

The Village Voice

Vol. 3, No. 12

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

March 8, 1994

INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Indian Springs School Town Hall
Tuesday, March 15, 1994 7 p.m.

Agenda

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

Editor's Notes

The *Village Voice* is the official organ of Indian Springs Village, AL, established October 16, 1990. The primary purpose of this newsletter is to report the monthly deliberations of the mayor and the council in town council meetings as well as to give the mayor and council members the opportunity to communicate with the electorate. In addition, your editor's hope is to foster a spirit of community and cooperation along with fun and fairness. Good neighbors need less legislation. Expenses are covered by the efforts and donations of ISV volunteers. Deliveries are also made at no charge by volunteer couriers.

Address letters to the editor and appropriate news articles to: Olivia Weingarten, Editor, 1617 Indian Crest Drive, Indian Springs, AL 35124 (988-5417). Newcomer information should be reported to Patricia Crapet (985-9205).

The *Village Voice* is published the second Tuesday of the month. Articles for publication in the April, 1994 edition should be submitted by Tuesday noon, April the 5th. The editor reserves the right to edit all materials submitted for publication. The *Village Voice* will publish letters to the editor if space permits. Letters may be edited for length and other considerations; however, the meaning will be preserved. All opinions expressed are those of the authors of articles, unless otherwise indicated. All articles not attributed to other writers are written by the editor. Any opinions she expresses are her own and should not be attributed to the mayor or the council.

Editor's Appreciation to:

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INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE FIRST ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 2, 1994

11:00 a.m.

(Rain date: Easter Sunday, April 3 at 3:00 p.m)



Luster's Field

(corner of Highway 119 and Indian Trail)

All children thru age 12
are invited to participate.

500 Easter Eggs to be hidden!

Bring your own basket.

50 Susan B. Anthony Coins
plus

Two Grand Prizes of \$25

Bring a lawn chair
and a picnic lunch!

Meadowbrook: To Be or Not To Be ... Hoover?

AN EDITORIAL By Councilwoman Patricia Crapet

When the newly resurrected Meadowbrook Homeowners Association (MHA) met with officials from the City of Hoover, your genuinely nose-y roving reporter could not resist the notion of "checking it out." Off I went in a cloud of dust, pad and pen in hand.

The panel for the evening included Hoover Mayor Frank Skinner, Hoover City Attorney Jack Harrison, Gary McBey from the Hoover City School System, and Shelby County Commissioner, Lindsey Allison. The purpose of the meeting was stated as being strictly for informational purposes, not to be construed as an application by Meadowbrook to annex into Hoover, nor as a sales job by the City of Hoover to the residents of the prominent North Shelby neighborhood. The MHA made it clear that this meeting was initiated by them, and not by the City of Hoover. Meadowbrook residents were allowed to ask questions, but not to make statements.

Immediately, the tough questions compiled by the MHA, as well as those in attendance, began flowing, with the slickest of answers rolling off the tongues of Hoover officials. The first question, "Does Hoover have any plans to annex Oak Mountain or Inverness Elementary schools?" was answered by Jack Harrison. He stated that the city of Hoover had no plans "at this time" (key words) to annex these schools. Mr. Harrison noted that any such annexation couldn't be done legally without the consent of the Shelby County Board of Education. This is **not** true. What Mr. Harrison failed to mention was that according to statute, if a city becomes contiguous to a school, the city can annex the school without the school board's approval. That's right. Just annex the school, retire any debt that is owed on the school and take it over lock, stock, and barrel. The only negotiations that are necessary are that arrangements must be made for children of non-city residents to be able to attend a school. Since there is no debt whatsoever on Inverness Elementary, this would mean that Hoover could literally steal the school from Shelby County without paying a cent for it.

Can Meadowbrook (or any other area for that matter) be annexed without its approval? This question was also fielded by Mr. Harrison, who said "No." He stated that there are three ways to annex properties: by election, by petition of a contiguous property owner, and by resolution from setting a public hearing to act on a request by several property owners. He did, however, fail to mention one other very important method of annexation known as legislative enactment. This allows for annexation solely by vote of the legislature. The City of Pelham used legislative enactment to annex Oak Mountain State Park deep in the night, as did the City of Vestavia in their annexation of the Liberty Park area.

