



The Village Voice

Vol. 9, No. 10

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

January 11, 2000

INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, January 18, 7:00 p.m.
Indian Springs Village Town Hall

Agenda

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

Indian Springs Village Telephone Directory
Number is 982-1755

Indian Springs Village Website:
www.mantissa.com/ISV/HTMLA

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 cooperation. 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.

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The Village Voice is published the second Tuesday of each month. Articles for publication in the Feb. 2000 edition should be submitted by Tuesday noon, Feb 1. 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 the 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, Mayor

The following is the Municipal Elections Calendar as published in the *Alabama League of Municipalities*. Citations are to the *Code of Alabama, 1975*, and its various updates. On October 16, 1990, Indian Springs Village incorporated; the mayor and five council persons elected served several months and then were up for re-election, so this year's will be our fourth municipal election.

Municipal Elections Calendar

August 22, 1999: First day candidates for municipal elections can begin to raise money. Title 17-22A-7(b)(2). Under general law, there is no limitation on the amount an individual may contribute to the campaign of a person running for municipal office. However, a corporation is limited to giving \$500 per candidate per election. See Sections 10-2A-70.1 and 10-2A-70.2.

May 24, 2000: Last day a person can become a resident of the municipality and district and still be a candidate for election. Candidates must reside in the municipality and the district for a period of 90 days before the election. Title 11-46-25(g); Title 11-43-63.

July 5, 2000: Mayor gives notice of the election. Title 11-46-22(a).

Candidates may begin qualifying once notice is published. Qualifying forms are available from the municipal clerk (Paul Stephens). Title 11-46-22(a).

NOTE: The Fair Campaign Practices Act requires all candidates to file with the PROBATE JUDGE a list of from two to five persons who will serve as their campaign committee. Candidates may serve as their own committee, but must still file a form to this effect with the PROBATE JUDGE. **THIS FORM MUST BE FILED WITHIN FIVE (5) DAYS OF QUALIFYING TO RUN FOR OFFICE. THIS FORM MUST BE FILED REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE CANDIDATE HAS REACHED THE \$1,000 THRESHOLD UNDER THE FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT.** Forms are available from the probate judge, Secretary of State or the municipal clerk (Paul Stephens). Title 17-22A-4.

ALSO, the Ethics Law requires candidates to file a statement of economic interests with the MUNICIPAL CLERK. **THIS STATEMENT MUST BE FILED ALONG WITH THE QUALIFYING FORM.** A candidate for municipal office may request a five day extension to file the statement of economic interests. The request must be made through the MUNICIPAL CLERK. The statement of economic interests must be filed with the MUNICIPAL CLERK within the five day extension. **THE CLERK IS REQUIRED TO REMOVE FROM THE BALLOT THE NAME OF ANY CANDIDATE WHO FAILS TO FILE THE STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS BY THE DEADLINE.** Incumbents do not have to file the statement of economic interests as they are required to submit an annual report which is on file with the ETHICS COMMISSION. Title 36-25-15.

July 10: 45-day pre-election campaign disclosure report due. Must be filed with the PROBATE JUDGE. If the candidate has not raised or spent at least \$1,000, no disclosure report is due. Forms are available from the probate judge, Secretary of State or municipal clerk. Title 17-22A-8(a)(1).

(continued on page 3)

Help for the Animals

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

As human development, called "progress" by many, spreads across the state, and particularly in Shelby County, it is accompanied by the rapid destruction of natural habitat. In the spring during "wild baby season," hundreds of helpless creatures will be separated from their parents by disturbances of the nest or den-site, caused by tree cutting and land clearing.

The Wildlife Foster Parents League

With spring not too far away, the Wildlife Foster Parents League in our Village is appealing for volunteers who love animals to help with the caring of orphaned baby rabbits, squirrels, and opossums. After training at the Alabama Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Oak Mountain State Park, volunteers maintain these small mammals in their homes and yards and return them to nature when the orphans are ready to be released. These animals are low risk; they are not carriers of major diseases.

Volunteers need to be "homebodies" willing to give water and food to the animals at intervals, spending roughly one to two hours per day. **Emphasized in the manual prepared for volunteers is the fact that the animals cannot be raised as pets.** A monetary commitment is also involved, as wire and wood must be purchased to construct necessary backyard cages.

