



A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



I hope you have been enjoying these few sunny warmer days. Here's hoping Spring is on the way!

We have so much to be proud of in our Oak Mountain Schools. I can't give a comprehensive list of all the awards and accomplishments but will mention a few. Oak Mountain Middle School had an amazing Show Choir season winning many awards and culminating as Grand Champions with best vocals, best choreography, and best show visuals at the South Central Classic competition recently. At the same competition, Oak Mountain High School Show Choir Muses were Grand Champions in the unisex division and Singers were Second Place in the large mixed division. Both made it to Finals where Muses were 4th Runner Up and Singers were 1st Runner Up.

The Oak Mountain Middle School Cheer Squad placed at Regionals winning a bid to State, then to Nationals in Orlando. The OMMS Wrestling team finished 4th at the Metro competition tournament. The 6th grade Scholar's Bowl team placed 1st in the Shelby County tournament. The OMMS Dance team won trophies at the UDA Magic City Challenge and at Nationals. School records have been broken in Track and Field at Oak Mountain High School. These are just a few of the amazing accomplishments. Please see our individual school articles to learn more about the great things going on with our schools. In fact, if you have information on achievements to report, pass that on to your school administrative staff and they can forward to us -TownClerk@indianspringsvillage.org. We will proudly display it on our FaceBook page.

UPCOMING TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

All meetings at 7pm.

- Tuesday, March 19th
- Tuesday, April 2nd
- Tuesday, April 16th
- Tuesday, May 7th
- Tuesday, May 21st
- Tuesday, June 4th
- Tuesday, June 18th
- Tuesday, July 2nd
- Tuesday, July 16th
- Tuesday, August 6th
- Tuesday, August 20th



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I would also like to mention ISV donated funds for a brand new library at Oak Mountain Elementary School with ribbon cutting on Tuesday, February 27th. Indian Springs is partnering with the Shelby County Board of Education and County for a 1.5 million dollar project at the High School. ISV is personally funding a Girl's Softball Batting facility at the High School. We are so happy to be able to support our schools and the children in our community!



a wealth of experience and has already proven to be a valuable asset to our community.

As the vibrant spirit of spring envelops us, the Town Hall is bustling with activity in preparation for the much-anticipated Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for Saturday, March 30th. This family-friendly event promises an array of exciting activities, including fun games, fantastic prizes, bouncy houses, and, of course, the thrilling egg hunt featuring over 2,000 eggs. While we won't have golden eggs this year, be on the lookout for special prizes in certain eggs—your ticket to some delightful surprises! The Easter Bunny will also be making an appearance, adding to the joyous atmosphere. Festivities kick off at 1:00 p.m., with the egg hunt beginning at 1:30pm. You will have ample time to enjoy the bouncy

houses, games, pony rides, Face Painting, Kona Ice, and Ms. Sylvia's Lemonade by the end of the event at 3:00 p.m. Parking will be conveniently located at the Indian Springs Church of the Latter Day Saints, with Golf Carts shuttling back and forth to Town Hall. There will be no parking at Town Hall due to the Pony Rides and Refreshment Trucks, this is for the safety of all those attending. Please contact Kim Akridge at asstclerk@indianspringsvillage.org for more information.

We hope you had the chance to join us for the 33rd Founders Day Celebration, a night filled with camaraderie and scrumptious offerings from Texas Roadhouse. The evening under the stars, accompanied by music from Randy McDonald, made for a memorable community gathering.



FROM THE DESK OF THE CLERK:

Greetings, residents of Indian Springs Village! We are thrilled to announce the addition of Kim Akridge to our team as the new Assistant Clerk and events planner. Kim brings



GREAT READS AT OME!



Don't forget to mark your calendars for our town council meetings held on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m., complete with a pre-meeting meal on the first Tuesday meeting. It's a fantastic opportunity to engage with the community and stay informed about local affairs.

A quick reminder: the dumpster at Town Hall is exclusively for Town Hall use. We have implemented a new security system with cameras in place. It seems as if there is some confusion about this with some of our residents, so smile you will be on candid camera while using our dumpster. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to sharing more exciting updates from Indian Springs Village!