What is the difference in taxes between Hoover and Shelby County? The answer from Hoover officials was 20.5 mils ad valorem. Once again, Hoover failed to mention that there is another tax. Business and personal property taxes are also 20.5 mils higher in Hoover. Anyone who owns a business or operates a business out of their home is subject to this tax. When asked what services Hoover could supply the citizens of Meadowbrook for the 20.5 mil property tax difference, Mayor Skinner took over. Garbage twice

weekly, trash once per week, police and fire protection, city library, and one of the most important perks of all, that Hoover "sucks your leaves four times per year". This particular service seemed to be a real biggie with Mayor Skinner, who mentioned it several times.

Regarding the proposed merger of our North Shelby Fire District with the City of Hoover, Mayor Skinner noted that discussions between the two entities were being held and that "they (NSFD) requested a proposal" This mis-statement led some in the crowd to think that NSFD had sought out Hoover in this merger, when the opposite is entirely true. Commissioner Lindsey Allison intervened to explain the disposition of the NSFD, and that the original overtures for merger came from Hoover rather than from the NSFD. When asked why this plan had been initiated, Mayor Skinner stated that Hoover was just "trying to make the people restful" and that there were "a lot of disenchanting people who are tired of dual taxation". It is unfortunate that the Mayor does not know the difference between dual taxation and duplication of services. When asked if the NSFD proposal was an indirect way of annexing the area, Jack Harrison's reply was "No."

Next came the question of whether Hoover plans to build parks, pools, and additional schools in the area. According to Hoover officials, no new locations have been selected in the area. Mayor Skinner stated that Hurdmont Farms on Highway 119 (which was purchased by the City of Hoover last June) could accommodate a school and a park if the property were annexed into Hoover.

One of the most popular questions asked that evening, and one that received a great amount of applause, was "How did Hoover get our commercial districts, and can we get them back?" This question was undoubtedly spawned from the recent sales tax increase by the City of Hoover. The very direct answer from Jack Harrison was an emphatic "No." The commercial properties were annexed by petition of the property owners of the business district.

What advantage would Hoover have in annexing Meadowbrook? According to Mayor Skinner, none. The Mayor stated "economically it makes no sense to annex residential property". Garbage expenses alone cost Hoover more than some residents pay in additional ad valorem taxes. This does not account for other services such as street and road maintenance, public safety, fire, parks, etc. So, why would Hoover entertain the thought of annexing more residential property? My favorite answer of the evening from Mayor Skinner was that Hoover had a "moral obligation to annex residents even though Hoover would lose money".

Hoover turned Meadowbrook down several years ago when the neighborhood was much smaller. Hoover could not afford the additional burden of residential property. Why would Hoover now consider annexing Meadowbrook? According to Mayor Skinner, Hoover is in a better financial state now. I guess so! With practically all of North Shelby's commercial districts in their city and that extra penny of sales tax it looks like North Shelby countians are to be footing the bill for Hoover's self-inflicted growing pains for some time to come.

My crystal ball says their motivation is to steal our Fire District, Library District, and our schools, and that the only moral obligation Hoover has is to itself.

Town Council Highlights

February 15, 1994

By Councilwoman Patricia Crapet

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met in the town hall of Indian Springs School at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 15, 1994. The meeting was presided over by Mayor Hub Harrington, with Council Members Ron Luster, Patricia Crapet, Gary Dennis, Art Johnson, and Stewart Dudley present.

Town Clerk Paul Stephens announced the usual revenues for the month of January were: beer taxes, \$671.33; sale of ISV tags, \$16; and road funds, \$663.25. The annual utility taxes received were: Alabama Power Company, \$19,799.28; Alabama Gas, \$9,496.05, and Pelham Water, \$3,405.54. The balance in the general fund was \$59,700 and the balance in the road fund stood at \$16,900.

Tommy Holcomb of Holcomb Wood Associates, landscape architects, presented plans and drawings for the proposed Cooks Pest Control Corporate office on Caldwell Mill Road, behind the Winn-Dixie Marketplace. The 5 acre plat is currently zoned commercial, but is split down the middle with half of the property zoned B-2 (General business), and the other half zoned O & I (professional office and institutional). The plans for the complex call for use of only 3.5 acres. Cooks is asking for the property to be rezoned and downgraded to just the O & I zoning for the whole plat.