Rita Cochran and Sherri McWilliams have been involved in this program several years. They explained that very detailed information is available to volunteers in the training manual, written by Mary Stoddard, who leads the at least once-a-year training sessions of about 4-5 hours. The next training program is tentatively set for Saturday, March 11, 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center.

The center provides training for volunteers and is a referral service for the Wildlife Foster Parents League. At one time the center provided care for squirrels, rabbits, and other small mammals, and on occasion still does, but for the most part the center focuses on raptors--eagles, hawks, owls, vultures--creatures which are difficult and perhaps dangerous to handle. The center also handles bluebirds, hummingbirds, species such as beavers, foxes, raccoons, and white-tailed fawns, as well as bobcats and alligators.

The Executive Director, Anne Miller, said that annually the center handles about 25,000 cases, most of them stemming directly or indirectly from human activity. In Indian Springs we witness many times the result of deer colliding with vehicles. Hawks and owls may be victims of illegal shooting or have become entangled in fishing line and barbed wire.

Then there are cases of homeowners clearing fields and accidentally injuring animals with bushhogs or other equipment. Sherri McWilliams recalled a case of a nestful of baby rabbits being severely injured by an unsuspecting developer. With help by kind and caring people like Sherri and Rita Cochran and the volunteers at the Wildlife Center, wild animals suffering mishaps or separation from their parents are given the chance of recovery and returning to the wild.

The Alabama Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

In a rustic building high on a ridge at Oak Mountain State Park, the Alabama Wildlife Rehabilitation Center is equipped to aid over 100 species of injured or orphaned wild birds, mammals, and reptiles.

To assist the person who has found a wild animal in trouble the center's Hotline (205/320-6189) is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and has been in service since 1982. The Hotline number was published in the February directory insert in *The Village Voice*. Volunteers who work the Hotline help with wildlife problems and emergencies and make referrals. Sometimes advice is all that's needed by the caller, or information about wildlife behavior or nuisance problems. In the training of volunteers the center specializes in teaching how to return babies to their mothers and emphasizes proper handling. In some cases a well-intentioned person may spoil an animal's chance of being rehabilitated by faulty handling or feeding. The first thing to do after finding an animal in distress is to call the Wildlife Center's Hotline for advice.

The caller will most likely be asked to bring in the wounded or misplaced animal as soon as possible, as the staff of volunteers is not large enough to arrange for delivery service.

When an injured animal arrives, the center gives emergency first aid, cleans wounds, bandages broken bones, and provides therapy to counteract effects of shock, dehydration, and emaciation. Those too badly injured to recover are euthanized. The treatable animals, after stabilization, are sent to one of the center's volunteer veterinarians who donate time, medical supplies, and medication.

The Purple Martins Rescue

A dramatic rescue began in August with an urgent call to the center by a volunteer in Tuscaloosa. A pest control company had sprayed the chemical 4-the-Birds in a grove of trees used for nighttime roosting by purple martins near a large industrial plant. The bright lights in the plant parking lot attracted hordes of insects. Feathers of the birds had become coated with the substance, and they could no longer fly. The situation was as bad as if the birds had been caught in an oil spill. On the advice of the Hotline volunteer, the birds were brought in in individual brown paper grocery bags. Caring for the birds was a three-day operation requiring an assembly line of volunteers. The recovered martins were later released in the Oak Mountain golf course.

History of the Center: the Rescue Service

In 1977 a small band of volunteers formed the Wildlife Rescue Service, creating Alabama's first wildlife rescue and rehabilitation service. The movement was spearheaded by the current director, Anne Miller, and was the outgrowth of backyard operations by herself and other volunteers. They pooled their knowledge about the care of rescued animals, networking with other "rehabbers" to establish appropriate diet and proper treatment for injured native wildlife. The group acquired non-profit status and began constructing flight cages at a site in North Shelby County.

Expansion and New Quarters

Birds of prey injured in the wing or eye and unable to return to the wild are valuable for educational purposes, giving observers the opportunity to see these native predators up close. This was established in 1982 when the State Parks Division of the Alabama Conservation Department asked the center to develop a display of non-releasable birds of prey.