Best Regards,
Vickie Lewis (Indian Springs Village Town Clerk)

Oak Mountain Elementary School is celebrating reading during the 2023-2024 school year! Thanks to the generosity of Indian Springs Village, we have been able to completely renovate our library. We painted, installed new flooring and shelves, and purchased all new furniture. Our students are now enjoying a beautiful space to select books and to sit and read. The most exciting part of this experience was hearing the delight in the children's voices when they saw the new library! This is such a blessing to our school, and children will benefit from this investment for many years.

Additionally, our school is participating in a reading initiative called #OMESreads. We purchased over 800 copies

of the book *Gooseberry Park*, and our entire school community is reading the book together!

Every student, teacher, custodian, bus driver, child nutrition team member, sign language interpreter, and paraprofessional received a copy of the book at a school wide assembly. Families in our community are reading chapters of the book each evening, and we are expanding vocabulary and working on comprehension strategies at school. We have trivia questions during our morning announcements, and classes are competing to win prizes by answering questions about the text. Our goal is for families to enjoy reading together and create memories that will last a lifetime!



MENTORING AT OAK MOUNTAIN INTERMEDIATE



Oak Mountain Intermediate School had a busy first half of the 23-24 school year. It started off on the right foot with an "A" on the State report card which reflects such criteria as academic achievement, academic growth and attendance. This grade reflects all the hard work by the faculty, staff and students.

As we have done in years past, OMIS continues its relationship with students from OMHS in the Big Brother/Big Sister program sponsoring numerous mentoring activities throughout the school year.

November saw the school welcome over fifty former and active duty military personnel with our annual Veteran's Day Breakfast. With the help of the OMIS Student Council, veterans from all service branches enjoyed a delicious breakfast and a patriotic performance by the OMIS choir.

Before the Christmas holiday, our fifth graders participated in their yearly,

overnight trip to Camp McDowell. Students, along with teachers and chaperones, participated in team building and hands-on activities for three days in the Bankhead National Forest.

Our gifted program hosted over 125 students in January for the annual Kid's Convention. This year students had the opportunity to choose from a variety of topics such as calligraphy, mountain biking, origami, Japanese language classes and dissecting a cow's eye – just to name a few.

Recently, OMIS was visited by a few of the local Elk's Club members for an educational program on the American flag. The students learned various interesting facts about our nation's national colors during this informative discussion. Also, the Student Council collected over 3,000 canned goods for Oak Mountain Missions with the "OMIS Gives from the Heart" fundraiser.

We continue to have excellent participation in our All-Pro Dad's breakfast with over 100

fathers attending each month. This is a wonderful opportunity for our dads to join their OMIS student and other fathers for a great breakfast and engaging conversation.

Upcoming activities include our PTO Silent Auction beginning February 21-25, "Read Across America" the week of March 4th ending with a Vocabulary Parade. Future field trips will include the fifth graders spending the morning at American Village in Montevallo and our 4th graders enjoying a full day touring sites in Montgomery.

Ongoing projects around OMIS include classroom makeovers, shade structures at our blacktop area and an addition of a library courtyard. All of our projects are possible because of the support of Indian Springs Village and our PTO.

Oak Mountain Intermediate School looks forward to our annual OMIS Field Day on May 3rd with the ongoing support from OMHS peer helpers and the annual tug-o-war contest.



2024 EXCELLENCE AT OMHS



This spring, Oak Mountain High School is alive with excitement as both students and faculty celebrate a range of accomplishments and eagerly await upcoming events. With successes spanning academics, athletics, and campus improvements, great things are happening at OMHS.

First and foremost, Oak Mountain High School proudly announces the outstanding academic achievements of five students who have achieved National Merit Finalist status. Katherine Farquhar, Julis Lappalainen, Madison McCullars, Evan Peng, and Yeseung Shin have been recognized for their academic achievement. As they prepare to graduate this spring, their accomplishments serve as a testament to the school's commitment to academic excellence.

In the realm of performing arts, Oak Mountain High School's show choirs, "Singers"

WHAT'S GOING ON AT OMMS?



