



The Village Voice

Vol. 9, No. 11 Indian Springs Village, Alabama February 8, 2000

INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, February 15, 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/HTML

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.

Address letters to the editor to: Dr. Ruth Goodwyn, Editor, 151 Choctaw Lane, Indian Springs, AL 35124 (988-0896), or e-mail: rutg@mindspring.com. Questions about circulation should be addressed to Councilwoman Patricia Crapet, 370 Valley View Road, Indian Springs, AL 35124; e-mail: tcrapet@realtysouth.com; (voice mail 802-2753). Managing Editor is Bee Little, 867 Valley View Road, Indian Springs, AL 35124 (985-9988). Reporter for 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 March 2000 edition should be submitted by Tuesday noon, Mar. 7. 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

Editor's note: Census 2000 officially begins April 1, although news photos were shown in January of dog sleds transporting census-takers from dwelling to dwelling in far-away Unalakleet, Alaska. The U. S. government has been preparing since 1998 for the 22nd decennial enumeration, the only date-gathering operation mandated by the U.S. Constitution. In the middle of March a pre-letter will be sent to residents as a harbinger of the long or short form citizens will receive after April 1. (About 17% will receive the long form.) A reminder notice will be sent in May to those who have not yet responded; then census-takers will be sent to interview non-respondents. At stake are the distribution of federal and state funds (such as gas and use taxes) on the basis of census populations and the boundaries of congressional districts. With the confusion of postal zip codes in Indian Springs Village--residents may receive their mail from Birmingham branch of Pelham post offices--it is important that everyone in this area know the actual place of residence, regardless of postal zip code. Citizens' compliance is so important Mayor Weingarten has chosen this subject for his February message.

The town of Indian Springs Village has fully complied with requests from the Census Bureau for boundary maps; the most recently updated map provided by our Town Engineer, Marty Martin, will be delivered this week. Here are five BIG reasons why you should fill out your census form and examples of the ways you will benefit (*in italics*), as listed by the Shelby County Department of Planning and Development:

1. **Help your community thrive.** Does your neighborhood have a lot of traffic congestion, elderly people living alone or over-crowded schools? Census numbers can help your community work out public improvement strategies.

Non-profit organizations use census numbers to estimate the number of potential volunteers in communities across the nation.

2. **Get help in times of need.** Many 911 emergency systems are based on maps developed for the last census. Census information helps health providers predict the spread of disease through communities with children or elderly people. When floods, tornadoes or earthquakes hit, the census tells rescuers how many people will need their help.

When Hurricane Andrew hit South Florida in 1991, census information aided the rescue effort by providing estimates of the number of people in each block.

3. **Make government work for you.** It's a good way to tell our leaders who we are and what we need. The numbers are used to help determine the distribution of over \$100 billion in federal funds and even more in state funds. We're talking hospitals, highways, stadiums, and school lunch programs.

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Mayor's Message (continued)

Using census numbers to support their request for a new community center, senior citizens in one New England community successfully argued their case before county commissioners.

4. Reduce risk for American business. Because census numbers help industry reduce financial risk and locate potential markets, businesses are able to produce the products you want.

"All the Basic Facts You Need to Know to Start a new Business," a publication of the Massachusetts Department of Commerce, shows small businesses how to use census numbers to determine the marketability of new products.

5. Help yourself and your family. Individual records are held confidential for 72 years, but you can request a certificate from past censuses that can be used as proof to establish your age, residence, or relationship, information that could help you qualify for a pension, establish citizenship, or obtain an inheritance. In 2072 your great-grandchildren may want to use census information to research family history. Right now, your children may be using census information to do their homework.

Because we've had a census every 10 years since 1790, we know how far America has come.

A Letter to the Village

Dear Villagers,

It has come to my attention that we need an Indian Springs Village Garden Club/Welcoming Committee. Our community is growing and we need some people who are willing to help, be a part of the garden club and also help welcome our new neighbors to Indian Springs. If you are interested in being a part of a growing community, please contact Phelan Webb at 987-8665 so we can schedule an initial officers' meeting. Your interest is greatly appreciated.

Remember, this is a great way to meet your neighbors and be involved in the growth of Indian Springs! Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Phelan Webb, 213 Cahaba Oaks Trail

Our hearty endorsement of Phelan's ideas and enthusiasm!--The Village Voice

Wildlife Foster Parents League

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

Rita Cochran and Sherri McWilliams, who have been involved in this program several years, are seeking volunteers for the Wildlife Foster Parents League.

Volunteers must love animals enough to care for injured or orphaned baby rabbits, squirrels, and opossums in their homes and yards, knowing that the animals must not become pets. As soon as they are able, they must be released to the wilderness. The reason is that the state government considers wild animals to be wards of the state. The state offers no help, monetary or otherwise, to kind people who rescue these wards.

The small animals must be fed while they are being cared for and housed outdoors in cages, usually built of wire. Thus a monetary commitment is required, as well as a commitment of time, roughly one-two hours per day at different intervals.