Mayor Harrington appointed Harry Little, of Valley View Road, to the Indian Springs Village Zoning and Planning Board. Mr. Little replaces Charles Lindamood, who has moved from ISV to Atlanta.

After several months of discussion, the Town Council unanimously passed a resolution authorizing an expense of approximately \$3000 dollars for new street signs for those streets that turn off of Highway 119. These street signs will be uniform and visible at night, and will match the new Indian Springs Village town signs that will mark the town boundaries on Highway 119. The funds for the ISV town signs are being donated by Councilman Gary Dennis.

The Council unanimously passed a resolution to have the four individuals who sign town checks bonded. At the present time those authorized to sign are Council persons Patricia Crapet and Stewart Dudley and Town Clerks Paul Stephens and Jim Wyatt. The bonding procedure is relatively inexpensive.

The audit of the town's books for 1993 has come back with everything in order. There was a suggestion that there always be one council person and one town clerk signature on each check, rather than two clerks or two council persons. As with all town records, copies of the audit are available for viewing at the office (and home) of the Town Clerk.

Councilman Stewart Dudley reported that the option to purchase on the Argo property (corner of Highway 119 and Shelby

County 14) expired. The property is now being negotiated for purchase by the Oak Mountain Presbyterian Church, which has expressed a desire that the property be de-annexed from Pelham.

Councilman Dudley announced that a speed and hazardous location study is being done on Highway 119. The speed recording device, which was set up for a short period of time in front of Councilman Dudley's Highway 119 property, clocked speeds from 50 m.p.h. to 85 m.p.h., with the greatest number of vehicles driving in excess of 65 m.p.h..

Special guests attending the meeting were members of Boy Scout Troop #71 from Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church. The scouts were working on their citizenship in the community badge. Scout Leader and ISV resident, David Otto, accompanied members of his troop: Greg Otto, Robert Wade, Drew Miller, and Trey Miller.

Adopt-A-Mile and Recycling

By Councilman Art Johnson

A warm welcome to Jeremy Gaskins, who attended his inaugural Adopt-A-Mile and is the newest member of our Litter-Walk team. Jeremy was joined by his younger brother, Alan, and father, Tommy. The Gaskins joined Nora and Jim Boyett, Art Johnson, Herbert Joiner, Aleta Lowe, Jean Owens, Lola and Paul Stephens, and Jim Wyatt. We were fortunate to have enough volunteers so that Margaret and Jim Roy, Virginia Rancont, Emily McAdory, and Jackie Johnson could head up to Indian Crest Drive to remove trash between Caldwell Mill Road and Old Post Road.

If you would like to help our town maintain an uncluttered, litter-free atmosphere, please join us at the Mormon Church on Cahaba Valley Road at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 19. All you need to bring is a pair of gloves.

Our April litter-walk will be held on April 16, one week earlier than normal, to support the state's fifth annual spring cleanup campaign, "Don't Drop It on Alabama".

The next collection date for aluminum cans is Wednesday, March 16. Please bag your recycled aluminum cans in white or clear bags, secure them with a knot, and place in your driveway before 8:00 p.m. opposite the Thursday morning BFI garbage pick-up.

Last month the ISV recycling crews collected 159 pounds of cans. Our two trucks, with volunteers Jana Clark, Jason Durbin, Art Johnson, and Gene Weingarten, drove the streets of the town picking up the cans recycled by dedicated Villagers. Accolades to all the recycling participants, and thank you again for your continued support of Indian Springs Village.

New Arrival

Grandparents Ron and Sandy Luster proudly announce the arrival of Daniel Reid Wertz, 7 pounds 9 ounces, born on February 20th at Brookwood Hospital. Daughter Kelley and son-in-law Reid are said to be recovering, if not sleeping, well. Best wishes to all from Indian Springs Village.

