



Vol. 7, No. 5 -

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

- August 12, 1997

INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

**Indian Springs Village Town Hall
Tuesday, August 19, 1997 7:00 p.m.**

Agenda

- I. Mayor/Council Committee Reports**
- II. Ordinances and Resolutions**
- III. Citizens' Forum**

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 to: Dr. Ruth Goodwyn, Editor, 151 Choctaw Lane, Indian Springs, AL 35124 (988-0896), or e-mail: rutg@juno.com. Questions about circulation should be addressed to Councilwoman Patricia Crapet, 370 Valley View Road, Indian Springs, AL 35124 (voice mail 802-2753). Managing Editor and chairperson of the cookbook project is Bee Little, 867 Valley View Road, Indian Springs, AL 35124 (985-9988). Reporter for the Homestead neighborhood is Bonnie Murphy, 5164 Hollow Log Lane, Birmingham 35244 (991-2535).

The Village Voice is published the second Tuesday of each month. Articles for publication in the September, 1997 edition should be submitted by Tuesday noon, September 2nd. The editor reserves the right to edit all materials submitted for publication. *The Village Voice* welcomes signed letters to the editor; they will be published if space permits. Letters may be edited for length and other considerations; however, the meaning will be preserved. All opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors of articles, unless otherwise indicated. Any opinions the editor expresses are her own and should not be attributed to the mayor or the council.

Editor's Appreciation to:

The donors who subsidize printing expenses
ISV aluminum can recyclers for their support
Indian Springs Village couriers for hand delivery
Mildred Wyatt for the masthead drawing
Tricia Crapet, Johnson - Rast & Hays for production

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

By Gene Weingarten, Mayor

The Shelby County Sheriff's Department Has a New Home!

What are all those sheriff's cars doing down at the town hall? They have certainly created a lot of interest and, most importantly, have reduced the average automobile speed from 60 mph to 50 mph on Highway 119.

ISV has become a temporary location for the only North Shelby Sheriff's sub station. Seems as the building being used over on U. S. 280 was redeemed by the owner for a more profitable venture than was realized from the deputies' usage. So, as a gesture of neighborliness, Sheriff Jones was offered the use of the town hall until such time as a permanent home can be located.

Sheriff Jones has been approached with the idea of making ISV his new permanent home, but the prevailing thought is that the intersection of U.S. 280 and Highway 119 is the focal point of North Shelby's growth pattern. And that area will be the location of the permanent sub station. In the meantime, when you see the gentlemen with the star on their shirts, make them feel at home.

If you missed that huge announcement during our Fourth of July barbecue, it is confirmed that a grant of \$2,000 has been given to the Town of Indian Springs Village for the construction of a walking track. Our grounds committee has been working for some time to develop a permanent usage plan and the walking track is a key feature. In early fall of this year the grounds behind our town hall will be leveled, grass planted, and a track built.

This grant came about through the hard work and perseverance of our state senator, Bill Armistead. Bill has been a supporter of ISV since its inception. His interest in our town has been constant. And you know, as he ate those BBQ ribs at the 4th under our pavilion, I believe that he felt that he was an ISV citizen. Thanks, Bill. You have our sincere appreciation of your work in the Senate.

Remember: We are just a few days away from the kids going back to school. They are crossing our roads and getting on and off school busses. It is up to us big folks to watch out for the little folks.

Looking Back: the NSFD

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor & Village Historian

A chronicle of the establishment of the North Shelby County Fire and Emergency Medical District, shortened to North Shelby Fire District or the initials NSFD, must begin with the bringing of water to this area. It must end with reasons for the ever-present threat to our fire district by neighboring municipalities, particularly the city of Hoover.

Compared with those whose families have lived in our valley for generations, many of us are Johnny-come-latelies. We can recall what it was like in the early 1970's. One could prepare to turn onto 119 with not a car in sight in either direction, and the only structures on 119 between Indian Springs School and the Indian Springs branch of SouthTrust Bank on Highway 31 were an Alabama Highway facility and a trailer housing the Emmett Cloud Realty Company. I-65 was non-existent; herds of sheep and goats and fields of grain could be seen on Waite's farm.

