names will be advantageous. Plus, you may have suggestions about updating and improving the various duties of the clerk. And also the duties of the members of our town council and committees. We are always receptive to your ideas.

The various sub-committees to work on the KPS comprehensive plan are forming within our Planning & Zoning Commission. Have you offered your assistance? We had 31 Villagers speak at the town hall meeting held at the library. Surely every one of them has asked to on one of the committees.

Hard to believe, but Christmas is just a few weeks away. Our town has a tradition of helping needy children who have been referred to us by our local Oak Mountain schools. We have always received very generous donations from our ISV folks. Noting that price increases have affected so many of the items that are purchased each year, our Children's Fund is more in need of replenishing this year than ever before. Join me in writing a check and sending it to Councilwoman Patricia Crapet.

I have received a reminder phone call about burning of leaves. As I write this column it is raining. Weeks of rain, accompanying winds, and normal seasonal change has brought down the leaves in great volume. Please respect your neighbors and DON'T burn leaves. They make a great mulch around your bushes and trees.



New Town Clerk Shirley Church with outgoing Town Clerk of 12 years, Paul Stephens.

The ISV Web Page Is NOT One of Those "Forbidden" Websites!

By Brian Stauss, Town Council Place No. 3

Last month I reported that our city website, www.indianspringsvillage.org had been enhanced with new features and functional e-mail. Unfortunately, just a few days after *The Village Voice* went to press, our hosting service went out of business, taking the website offline. That is why the message "Forbidden" appears when you try to access the website. I am in the process of finding a new hosting service and uploading the website. It should be back up and operational by mid-November. The website address will not change. My apologies for the inconvenience. If you have any questions about our web page, I can be contacted at 987-9997 (home) or kybgs@bellsouth.net.

Computer Looking for New Home

By Brian Stauss, Town Council Place No. 3

ISV has a computer in need of a good home. It is about five years old. Technical specs: Hewlett-Packard Vectra VL, 266 MHz Pentium processor, 2 GB hard drive, 32MBRAM, Windows 98, 14" monitor, sound card, built-in speaker, network card, NO modem, NO printer, NO software. This computer is best suited for running older games and educational software and older versions of Word and Excel (all are readily available on eBay for a few dollars). Price: Free. Contact Brian Stauss at 987-9997 (home) or kybgs@bellsouth.net.

Aluminum Recycling - Nov. 20

By Art Johnson, Town Council Place No. 4

In October your ISV recycling pickup volunteers were Trudy and Paul Skokel, Pat and Russ Favorite, Margie and Herb Robins, Bryan Bidy and Art Johnson. Bob Durban volunteered to bring the trailer to the ISV town hall. The October Villager recycling response was outstanding. Recycling programs such as ISV's help reduce the amount of waste going to landfills and also help save energy and natural resources.

Please start the recycling habit. All you need to do on Wednesday night, November 20, is to place your bagged aluminum cans near your driveway opposite your normal Waste Management collection before 7:00 p.m. Please use white, blue recycling, or clear plastic bags with the tops securely tied with a knot. Also please do not add any glass, plastic, or steel cans to your recycling. Watch for recycling reminders along Highway 119, Indian Crest Drive, and entrances to Homestead.

Got Potholes? Call Paul Stephens

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

Paul Stephens, retiring as city clerk but remaining as C.F.O (Chief Financial Officer), barbecue chef, and "Pothole Crew" chairman, wants to make sure potholes in the Village are taken care of. He said he remembered someone at the recent Planning & Zoning Commission hearing at the North Shelby Library saying that potholes were on streets in her neighborhood, but he didn't get her name.

Anyone knowing of potholes on any street in the Village, please give that information to Paul Stephens, 988-4672.

NSL Director Has New Job

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

Michael Jones, Director of North Shelby Library since August 2000, will leave November 30 to become director of field services for the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, Frankfort, KY.

Members of the Board of Trustees will begin reviewing resumes of candidates on Nov. 12. The library has been recruiting via the Internet on the American and Alabama library association websites.

Jones, who took over a financially-strapped library forced to cut back on hours and services, is pleased to be leaving the library in better shape. Recently the library expanded hours, is now open seven days a week, and is buying new books. The budget for books was zero last year, causing a circulation drop, but there is at least \$30,000 budgeted for books this year. Jones gives credit to the current Board of Trustees for addressing the financial problems and striving for solutions. Lines of credit have been turned into long-term loans, allowing them to start paying off the principal on the debt incurred when only one million was raised for the three-million dollar building, opened in 1999.