Excellent training for Wildlife Foster Parent volunteers is available at no charge at the Alabama Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Oak Mountain State Park. A Rehab Center volunteer, Mary Stockard, has prepared an excellent, easy-to-follow manual which is distributed to those who attend the 3-4 hour training session.

Since spring is the season for so many new babies born in the wild, the next training session is set for Saturday, March 11, 9:00 - 12:30 p. m. at the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. Please call the center, 663-7930, to register.

If you are "thinking about it," please call Rita Cochran (733-0910) or Sherri McWilliams (988-3257), who have many heart-warming stories to share concerning the rewards of helping small orphaned animals survive and then the mutual joy of releasing them to the wild. For those who find they do not have the time to commit, could you donate or loan pet carriers or cages?

Tags Available Again

The Indian Springs Village tag with the beautiful logo design by Julia Wyatt Schenk proved so popular an item during the Christmas holidays that the supply at Neil's Pharmacy was depleted. Tags were ordered and are again available at Neil's, across Highway 119 from Indian Springs School. The cost per tag is \$8.00.

Town Council Highlights

January 18, 2000

By Patricia Crapet, Town Council Place #2

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met on Tuesday, January 18, 2000, 7:00 p.m. at the Indian Springs Village Town Hall. In the absence of Mayor Gene Weingarten, Councilman Herb Robins presided. Present were councilpersons Patricia Crapet, Gary Dennis, Art Johnson, and Stewart Dudley.

Town Clerk Paul Stephens was absent. Councilman Herb Robins gave the town's financial report as follows: beer taxes, \$770; building permits, \$701; business licenses, \$300; ISV logo tags, \$144, and road funds, \$791. The balance in the general fund was \$127,784, with the balance in the road fund, \$91,102.

Councilman Herb Robins reported that a bid for the proposed sprinkler system at the town hall had been received, along with a layout of the proposed system. Jim Loper, town resident and landscape architect, 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, since many of the shrubs in this area died due to the drought conditions of this past summer. Councilman Robins will seek other bids on the project and report the findings at the next meeting.

Councilman Gary Dennis suggested that the town investigate a fire detection-monitoring system for the town hall. The building, which is over 100 years old, has smoke and fire detectors, but these are not tied in to any monitoring service.

Several boy scouts attended the meeting. Troop 533 from Oak Mountain Presbyterian Church, as well as Troop 5 from Christ Church United Methodist, participated in the meeting as part of their work toward attaining their citizenship badges.

SCHS Celebrates 25th Year

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

At its first meeting of the year on Feb. 6, the Shelby County Historical Society celebrated a special anniversary, its 25th, at the 1854 Old Courthouse building in Columbiana. Dr. Tom Caldwell, Recording Secretary, has enumerated these facts about the Society's history and development.

The society was formed January 18, 1974, in the home of Kenneth Penhale at Helena. He was assisted by Dean Margaret Sizemore of Samford University. The first regular meeting was in February 1974 and drew 100 people; membership had passed the 200 mark. No historical society had grown so fast in its first month; by January 1978 its membership was number 6 in Alabama. Early efforts resulted in the 1854 Courthouse being placed on the National Registry of Historic Places and being restored as the home of the SCHS Museum and Archives.

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Around the Village

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

The OMHS Dance Team

Congratulations to the Oak Mountain High School dance team which recently, in its first year of organization and in its first competition, won the first state dance championship. Representing OMHS, Shelby County, and Alabama, the 20-member team will perform in the American All-Star National Competition Feb. 11-13 in Orlando, Florida, at Universal Studios.

This year is also the first as a dance team sponsor for Missy Brooks, who previously sponsored cheerleaders, but who has danced since childhood and choreographed many routines during her nine years of teaching. We are very proud of the OMHS dancers and Ms. Brooks and wish them success in the national competition.

Autumn Folmar Makes Debut

Autumn, daughter of Terry and Debbie Folmar of 3144 Cahaba Valley Road, was presented by her father at the 32nd Poinsettia Debutante Ball on December 28 at the Vestavia Country Club. She was escorted by Charles Crabbe of Mountain Brook. Also attending the function were her mother and siblings: Zachary, a student at Auburn University; Elliott, a junior at Pelham High School; and Tyler, a sophomore at Oak Mountain High. Autumn is a junior studying corporate journalism at Auburn.

In Memorium

Villagers extend sympathy to the family of **James Wyatt**, Assistant Town Clerk, in the passing of his sister, Joy Surette of Jemison, AL, who died while visiting her daughter in Rock Hill, S.C.