The first obstacles home builders had to overcome were securing an acceptable percolation test for the location of a septic tank on their property and obtaining water. While some had wells supplying sufficient water to maintain Olympic-sized swimming pools, others had to contend with rusty-colored water, necessitating filtering systems and keeping on hand a supply of bottled water for drinking and bleaching powders for the wash. If a well went dry, the only solution was to drill again, provided a drilling company could get a rig onto your property since a house was now on it, and hope for better luck.

Although Jack Van Pelt of Indian Crest Drive had a bountiful supply from a 500 foot well, he was concerned about a water supply for fire protection. Down in the valley on Indian Trail, Jim Wyatt had voiced similar worries, and residents cringed when a dynamite blast went off anywhere in the vicinity for fear their wells would be affected.

Van Pelt and Wyatt joined forces with many other concerned residents to get a water supply agreement from Pelham, the most logical source. The signatures of 300 residents were required to tap on to the Pelham source. Many phone calls and visits to home owners were made by a team of volunteers, who also obtained agreements that all residents would share the cost of fire plugs at \$600 each. Van Pelt assisted in arranging the original financing from the Farmer's Home Administration, a governmental agency. He later donated to Pelham the land on Indian Crest for the location of the first Indian Springs water tower.

Meanwhile, on New Hope Mountain Road, Martha and Jim Geyer, who moved there in 1974, had been meeting with other neighbors to start a fire district. The neighbors initially

involved with the Geyers in this project were Nell and Bob Jacks, in whose home they met, Margaret and Joe Chesnut, Shirley and Norman Church, Van and Mary Sue McClurkin, Betty and Bill Ponder, and Bess and Alan Speegle. The Geyers' property is located on, but at the end of, the Birmingham water supply, brought up from Valleydale Road.

When they purchased the property the location of a fire hydrant within 500 feet of the house was specified in the contract. They had water and a fire hydrant, but whom could they call in case of fire?

Anxious about the absence of fire protection, Mrs. Geyer attended fire chiefs' association meetings in Montgomery and Chattanooga, among other places, to learn more about the organization of a fire district and the equipment needed. Mrs. Geyer recalls that she and her neighbors considered the building of a small structure around the fire hydrant on their property sufficiently large enough to house a water hose. She talked with a former neighbor who was the assistant fire chief in Knoxville to try to persuade that department to sell them a used water hose. By gently pointing out the dangers of handling fire hoses, a job that should be done only by trained personnel, the fire chief punctured that idea.

At that time the realization set in that the help of someone with more expertise in finance and legal work was needed. They enlisted the help of Jack Van Pelt, whose 80 acres were located on the ridge of Indian Crest. Van Pelt had followed Jim Wyatt as president of the Indian Springs Civic Club, founded March 31, 1973, an organization interested in getting zoning laws passed for Beat 12 (the only beat in Shelby County that passed on zoning laws), and in obtaining drinking water and fire plugs. Incorporating officers of the Club were C. W. (Bill) Pittman, Leon Ward, and Dudley McGuire, now deceased. The Club unofficially disbanded after the community accomplished these goals.

Van Pelt had retired as Financial Vice-President of Vulcan Materials in 1973. He had experience in New York as an accounting manager of Arthur Andersen & Co., as an officer of the Federal Water and Gas Corp., then parent of Southern Natural Gas Co. and Alabama Gas Co. His six years of service in the military was with the U. S. Navy; his rank was lieutenant commander. He was an executive for the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, and later spent 10 years with a surgical dressing company. A desire for a change had prompted him to accept an offer with Vulcan Materials in 1958. He bought the Indian Crest property in 1959.

As an individual he had been organizing meetings of North Shelby residents to form a city confined to Shelby County. "Unfortunately, Hoover Mayor Frank Skinner and his cohorts were always present at these meetings and no pro-

gress was made," he said. The formation of Indian Springs Village was the work of others, and came after the fire district.