Villagers wish Jones well in his new position.

A Letter of Thanks

Dear ISV Friends and Neighbors,

I don't know how to say thanks to all of you for being so kind during this terrible, terrible time in my life. Bob and I had only been here just a few short weeks when he passed away, but to all of you it was like we had lived here forever. The food was very much needed and greatly appreciated. The outpouring of flowers and cards was so thoughtful and has made my sad days a little brighter. A very special thanks to Herb and Margie Robins for just being the loving people that they are. With God's help and great neighbors I somehow will survive this.

Gratefully and Sincerely,
Diane Bell

Zoning and Planning Commission Update

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

Jerry Templeton, Chairman of the Zoning and Planning Commission, and his commission members are working on organizing the structure for various committees, setting dates for committee reports. It is hoped that problems can be resolved with the goal of a comprehensive presentation in February 2003.

In Appreciation

By Patricia Crapet, Town Council Place #2

Residents and travelers on Valley View Road owe a debt of gratitude to Roy Connell for his dedication to the beautification of the Brookstone Estates neighborhood. Roy keeps the entire right-of-way groomed from Cahaba Valley Road to the first home on the street, about a quarter mile stretch. Thanks for a great job, Roy!

Town Council Highlights

October 15, 2002

By Patricia Crapet, Town Council Place #2

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met on Tuesday, October 15, 2002, at 7:00 p.m. at the Indian Springs Village Town Hall beneath the picnic pavilion. Present for the meeting were Mayor Gene Weingarten and Councilmembers Herb Robins, Patricia Crapet, Brian Stauss, and Art Johnson. Due to the Founders' Day Celebration, no town business was conducted.

The 12th commemoration of the incorporation and founding of the Town of Indian Springs Village was heralded by quite a heavy rain storm. Though the usual numbers were down due to the showers, the spirits of those in attendance were not dampened. The usual fare of hamburgers, hot dogs, fixin's, and especially the home-made desserts was enjoyed by all those who attended. In the absence of usual "head chef" Paul Stephens, this year's grilling was done by Pothole Crew member Bart Trammell. The "help yourself" buffet line was replenished by Connie Trammell and Herb and Margie Robins, and the dessert table was staffed by Betty Michels and Nora Boyett. Even with the rain, everyone had a great time celebrating Indian Springs Village's 12th birthday.

Town Council Highlights

November 5, 2002

By Patricia Crapet, Town Council Place #2

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met on Tuesday, November 5, 2002, at 7:00 p.m. at the Indian Springs Village Town Hall. Present for the meeting were Mayor Gene Weingarten and Councilmembers Herb Robins, Patricia Crapet, Brian Stauss, Stewart Dudley, and Art Johnson. The minutes of the September 17th and October 1st meetings were approved as written. The financial report was not given.

Town Clerk Paul Stephens introduced new Town Clerk Shirley Church. Shirley has taken over the helm and with good tutoring by Paul, she should be up to speed in no time. Mayor Weingarten and the council presented a plaque to Paul which read: "In grateful appreciation for 12 years of dedicated service as Town Clerk, barbecue chef, member of the Pothole Crew and Town Maintenance Crew, bookkeeper and custodian of the Town's money, and for the countless hours given that are known only to you and God. You set the standard for volunteers." An understatement for this consummate volunteer and Town of Indian Springs Village supporter.

Committee reports were as follows: Councilwoman Patricia Crapet reported that donations for the Indian Springs Village Children's Fund had been coming in, but that due to last year's expenditures, more donations were needed. Councilman Herb Robins reported that the proposed turn lane project for Cahaba Valley Road remains on hold. The Valleydale Road project is slightly behind schedule, with completion now expected to be in late spring of 2003. Councilman Brian Stauss reported that the ISV website is temporarily offline due to the host server's going out of business. A new host is being sought and pricing being studied.

A petition to rezone an E-1 residential parcel located at 2626 Valleydale Road to commercial O & I (office and institutional) was re-presented to the council. Representing the property owner, Mrs. Nadine Knighten, was realtor Penny Kovakis, of Kovakis Realty, who stated that although the property had not been marketed as having residential qualities, it had no viable use other than as commercial property. Attorney Donald Guthrie was present to represent Tom Jackson, who has a contract to purchase the property, contingent upon the rezoning. Mr. Jackson's business was represented as a shipping/receiving operation with very little traffic, which would use the present residential house for business purposes.