Art Association Elects Villagers

By Councilman Patricia Crapet

Congratulations to three Indian Springs Village residents for their election as officers of The Shelby County Art Association. Deborah Gibson, Foxfire Circle, was elected as 1st Vice President; Susan Loper, Indian Crest Drive, was elected as 2nd Vice President; and Betty Grady, Brookgreen Lane, was elected as P.M. Secretary. Mrs. Gibson, a professional photographer by profession, is the featured artist at Oak Mountain Elementary School for March, with water-colors as well as examples of photography on display. The Shelby County Art Association's Spring Show will be in Monteavillo on Saturday, April 30, at the May Day Celebration. SCAA will be exhibiting at Alabama Power's complex.

Shelby County Students Head for the White House

By Councilwoman Patricia Crapet

The chorus of Shelby County's Elvin Hill Elementary School in Columbiana has been invited to perform at The White House in Washington, D. C. on March 29, 1994. These 4th and 5th grade students have the distinct honor of representing Shelby County and the State of Alabama at this special performance.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for these children. Unfortunately, there is a hefty price-tag associated with the travel expenses for this trip. Estimates are that the cost of the trip will be around \$20,000, or about \$300 per child.

There are several fundraisers planned for "The Music Company," (so named by the students themselves), but these will still not cover the cost. The goal is to raise enough money so that all of the children in the chorus can travel to Washington, regardless of their individual personal finances. They are \$3,000 short of their goal. Since Columbiana is an economically challenged community, they are asking for our help.

Your tax deductible donation of any amount will be greatly appreciated. Please make your check payable to the **Elvin Hill Music Company**. The group is scheduled to leave for Washington D. C. on March 26th. Donations should be made by Tuesday, March 15. Due to the short notice, please bring your donations to Olivia Weingarten, 1617 Indian Crest Drive (988-5417) or Patricia Crapet, 370 Valley View Road (985-9205), or bring your donation to the March 15 council meeting. We will deliver the donations directly to the school.

Let's show that the citizens of ISV care, as these young citizens of today and leaders of tomorrow strive to proudly represent our county and our state.

North Shelby Fire District

The next meeting of the NSFD is Tuesday, March 22, 1994, at 7:30 p.m. at Fire Station #3 next to the Meadowbrook Post Office. All concerned citizens are urged to attend.

Welcome Newcomers

By Councilwoman Patricia Crapet

Indian Springs Village extends a warm welcome to all new ISV residents and sincerely wish well those who are leaving our community.

Duane and Linda Kloewer, who are making their new home at 1484 Indian Crest Drive. The Kloewers' daughter, Sarah, age 6, is a first grader at Oak Mountain Elementary School. Duane, who was raised on a farm in Iowa, is the regional sales manager for Enforcer Products, a home care and pest control company. Linda is a volunteer at OMES. The Kloewers come to us from Trussville and hope to be active in community activities.

Leaving their Indian Crest home for Atlanta, Georgia, are Charles Lindamood and Lynn Davis who were active in ISV community affairs.

The Lovett family has recently moved to 174 Skyline Drive, formerly the home of Rick and Libbett Crumbley. Ken and Brenda both work for Alabama Power Company and have three sons: Ken, Jr., 15; Ryan McGee, 12; and Tyler McGee, 10.

Eligible bachelor Bill Davis has just moved to 1707 Indian Crest Drive. He comes to ISV from Pennsylvania.

Mark and Alison Calhoun and family are now calling 570 Valley View Road in Brookstone Estates their home. Mark works for McGriff, Siebels, and Williams, while Alison runs the show at home. They have two daughters. Mary Martha, 10, attends Briarwood School, and Katie, 8, attends Shades Cahaba Elementary. Family dogs Molly and Bru are already making new friends in the neighborhood, especially with "Molly Crapet", who seems to like swimming in the Calhoun family pool during sub-zero weather.

Leaving Brookstone Estates after seven years are Mark and Joyce Zito, who will eventually relocate near Chelsea in High Chapparral.

Notices of Special Sessions

A newly-rendered Alabama Supreme Court decision requires that the public be given notice of all special sessions called by any agencies governed by the Alabama Sunshine Law, including municipalities. The Court did allow for emergency meetings when declared to be so by the governing body, only if good reasons for the emergency exist. All municipalities should institute a regular procedure for providing the public with notice of special sessions.

Indian Springs Village will adopt a resolution at the next meeting declaring that all future notices of special sessions will be posted on each of the Adopt-A-Mile signs on Highway 119.