Before a fire district could be formed, as a legal entity, enabling legislation had to be passed by the legislature. Van Pelt worked with Steve Wright, a member of the group who had been meeting with Mrs. Geyer. They realized that enabling legislation in the county for fire districts would never do, because municipalities would invade a fire district and eliminate it piecemeal. Their solution was a constitutional amendment. With the help of then-representative for North Shelby County, Jabo Waggoner, legislation was introduced, and passed by the electorate, which provided constitutionality for Shelby County fire districts.

A vote of the people involved was necessary to organize a fire district. This required persuading local legislators to get a vote on the next ballot and, that accomplished, persuading voters to pass it.

A substantial reduction of fire insurance premiums to residents resulted from the presence of the fire plugs and the fire department services that followed. Martha Geyer and Jack Van Pelt served on the first Board of Trustees of the North Shelby County Fire and Emergency Medical District. (Mrs. Geyer regrets the long name, but they felt it necessary for the name to reflect the services of the organization.) During Van Pelt's service he arranged bank financing for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd fire houses, locations and equipment, as the area and its needs grew.

Winston Boutwell, who had been a firefighter at Pritchard, AL, for 28 years and fire chief the last eight, retired as fire chief in 1978 and was persuaded to become our fire chief. The city of Pritchard later honored him by naming a new million dollar fire station after him. Van Pelt gave an acre of his land to Chief Boutwell on which to build a home as an incentive to come to Indian Springs. The fire district began operation on October 1, 1978, with one fire engine stored in a Quonset hut and three firemen, who had actually answered a call the previous day in Butte Woods on the Cahaba River. A 75-ft aerial ladder was soon acquired.

Chief Boutwell retired in 1995 and was succeeded by the present chief, Michael O'Connor, a native of Long Island, NY, and a resident of Inverness. The new chief has been with NSFD since 1982 and a fire fighter and paramedic since 1976. He oversees 25 full-time personnel at the three stations: No. 1, Valleydale Road, No. 2, Caldwell Mill Road, both in Indian Springs Village; and No. 3, beside the Meadowbrook Post Office on Highway 119. The district protects 26 square miles of territory and approximately 32 thousand residents. Borders of the district are the Jefferson County line on the north to Double Oak Mountain on the south; I-65 on the west and 280

on the east. Additionally, the district has a contract to serve a small Jefferson County fire district abutting the Shelby County line.

Both Chief O'Connor and Martha Geyer, who is a member and a vice-president of the current Board of Trustees, spoke with pride concerning equipment available at the three stations and the level of certification required of the NSFD fire fighters/paramedics. "We did not want anything less than first class," said Mrs. Geyer. "They are exceptionally well trained and are trained constantly," affirmed Chief O'Connor, who sets an example for constantly upgrading one's self. Other members of the Board of Trustees are Jim Wyatt, president; Sally Cox, vice-president; Charles Waldrop, treasurer; and Pete Clemens, secretary. Members of the Board are elected for 4-year terms. The terms are staggered and an election is required every two years.

The North Shelby Fire District has a rating of class 4 by the Insurance Service Office of Alabama. Fire Chief O'Connor explained that all residents have a class 4 rating unless they are more than five miles from a fire station or 1,000 feet from a fire plug, which affects only 63 structures in the entire district, because of the strategic location of the three fire stations. "We have an excellent fire district with multiple fire trucks to protect our area," he said. In terms of dollars the class 4 rating means that the owner of a \$200,000 house would presently pay \$704 annually for fire insurance as opposed to \$2,500 annually for a class 10 rating, meaning no fire protection at all, he explained.

Zoning, obtaining a water supply and fire protection had been accomplished. But a danger was ever-present: encroachment by other municipalities.

In 1985 the new mayor of Pelham, Bobby Hayes, wrote to Indian Springs residents inviting them to come into Pelham. This was after Quail Run and Valley Station had been developed. A meeting on the grounds of the Indian Springs School was called for May 13, 1985, by the outgoing president of the Indian Springs Civic Club, Holt Cloud, to ascertain the people's wishes. Presiding at the meeting was the incoming president, Bill Pittman. Following Mayor Hayes' remarks on the benefits of joining Pelham, Mayor Frank Skinner of Hoover, relatively new to his office, led a question and answer session. Skinner declared Hoover was not seeking annexations, but if residents requested to become a part of their city, Hoover would consider taking them in.