Several residents from neighboring homes in Havenwood Park, Homestead, and as far away as the Cahaba Valley Road area were in attendance to voice opposition to the rezoning, which they deemed to be inconsistent with the present residential zoning of the area. Many stated that rezoning would cause a domino effect that would eventually commercialize most of Valleydale Road. Ron Luster, a founding father and former ISV councilman, stated that rezoning of this nature goes against the reasons why ISV was originally incorporated, which was to help preserve the residential quality of the area. Roger Spears, a Havenwood Park resident and the president of that neighborhood's homeowners' association, stated that several homes in Havenwood back up to the property in question and that residents feel this rezoning is inappropriate. Norman Bradley, president of the Homestead Homeowners' Association, voiced the concerns of the residents of that neighborhood, also in opposition to the re-zoning. Cecil Laney, a 35-year resident of the area, spoke in favor of the rezoning, stating that a property owner should be able to do whatever he wants with his own property.

After careful deliberation, the council, led by a motion by Councilman Stewart Dudley to deny the rezoning, voted by roll call vote in favor of the denial to rezone. The unanimous vote, with the exception of an abstention by Councilman Herb Robins, is final.

Ho, Ho, Ho, Here We Go...Again

By Patricia Crapet, Town Council Place #2

Have you or your children ever dreamed of awakening on Christmas morning to a tree with no presents underneath? Can any of us even fathom this thought? Well, there are some children who attend the Oak Mountain schools for whom this is all too much of a reality. It is up to us to change their sadness to happiness.

This can be done through donations to the Indian Springs Village Children's Fund (ISVCF). It is time for the Village Santas to begin the happy and worthwhile task of shopping, wrapping and delivering holiday cheer to those families who are experiencing unfortunate circumstances this year and are who are unable to provide Christmas presents for their children.

A big "thanks" goes to **Clyde and Fay Wood, James and Barbara Wood, Shirley Knight, Roger and Elizabeth Eastman, Nick and Jennifer Bondi, David and Judy Egge, and Mountain Heating and Cooling**, owned and operated by Villagers Paul and Gina James. Your donations are so very appreciated.

Anyone wishing to volunteer to be a Village Santa, please call Margie Robins (980-9217). Please send all donations made payable to: Indian Springs Village Children's Fund in care of Patricia Crapet, 370 Valley View Road, Indian Springs, Alabama 35124.

Village Personals

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

In Memoriam

Virginia "Ginny" Brogdon Hodge, who with her husband, Donald, lived in this area for over 29 years, died at home, 2101 Indian Crest Drive, on October 23 from a severe stroke. She had been brought home from HealthSouth after spending one and a half weeks in the intensive care unit. Mrs. Hodge, age 66, had suffered recurring heart problems.

Mrs. Hodge was the owner and operator of Indian Village Western Wear on Highway 31 S, across from the present Murphy Mitsubishi, from 1975 until 1984. She was a member of New Hope Cumberland Presbyterian Church for 30 years and an active supporter of Overseas Missions, particularly in helping children of Guatemala after her husband's church mission to that country in June 2000.

Visitation was at Southern Heritage Funeral chapel on Friday evening, Oct. 25, with graveside service on Saturday afternoon at the adjoining cemetery. Rev. Donny Acton officiated.

She leaves her husband of 43 years, Donald Hodge, two sons, Scott A. Hodge of Chelsea and Clay C. Hodge of Atlanta and his wife, Donna; two grandchildren; five brothers and two sisters. Villagers extend sympathy to the Hodge family.

Welcome back home, Templeton Family

Jerry, Phyllis, Allie and Maddie Templeton and Jerry's mom, Martha Templeton, have returned home to Willowbrook Circle, happy and relieved that Allie's hip surgery in Minneapolis on Oct. 23 was successful and she is having a "fantastic" recovery. The surgery was done by orthopaedic specialists at Gillette's Children's Hospital, affiliated with the Mayo Clinic. Daughter Maddie will undergo the same hip surgery next spring.