Three years of planning and grant writing culminated in the construction of the Treetop Nature Trail, an elevated walkway which offers close-up glimpses of hawks and owls in large, naturally furnished cages 15 feet above the ground. The project reached fruition in 1985 and was extended after a generous grant from a donor. At present the display includes an albino buzzard that was born with weak wings and thus is unable to fly properly, housed with a black buzzard; other fowl are barred owls and red-tailed hawks, among others. Those housed on the Treetop Trail are for the most part raptors born defective in some way which would prevent survival in the wild, Ms. Miller said.

In 1987 the Wildlife Rescue Service was granted long-term use of the former Foothills Restaurant at the park, situated near the since-built Treetop Nature Trail. The building easily converted into the Rehabilitation Center. Later a solarium was attached. Visitors may observe the chimney swift tower and action at the bird feeders, water pools, and the butterfly gardens outside the center. Areas where animals are convalescing are open, by necessity, to staff only. Some observation windows are available. A minimum of contact with humans occurs throughout the center. A special pen for wild deer deep in the woods has a bottle rack for feeding small fawns, a procedure used to prevent association of food with humans.

Although the center receives no direct state or federal funding the State Parks Division, Alabama Department of Conservation, allows rent-free use of the building and most of the cost of maintenance and utilities. Two-thirds of the budget is received in the form of donated goods such as animal food, hospital supplies, medical equipment and services provided by veterinarians and other professionals.

The Responsibility of Humans

Remembering that humans are stewards of lesser creatures, if you find a squirrel, rabbit, possum, or other small animal in distress, please call **Sherri McWilliams** (988-3257) or **Rita Cochran** (733-0910). Volunteer, if you are able, to become a member of the **Wildlife Foster Parents League** and receive training. For larger mammals and birds of prey, call the **Wildlife Hotline** (320-6189) for advice. Volunteers are needed also at the Wildlife Center. Call 663-7930 for more information.

As Anne Miller summed it up: "We have to provide humane and biologically appropriate care to the casualties caused by human activity. Individual wild animals are not lacking in the ability to suffer, however numerous their species."

Mayor's Message (continued from page 1)

July 18, 2000: Last day to qualify to run for municipal office. The qualifying form must be filed by 5:00 p.m., Central Daylight Time, with the MUNICIPAL CLERK. Forms are available from the clerk. Title 11-46-25(g).

July 24: Last possible day for candidates to file with the PROBATE JUDGE a statement showing the names of their campaign committee. Title 17-22A-4.

August 12: On-site absentee voting. Municipalities must conduct on-site absentee balloting for voters who will be out of the county on election day. The polling place must remain open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Title 17-10-3, as amended by Act No. 99-388.

Building Permits Approved

By Marty Martin, Town Engineer

Building permits approved in December are listed by address, owner, and request:

1005 Indian Trail Road, Small, new house

2655 Valleydale Road, Valleydale Associates, Inc., renovations

2657 Valleydale Road, Valleydale Associates, Inc., renovations

Alabama Highway 119 Bruno Monessori Academy, athletic field

1251 Spring Garden St., Simmons, HVAC repairs

ISV Recycling - January 19

By Art Johnson, Town Council Place #4

Aluminum recycling is Wednesday evening, January 19. Please put your recycling out before 7:00 p. m. To help our volunteers, please use light-colored or clear plastic bags and tie the tops of each with a knot. Watch for ISV recycling reminders along Highway 119, Indian Crest Drive, and the entrances to Homestead.

Last month there was no recycling due to the Christmas holidays. Even though we collected only 11 times in 1999 we exceeded two tons of cans for the second year in a row. This is approximately 1333,000 cans. In 1998 we had 4270 pounds and for the 11 months in 1999 we collected 4027 pounds.

If you have not started recycling, please join the growing number of residents who recycle. Recycling an aluminum can will save up to 95 percent of the energy to produce it from raw materials.

Recycling Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to assist in the ISV recycling collection. Time commitments are low--only one hour per month on the Wednesday following the ISV Town Council meeting, and a minimum of only two months per year. Recycling teams work in pairs, one driver and one person to pick up the cans. Volunteers with a pickup or vehicle with a trailer hitch are especially needed. To volunteer, please call Art Johnson at 988-3217

Town Council Highlights

November 16, 1999

By Patricia Crapet, Town Council Place #2

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met on Tuesday, December 21, 1999, 7:00 p.m. at the Indian Springs Village Town Hall. Mayor Gene Weingarten presided. Present were councilpersons Patricia Crapet, Art Johnson, and Herb Robins.