Jack Van Pelt was also on the agenda at the well-attended meeting. He spoke of the need for incorporating our own area and the desirability of a U. S. Post Office for the new town.

According to Mary Bowman, who took sparse notes at the meeting, the showing of hands called for revealed that

nobody wanted to annex into Birmingham; "a few" choose Pelham; "not too many" wanted to join with Hoover. It was about half and half to "incorporate" or "stay how we were." The informal vote was difficult to evaluate because of the size of the crowd.

Quail Run and Valley Station later became part of Hoover, primarily because of the Hoover school system, this being prior to the opening of very fine public schools in Indian Springs. Both Hoover and Pelham were attempting further inroads by the "long lasso" method, later repealed. Pelham also crossed I-65, and, by legislative enactment, acquired Oak Mountain State Park. Citizens were alarmed, leading to ISV's incorporation in 1990.

As early as 1984 Hoover had come across the Cahaba River, crossing over the NSFD line, and annexed residents who were members of the NSFD. Hoover made no allowance for the fact that these newly-annexed residents already had fire protection; the end result is that they pay full taxes to Hoover, even though they are legally obligated to pay annual services charges to NSFD each October. Did Hoover make it clear to those annexed that this was the situation? The obvious question is, "Why doesn't Hoover refund, or subtract from taxes, the amount paid in service charges each year to NSFD by its residents in the NSFD, who already have excellent fire protection?" The obvious answer is that Hoover does not choose to do so.

In the February 1994 issue of *The Village Voice* Councilman Ronald Luster warned that Hoover had annexed into and currently comprised 15-20% of NSFD and that if Hoover property owners were allowed to withdraw from the district, financial stability of our district could not be guaranteed. **This is a major concern for ISV as well as for other non-Hoover areas of the district.**

In early 1984 Hoover made a proposal for "merging" the Hoover and NSFD systems. In May Russell Allison, who then served on the Board of Trustees, reported in *The Village Voice* that the Board subcommittee appointed to examine Hoover's proposal had obtained expert legal opinion, had discussed in detail the ramifications of the opinion, and recommended that the "merger" proposal be rejected. The "merger" proposal would essentially end the NSFD, making the district's only function being to collect service charges for the city of Hoover.

Legislation has been introduced to allow Hoover and Birmingham residents to withdraw from paying annual assessments to NSFD. However, the district has resisted, in the courts, various attempts to allow residents and other legal entities to avoid payment of service charges.

The battle continues. Only recently Hoover and the city of Birmingham brought suit against NSFD on behalf of a handful of their citizens. The NSFD won. The court found that Birmingham suffered no injury as it did not own any property in the NSFD. The court was reluctant to redraft the constitutional amendment creating the NSFD and suggested that Hoover look to the legislature for relief. Again our fire district suffered legal costs to fight for its rights.

The Board of Trustees meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at NSFD Station No. 3, located next to the U. S. Post Office, Meadowbrook. Meetings are always open to the public. **It is obligatory that we all be watchful of neighboring municipalities and the state legislature for actions which might weaken our fire district and its excellence.**

Historical Society Meets

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

Elizabeth Wells, Head of Special Collections, Samford University Library, spoke at the summer meeting of the Shelby County Historical Society on Sunday afternoon, Aug. 3, at the Museum and Archives building, Columbiana. "Tracking Family Treasures" was her topic, and she focused on what's available in the Special Collections relative to the records of Shelby County.

Dr. Tom Caldwell, Secretary, reported that many from out of town who receive the Society's quarterly newsletter, including one couple from Wisconsin, were part of the large audience. Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Fowler, now of Lanett, were present; he gave an impromptu talk about the almost-transfer of the county courthouse from Columbiana to Calera.

Benji Evans, son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Evans, is now instrumental in creating a Web page for the Historical Society on the Internet.

Holiday Arts, Crafts, and Gift Show Is Scheduled for October 25

By Patricia Crapet, Town Council Place # 2

The Second Annual Indian Springs Village Arts, Crafts, and Gift Show is scheduled for Saturday, October 25, 1997 at the ISV Town Hall and Pavilion. Last year's event was a nice success and a lot of fun for those who attended. This year the event will be held earlier in the season so that the weather will be warmer and hopefully a better selection will be available to buyers. Please call Donna Grant's voice mail (987-0387) to sign up as a participant or for more information.