While in St. Paul/Minneapolis, Jerry and his mom and Maddie attended the live broadcast of Garrison Keillor's *A Prairie Home Companion* on Saturday afternoon. A great ending to their trip occurred when they were leaving for the airport a few days later. Jerry relates their exiting the hotel: There he was, trying to escort wife, mother, two girls in wheelchairs, load a third power wheelchair (Maddie's) and ten bags into the hotel van.

"Do you travel often?" off-handedly asked a man standing outside the hotel while graciously holding the door for the entourage. It was none other than Garrison Keillor himself, waiting to meet his guitar player. According to Jerry, he was very nice but seemed very shy.

Heardmont Happenings

Square dancing on Thursdays and line dancing classes on both Tuesdays and Thursdays are being held at the Mary Ellen Estes Senior Citizens Center, Heardmont Park. A dance and fellowship will be held on Friday, Nov. 15 from 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

David Strickland Cast in Annie, jr.

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

Villagers will have the opportunity to see David Strickland, age 11, a fifth grader at Oak Mountain Intermediate School, as Oliver "Daddy" Warbucks in the forthcoming production of *Annie, jr.* at the historic Alabama Theater.

The local student will star in the Friday evening, November 22 performance at 7:00 p.m. for the public and the Thursday and Friday 10:00 a.m. presentations for school children, produced by the Magic City Performing Arts for Children. Tickets for the Friday evening performance are \$12.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children age 12 and under. School and group shows have a special rate of \$4.00 per person for groups of 20 or more. (A free ticket will be given for every 10 purchased.)

David, a frequent performer, is the son of Jeff and Toni Strickland of 7004 Indian Ridge Drive.

Newcomers to the Village

By Ruth Goodwyn and Jana Hagan, Reporter for Homestead

We welcome James T. and Leslie Cline to 1580 Indian Crest Dr. and their three boys, James, Jr. ("Jimbo"), 5, Will, 4, and Graham, 8 months. A real estate agent, James grew up in Birmingham while Leslie is from Huntsville. She is at home with their boys. Jimbo is a kindergartener at Oak Mountain Classical School, affiliated with the Oak Mountain Presbyterian Church. They formerly lived in Alabaster.

Now at 204 Auburn Rd. are Michael and Kathleen Dollings, also Chandler, 9, Logan, 6, and Carter, 8 months, and two retired show horses in the backyard. Michael and Kathleen have both lived and worked in Birmingham; he being from Mountain Brook and she from Akron, Ohio, and one who has made the transition fine from north to south. He is a certified public accountant for Humphreys & Arnette, P.C. Kathleen is a horse trainer who gives riding lessons at a local country club and at private barns in the area.

In the Homestead Subdivision Robin Pate, granddaughter of the late Lois Pate, has moved into the Pate residence at 5125 Hollow Log Lane.

Montessori School Celebrates

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

Congratulations to the Joseph S. Bruno Montessori Academy on their 20th year anniversary and the school's first reunion held recently, attended by more than 60 alumni. The school's director, Theresa Bruno Sprain, and her husband, Robert H. Sprain, proudly conducted tours of the new astronomy observatory and outdoor sports court completed last year on the 25-acre campus.

Library Landscaping

Editor's note: Ellen Schmidt of Meadowbrook, who has worked Mondays 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon this summer weeding the North Shelby Library grounds and doing other volunteer jobs, was the overseer of the Boy Scout project launched by Villager Daniel Friday and contributed this article. Steve Zerkis, member of the Board of Trustees from Indian Springs, also provided information. Both encourage Villagers to drive by the library and admire the results of Daniel's project.

On Saturday, October 5, North Shelby Library received some welcome landscaping. Daniel Friday of Briarwood Boy Scout Troop No. 254 chose the library as his Eagle Scout project. He and his helpers planted four Chinese oaks and approximately 40 fitzer junipers around the library sign and in two parking lot islands. After removing the overgrowth on both sides of the main entrance, they then spread pine straw on either side of the front driveway and under the new plantings.

The hardworking crew consisted of Dad and Mom of Mountain Park Circle, Dr. Ken Friday and Carolyn; brother and sister, Mary Ann and Ben (an Eagle Scout); Scout father-and-son teams Mr. John and Daniel Ballew and Col. David and Brian Smith, Scout Andrew Taylor, all from North Shelby; Dr. Tim and Brent Cool (Vestavia); Scouts Thomas Rivers and William Edwards from Riverchase.