Town Clerk Paul Stephens gave the town's financial report as follows: vehicle licenses, \$557; beer taxes, \$787; building permits, \$960; aluminum can recycling, \$115; business licenses, \$1,095; and real estate license fees, \$154. The balance in the general fund was \$126,288. Received for the road fund, \$770.97; balance in the road fund, \$90,311.

Mr. Stephens reported that the auditors had finished the yearly audit of the town's books and that all proper procedures had been followed and everything was in order.

The final mortgage payment of \$15,000 will be paid on February 1, 2000. The property will then be owned free and clear by the Town of Indian Springs Village. The interest-free mortgage has been paid on a yearly basis for the last five years.

Paul Stephens reported having been in contact with Charter Communications regarding discounts for cable for senior citizens. The cable company has plans to have a representative attend a council meeting in the near future to explain whether or not this is an option for our area.

Councilman Herb Robins reported that due to the severe drought conditions experienced last year, several shrubs around the town hall had died. Jim Loper, town resident and landscape architect, will once again plant new shrubs for the front of the town hall. He has suggested that the town have a sprinkler system installed to serve the front of the building, as well as the planter area around the flag pole. Councilman Robins will get bids on the project and report the findings at the next meeting.

ISV Childrens Fund Report

By Patricia Crapet, Town Council Place #2

A huge thanks goes out to the following for their generous donations since the last publication of *The Village Voice*: **Gene and Olivia Weingarten, Jim and Nora Boyett, Jerry, Becky, Jamie, Jenny, and Kristen Stovall, Carolyn Cashion, Art and Jackie Johnson, and Steve and Carol Philen.**

Margie Robins reported that the shopping for the children's gifts went very well. The shoppers bought gifts for ten children from three families. Those volunteering to shop for the children

were **Margie Robins, Allison Steigers, Bonnie and Mandy Murphy, and Pat Potter.** The shoppers also wrapped the gifts, along with volunteer **Frances Williamson.** After all the gifts were wrapped and tagged, Margie Robins delivered them directly to the families. Our thanks to all the volunteers and to counselor Mary Veal of Oak Mountain Elementary for her assistance in the project.

Around the Village

By Ruth Goodwyn and Patricia Crapet

OMMS a Blue Ribbon Candidate

Under the leadership of Dr. Mary White, Principal, the Oak Mountain Middle School is one of two Alabama middle schools under consideration for recognition in the U. S. Department of Education's Blue Ribbon School Program, which recognizes outstanding public and private schools across the nation. Site visits will take place Feb. 23- April 21. Five Alabama middle and high schools were nominated.

Mr. Mac's New Day

A change in weekly story time has been announced by North Shelby Library. The wonderful Mr. Mac will have story time each Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. instead of Thursday.

The library will be closed Monday, Jan. 17 (Martin Luther King Jr. Day) for staff in-service.

In Memorium

Carlos Eugene (Gene) Cashion, Sr., of 114 Skyline Dr., passed away Dec. 16. He leaves his wife, Carolyn Ann, sons, Carlos Eugene, Jr. of Alabaster and Alan B. Cashion of Columbiana and his wife, Patricia; also three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Mr. Cashion's death was caused by a blood clot in a lung that moved to his heart. He was being prepared at University Hospital for a procedure to remove the clot when he expired. The funeral was Dec. 20. Mr. Cashion had suffered arthritis most of his life. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. He was a University of Alabama School of Engineering graduate, owner of Western Steel Fabricators, Inc., and a partner in the Alpine Ice Arena.

Mrs. Cashion's neighbors and members of their church have been especially helpful throughout this sad time, she said. They have been long-time members of Helena Church of Christ.

Get Well Soon

The town wishes a speedy recovery to Sharon Durbin of Willow Ridge, who has been at home following surgery to remove a benign brain tumor. Sharon is a devoted ISV volunteer and was the originator of the aluminum can recycling effort that pays for our community newsletter, *The Village Voice*. We all extend warmest get well wishes to Sharon and hope she will be back on the road again soon collecting those cans!