Town Council Highlights

By Patricia Crapet, Town Council Place # 2

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met on Tuesday, July 15, 1997 at 7:00 p.m in the Indian Springs Village Town Hall. Mayor Gene Weingarten presided, with councilpersons Herb Robins, Patricia Crapet, and Art Johnson in attendance.

The minutes of the June meeting were adopted as written. Due to the absence of Town Clerk Paul Stephens, who was on vacation, Mayor Weingarten reported the revenues for the month were: beer taxes, \$816.30; American Redi-Mix, \$23.27; Fourth of July, \$1860; and road fund, \$763. The balance in the general fund was \$77,345 and the balance in the road fund was \$50,787.

Councilwoman Patricia Crapet reported having received several prices on flag poles for the Town Hall. The council authorized the purchase of a flag pole and all accessories at a cost of approximately \$375.

Councilman Herb Robins reported that the work had been completed on the culverts at the site of the bridge on Rockford Road at a cost of \$2,146.49. Six employees of the county worked on the project for two days; besides labor the project also included use of county equipment, fuel, and pipe. The new culvert is 40 feet in length and 24 inches in diameter. Councilman Robins reported that the grading of the fields behind the pavilion will be done in the fall, at a cost of approximately \$500.

Onnie Dickerson presented the council with an ordinance for the implementation of a new business license fee schedule. The new license ordinance is more defined as to the different categories of business licenses than the old fee schedule which has been in effect for the last few years. The council passed the new ordinance unanimously.

Mr. Dickerson also presented a proposal for a change in fees for applications for the Zoning Board of Adjustments. This change was also approved by the council unanimously. The fee, \$250 plus \$10 per acre, is now the same as the application fee for the Zoning and Planning Board. The cost of these application fees are the same cost as the fees for the same applications to the Shelby County Zoning and Planning boards.

ISV Babysitters Club Directory

By Patricia Crapet, Town Council Place # 2

It is time for all young entrepreneurs to get ready to turn a profit in the wonderful world of business. The ISV Babysitters Club is now open for new members!

With the coming of the new school year, it is time for us to update our Babysitters Club Directory. Many of our current sitters have either moved or gone off to college or now have become such social butterflies that they never light long enough to babysit.

For those of you who do not know, the ISV Babysitters Club is a list of teenage girls and boys who live in ISV and are adept at sitting for younger children in either their home or yours. These teenagers are ready, willing and able to take on the Village's little monsters, I mean darlings, so that parents can have some well deserved time away!

The Babysitters Club Directory will not be published, is available by request only to residents of Indian Springs Village, and will *not* be given out to anyone outside our community.

To become a member of the Babysitters Club please call Patricia Crapet's voice mail (802-2753) and leave your name and number. You must be 12 or older to be included in the directory. **If you are currently a member of the Babysitters Club you will need to call to be included on the new list.** Please call so that we can get our list together well in advance of the holidays.

ISV Cookbook Update

By Patricia Crapet, Town Council Place # 2

Thanks, villagers, for such a great response to our request for recipes for the ISV Cookbook. The recipes that have been sent in are delightful, and I personally can't wait to try some of them!

A big thanks to Bee Little and Shirley Ward for their help in sorting and classifying the recipes. Before we can go to publication, we need more recipes in the following categories; beverages, appetizers, cheese and eggs, meats (no chicken), breads, fish and seafood, salads and salad dressings, and sauces. Also needed are recipes for kids and grilling out, as well as helpful hints. Please send to Bee Little, 867 Valley View Road, ISV, AL 35124.

Next Recycling Is August 20

By Art Johnson, Town Council Place # 4

The next aluminum can recycling is Wednesday, August 20, at 7:30 p.m.. Please place your aluminum cans in white or clear plastic bags and secure the top of each bag with a knot. Then for easy identification by our volunteers, put them on the opposite side of your driveway from your trash pickup.