The 2023-2024 school year at Oak Mountain Middle School has been a huge success thus far. Students are working hard both in the classrooms and in the after school activities and sports. Most recently, Oak Mountain show choir were named Grand Champions at both the Foothills Show Choir Classic and the South Central Classic. 8th grader, Griffin Garner finished 5th place finish in the Varsity Wrestling State Competition, "Team D" placed 4th at Alabama State Robotics Championship. Some other accolades for our school recently were the OMMS Coding Club winning Best Showcase Presentation in the Shelby County Byte of Code Competition, OMMS basketball Coach - Will Roden was named 7th grade

Metro South Basketball Coach of the Year, OMMS 6th grade won the Shelby County Scholars Bowl competition, OMMS Cheer and OMMS Dance both competed in Nationals for the first time - and did amazing! Cheer was in the top 25 in the nation in the Small Junior High Traditional Division and OMMS Dance finished with their season high score. As you can see, lots of students with amazing talents and successes are to be commended.

OMMS looks forward to partnering with Indian Springs Village to update some areas within our school in the coming years and we are so very thankful for the support of such an incredible community.

ONE TEAM - ONE DREAM!



and "The Muses," recently showcased their talents at the Southland Show Choir Classic in Enterprise, Alabama. The Muses not only secured Best Vocals and Best Choreography but were also crowned Grand Champions of the Unisex Division. Meanwhile, Singers faced adversity in the Finals competition, emerging victorious with Best Vocals, Best Choreography, tied for Overall Show Design, and the prestigious title of Grand Champions of the entire competition. Show Choir is now set to travel to nationals in Nashville in March.

Oak Mountain High School's majorettes had a great showing in the first indoor competition of the season, claiming first place in both High School Halftime and High School Dance Twirl. The men's basketball team concluded the season as area runner-up, while the

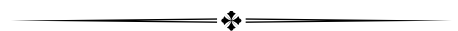
men's and women's indoor track teams showcased their talent, finishing 5th and 7th overall at the state meet in Birmingham, respectively. Additionally, Oak Mountain High School wrestling saw seven wrestlers qualify for the state wrestling meet in Huntsville following a successful season.

The cheerleading squad secured a spot at nationals in Orlando, FL, reaching the semi-final round, while the girls' bowling team proudly finished 3rd in the state tournament. As the school looks ahead to spring, anticipation is building for competitions in baseball, softball, soccer, tennis, golf, and track and field.

Exciting developments are also taking place on the Oak Mountain campus. The fine arts department has settled into the new fine arts building, providing

students and staff with enhanced facilities. Meanwhile, athletes eagerly await renovated facilities, including a covered hitting facility for the softball team, new bleachers in the competition gym, new girls' locker rooms, a state-of-the-art girls' weight room, and the transformation of the old band room into a new cheer and wrestling facility, along with a new football locker room. These upgrades are made possible through the partnership between Shelby County Schools and Indian Springs Village, with over 1 million dollars committed to support schools in the Oak Mountain community.

Oak Mountain High School expresses its gratitude to Indian Springs Village for their support and commitment to the success and well-being of its students. As the school community continues to achieve greatness, these achievements and developments solidify Oak Mountain High School's reputation as a school of excellence in academics, arts, and athletics.



OMHS FRESHMAN ACHIEVES PERFECT SCORE ON ACT

Oak Mountain High School freshman Margaret “Maggie” Rodgers, daughter of Brian and Holly Rodgers, scored a perfect 36 on the February administration of the ACT.

“Maggie has always been a diligent and motivated student, and her perfect score on the ACT is a testament



to her intelligence and dedication. We are grateful for the support she has received from her teachers and the entire Oak Mountain school community,” said Brian

Rodgers.

Scoring a perfect 36 on the ACT is a rare and impressive accomplishment, highlighting Maggie’s exceptional academic abilities and her ability to excel under pressure. Her parents commend the Oak Mountain schools for providing a supportive and nurturing environment that has allowed Maggie to thrive academically. Fewer than half of 1% of students earn a perfect score of 36.

As Maggie continues her academic journey, her parents are excited to see where her talents and passions will lead her. They have no doubt that Maggie will continue to achieve great things and make a positive impact on the world around her.

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KIWANIS CLUB 2024 UPDATES:

The Kiwanis Club of Indian Springs Village plays a crucial role in our community, consistently making a positive impact on the lives of children in the Oak Mountain area. We invite you to become a part of our vibrant community and contribute to the betterment of our Village.