Freddy Bailey, age 50, died Thurs., Feb. 3, after being severely injured in a fire at the Chris Street Trailer Park off Caldwell Mill Road, across from Oak Mountain High School. The fire was Thursday night, Jan. 27, as a light snowfall was beginning. It was thought Mr. Bailey returned to the burning structure to rescue a much-loved dog. Mr. Bailey had grown up on McGuire Road, where his mother, Nora, lives. Graveside services were held Feb. 5 at Allan Cemetery. Other survivors include two sons and their mother, Brandy Bailey; a brother, Tommie "Tony" Bailey of Jasmine Hill Rd., and a sister, Diane Bailey Smith of Alabaster, who works at Indian Springs Hairstyles.

Building Permits Issued

By Marty Martin, Town Engineer

Two building permits approved in January were for applicant Vernon, 5201 Caldwell Mill Rd, demolition, and applicant Goodgame, 5212 Caldwell Mill Rd., for a sign.

North Shelby Library Activities

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

As libraries expand their services from the basic book checkout to all types of media, plus instruction on use of technology, The North Shelby Library offers a unique feature - a gift shop run by the Birmingham Museum of Art. The shop is located down the right hallway after entering the front door, with hours of 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. M-F; 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Saturday, and 2:00-6:00 p.m. Sunday.

In addition, the library sponsors seminars from time to time. Getting back to the basics, books, the wonderful Mr. Mac entertains children every Wednesday morning at 10:30 a.m. in the colorful children's area on the library's main floor, with his dramatic reading of enthralling stories.

On Saturday, February 26, the library will sponsor a book signing. Sisters Joanne Ramey Cage (whose professional name is Ramey Cage) and Patricia Ramey Channel will be present to sign books. Copies for sale of *Ordinary and Sacred as Blood-Alabama Women Speak* will be available for \$11.95. The book talk begins at 10:00 a.m., with signing commencing at 10:30.

The book is a collection of short stories, poems, essays, and short anecdotes by Alabama women, including poems and stories by the compilers and by Helen Blackshear, former poet laureate of Alabama, and the present poet laureate, Anne George of Mountain Brook, well-known also for her humorous fiction.

Seminars Scheduled

Seminars concerning financial issues of concern to women (men are invited, too) will be held in February, each beginning with a dinner buffet at 5:30 p.m. with the financial workshops following. Door prizes will be given away after each session.

"The Year in Review and Projections for the Year 2000" will be held Tuesday, Feb. 15. "Understanding the Most Popular Investments Today—Mutual Funds" will be the topic for Tuesday, Feb. 22. Financial advisors from Nowlin & Associates/ The Acacia Group will be the presenters. The seminars cost \$10.00 per session or \$15. for both, including dinner. Proceeds will benefit the library. To register call Lynn Yates at 871-9993.

The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) offers a program, "Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TAX-AIDE)" on Mondays and Tuesdays beginning Feb. 7 from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Volunteers help prepare income tax returns for those needing assistance. The program is free of charge and you do not have to be an AARP member to attend. You may call the library, 439-5555, for an appointment. You will need to take your 1998 tax returns and 1999 tax information for volunteers to help you.

Village Recycling - February 16

By Art Johnson, Town Council Place #4

Aluminum recycling is Wednesday evening, February 16. Please put your recycling out before 7:00 p.m. Please use white, blue, or clear plastic bags with the top of each tied with a knot; place your bags on the other side of your driveway from your trash pickup.

The recycling volunteers in January were Nancy Johnson, Pat Potter, Trudy and Paul Sokel, Margie and Herb Robins, Bob Durbin and Art Johnson. Collected was 492 pounds of aluminum. Bob Durbin pulled double duty, bringing the trailer from the recycling center to the town hall. Bob's wife, Sharon, and one of our volunteers, is doing great after recuperating from surgery in December and is back to her normal schedule.

If you have not started recycling, please join the growing number of ISV residents that are recycling. An aluminum can recycled today will be back on the grocery shelf in about 90 days; by contrast a thrown-away aluminum can will be still in our county landfill in 100 years. The ISV recycling program is a volunteer community project, and our sincere thanks for the support we have received during the past years. Watch for ISV recycling reminders along Highway 119, Indian Crest Drive, and the entrances to Homestead.

1999 a Record Year for Recycling

By Art Johnson, Town Council Place #4

This past year was another great year for recycling. We averaged 366 pounds of aluminum per month compared with 356 pounds per month in 1998. Since no collection was made in December, our total for the 11 months in 1999 was 4027 pounds as compared to the 12-month total of 4270 pounds. Your recycling has grown an average of 11.5% during the past two years. You are doing great! For more information on recycling, please call me at 988-3217.

If you have a pickup truck and would like to help, please volunteer.

25th Year Celebration (continued)

Newly-elected president Bobby Joe Seales gave recognition to individuals who helped the organization in early years. The speaker at the 25th anniversary meeting was William Grady of Montevallo, chairman of the newly-formed Montevallo Historical Commission, who is currently working with the city council to pass an ordinance so historic districts can be established in Montevallo. Mr. Grady and the Montevallo Historical Commission will soon begin work on a Main Street program to enhance the downtown district. His topic was Montevallo, its history, and his preservation work in Mobile and Houston.