Last month, volunteers Ashley Weems and her mother and father, Patti and Bill Weems, Margie and Herb Robins, Sharon Durbin and Jackie Johnson, and Cappy Potter and Art Johnson collected the villagers' recycled aluminum cans. In addition to the pick-up volunteers, many thanks go to Mike Rutherford for the loan of his truck, and to Tom Adkison for picking up the recycling trailer and taking the aluminum cans to the recycling center.

Recycling not only protects the environment, it also helps pay for the printing of *The Village Voice*. Please contribute. Watch for ISV recycling reminders along Highway 119, Indian Crest Drive, and entrances to Homestead.

Webworm Alert

By Patricia Crapet, Town Council Place # 2

What is all that "stuff" in those trees? It is the phenomenon known as "fall webworms". These inch-long caterpillars have voracious appetites and are invading ISV's beloved trees.

A drive down Indian Crest is more than enough proof that the worms are here and are doing a lot of damage to the trees that they are inhabiting. The unsightly webs seen in the trees are actually nests of hundreds of these hungry worms. As they grow, they spin and eat even more of the green leaves until the tree branches are emaciated. The worms will finally mature in the fall and migrate to the ground where they will burrow and spin cocoons for the winter.

According to Dr. Lacey L. Hyche, associate professor of entomology at Auburn University, the way to rid trees of these pests is to spray with a suitable insecticide or remove affected branches and burn them. The worms only nest in shade trees and in fruit trees. They are not interested in pines or evergreens.

Shelby County Schools Calendar

1997-98

Aug. 20 (Wednesday).....New Teacher Orientation
 Aug. 21 (Thursday).....Professional Development Day
 Aug. 22 (Friday).....Teacher Institute
 Aug. 25 (Monday).....Teacher Work Day
 Aug. 26 (Tuesday).....Schools Open (Full Day for Students)
 Sept. 1 (Monday).....Labor Day - Schools & Offices Closed
 Nov. 11 (Tuesday).....Veterans' Day - Schools & Offices Closed
 Nov. 26-28..Thanksgiving Holidays - Schools & Offices Closed
 Dec. 22-Jan 2..Christmas Holidays (Offices Open Selected days)
 Jan. 5 (Monday).....Schools Reopen
 Jan. 15 (Thursday).....First Semester Ends
 Jan. 16 (Friday).....Teacher Work Day - No Students
 Jan. 19 (Monday)..M.L King, Jr. Day - Schools & Offices Closed
 Jan. 20 (Tuesday).....Second Semester Begins
 Mar.30-Apr 3.....Spring Break - Schools & Offices Closed
 Apr 10 (Friday).....Inclement Weather Day
 May 25 (Monday).....Inclement Weather Day
 May 29 (Friday).....Schools Close at 3:00 p.m.; Graduation
 June 1 (Monday).....Teacher Work Day - No Students

TESTING DATES

October 7-9.....High School Basic Skills Exit Exam
 March 17-19.....High School Basic Skills Exit Exam
 April 13-16.....Stanford Achievement Test
 (includes Otis-Lennon School Test)
 May 4.....Direct Assessment of Writing - Grades 5 & 7
 May 12-14.....End-of-Course Tests

GRADING PERIODS

Six weeks periods end Oct. 3, Nov. 14, Jan. 15, Feb. 27, Apr. 17, and May 29.
 Report cards will be sent home: Oct. 10, Nov. 21, Jan. 23, Mar. 6, Apr. 24, and June 5.
 Nine weeks periods end Oct. 24, Jan. 15, Mar. 20, and May 29.
 Report cards will be sent home: Oct. 31, Jan. 23, Mar. 27, and May 29.

Just a Reminder

By Patricia Crapet, Town Council Place # 2

Each month I inevitably receive calls from villagers who do not know when, or where, the town council meetings are held. By statute, as stated in the Code of Alabama, all town council meetings must be held at the same time and place each month.

Please mark your calendars on the third Tuesday of each month. The time is 7:00 p.m. and the place is the Indian Springs Village Town Hall, located at 2635 Cahaba Valley Road, in Indian Springs Village. Do come see us and be a participant in your town's future.