Board of Trustee members Kay Kelly and Steve Zerkis stopped by to take photos and cheer the crew on, and Ellen Schmidt, landscape representative, advised on the locations of the plantings.

Recipe for Yum-Yum Pie

Editor's note: Betty Michels of Spring Garden Street had so many requests for this recipe at the Founders' Day celebration, she said she couldn't remember who all she promised a copy. As a public service we are printing the recipe enjoyed by so many at the outing, known for the many delicious desserts supplied by Village cooks in addition to the food prepared by our barbecue chefs.

- 1 cup sugar
- 3/4 stick butter, melted
- 3/4 cup chopped nuts
- 3/4 white raisins
- 3/4 cup coconut
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 teaspoon vinegar

Mix above ingredients and pour into a 9" deep dish pie shell. Bake at 325 degrees for 50 minutes.

Nativity Exhibit Dec. 6-7

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

An exhibit of nativity scenes and concerts by the choir of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints will take place December 6 and 7 at the church, 2720 Cahaba Valley Rd. Refreshments will be served. Times for the events are as follows: Dec. 6: exhibits, 4:00 - 9:00 p.m., concert 7:00-7:30 p.m.; Dec. 7: exhibits, 1:00-6:00 p.m., concert 3:00-3:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend. All events are free.

Garden Club Wrap-Up

By Del Levesque/Marge Dunn

At our October meeting we thoroughly enjoyed a beautiful slide presentation entitled "Art in Bloom" given by Nancy Higgs from the Educational Department of the Birmingham Museum of Art. It was time well spent appreciating how some floral artists can interpret another artist's work.

During our business meeting Mary Bowman reminded members to get involved as much as possible in the Zoning and Planning Commission's long-range plan for the Village, serving on committees and representing our environmental and beautification concerns.

December 14 is the date for our Christmas greenery sale at the town hall. It was very successful last year, and we hope to satisfy the many requests for ready-made greenery items along with the assortment of fresh greenery for sale.

Our Christmas party is planned for December 1. Details are forthcoming and will be passed on to members through our phone-calling system.

Members had a town hall gardens workday on Saturday, Nov. 9. With all that each one of us has to do in our own gardens, it nevertheless is an enjoyable time to gather and work as one for the beauty of our Village grounds. We hope that Villagers have enjoyed the festive fall decorations by the tree in front of the town hall which were placed there by member Sandy Luster.

Eleanor Bennett has been hard at work putting together a garden club scrapbook. All enjoyed seeing the results of her work at the last meeting.

Although we have activities planned for the remainder of the year, we will not be gathering for our usual fourth Thursday of the month meeting until January 23, 2003.

If you know of new neighbors, please call either one of us with the information so that we can get a welcome basket out to the newcomers. We are anxious to have new members to "Come and grow with us!" Please call Marge at 987-4765 or Del at 987-5029.

Book Includes Indian Springs

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

Steve Martin, editor of *The Community Messenger*, and Carol Bebelaar are co-authors of a newly-released book on Shelby County and published by Oak Mountain Publishing Co. It includes all facets of Shelby County life in more than 200 pages with nearly 300 photographs. Many items on Indian Springs Village are included, according to Martin.

Information can be obtained and the book ordered through the website, www.theshelbycountyscene.com or by calling 314-5750. The book cost is \$15.00, of which \$5.00 goes to the Shelby County Education Fund.



Indian Springs
Village

Christmas Greenery Sale

Saturday, December 14, 2002

9:00 a. m. - 12:00 Noon

Indian Springs Village Town Hall Pavilion
2635 Cahaba Valley Road

Come and buy bundles of greenery
for Christmas Decorating at
inexpensive prices!

All proceeds go to the Indian Springs Garden Club/Welcome Committee
to support our civic projects

*We will be selling cuttings of magnolia and seed
pods, holly with berries, varigated holly,
boxwood, nandina (dwarf or taller), cedar (especially
with berries), pine, hemlock, cypress, spruce and mistletoe*

**Greenery wreaths, mailbox swags, grapevine wreaths,
and Christmas bows handcrafted by
Garden Club members also for sale!**

Need help trimming?

We need donations!

We are willing to come trim greenery cuttings for the first three Villagers who call
Mary Bowman at 988-0086. Otherwise, we will take donations of greenery
cuttings on Friday afternoon (3:30 - 6:00) and Saturday morning (8:00 - 12:00).