Recently, we’ve been actively involved in various initiatives, such as sponsoring the OMMS Fall Follies, where we successfully raised \$10,000+ for the OMMS Choir. Additionally, we’ve supported Blankets Fort Hope and hosted inspiring special guests at our monthly meetings.

Notable guests have included the Executive Director of Family Connection, Inc., a Shelby County nonprofit dedicated to supporting homeless teens and providing counseling services

for at-risk youth and their families. We’ve also had Chef Joseph Mitchell from Jeff State

Community College join us, sharing insights on healthy decision-making and even demonstrating how to prepare a delicious Red Salad, highlighting the ease and enjoyment of healthy eating.

Our club values fostering strong bonds within our community, coming together monthly to celebrate each other's joys during our fellowship time at potluck dinners. We believe in the power of intentional connections to build robust communities. Our club is open to any adults in the community interested in making a difference.

In collaboration with the OMHS Key Club, we're excited to volunteer at the upcoming ISV Easter Egg Hunt. Witnessing these young individuals take part in giving back while having fun is truly inspiring.

Join us every 3rd Monday of the month at 6:30PM at the Indian Spring Village's Town Hall. For more information or to join our club's mailing list, reach out to President David Bobo at:

dbobo@jeffersonstate.edu.

For more information visit isvkiwanis.org and also Like & Follow our Facebook Page at:

facebook.com/kcisv

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!



GARDEN CLUB 2024 UPDATES:

What in the world do garden club members do during the cold winter months when nothing is growing? Well, they “meet and greet”! In December, about a dozen club members gathered at a member's home to celebrate the Christmas season and honor a former member from Rhodesia (now known as Zimbabwe) who introduced the tradition of English Crackers to the garden club. For anyone not familiar with crackers, it's not crackers you eat. Crackers have been a

traditional part of British Christmas festivities and other celebrations since Victorian times.

A Christmas Cracker is a type of party favor originating in England, but now widely used throughout the modern world to celebrate Christmas. They consist of a wrapped and decorated cardboard cylinder and very much resemble a large candy twist. Crackers typically contain a paper crown, a silly joke or riddle, a snap (friction activated popping device), and a small gift or novelty item. Crackers are usually shared between two individuals, often with the arms crossed, one pulling on each end. With the ends firmly gripped, the cracker is slowly pulled apart using steady pressure and a twisting motion. This will tear the cracker open, activating the “cracker snap,” and producing a small ****BANG****. Everyone dons the paper crowns, and takes turns reading corny jokes (Q: Why do cows wear bells? A: Because their horns don't work). It's silly fun that creates laughter and camaraderie, which is a great way to end a year of learning among friends.



Future plans include scheduling a spring and fall plant swap, a field trip to Aldredge Gardens, several fellowship meetings, and a movie night to watch “Dare to be Wild”, a film based on the true life story of Irishwoman Mary Reynold’s journey from rank outsider to winner of a Gold Medal at the Chelsea Flower Show. Several potential speakers have been identified, including the ever popular Lindsey Allison, Shelby County District 7 County Commissioner.

The January meeting is always a planning meeting to suggest program ideas for the coming year. This year, the motto became “divide up the work into bite sized pieces”, and suggestions and ideas flew around. The members decided to focus on just one or two key note speakers a year, and have more meetings focused on either plant swaps and/or fellowship.

The February meeting will be a gathering at the home of a fellow member with everyone bringing “red or white” food and focusing on sharing best gardening tips and information.

Garden Club membership is primarily Indian Springs Village residents, but is not restricted to just residents of ISV. Meetings are almost always held on the 4th Thursday of the month. Annual dues are only \$10, but visitors are welcome. The Garden Club is a great way to learn about local gardening practices and a great way to meet fellow residents of Indian Springs and surrounding areas. Lest you think you have to be a gardener to join, you don’t! At least one member proudly tells everyone that she has a brown thumb and can’t grow squat, but loves to learn about gardening nonetheless. For more information, please contact Robyn Morris, 28arete@gmail.com.



To learn more about the history of Christmas Crackers, visit this link below or scan the QR code. (<https://www.oldenglishcrackers.com/faqs/history-of-christmas-crackers/>).

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EDITOR’S NOTES

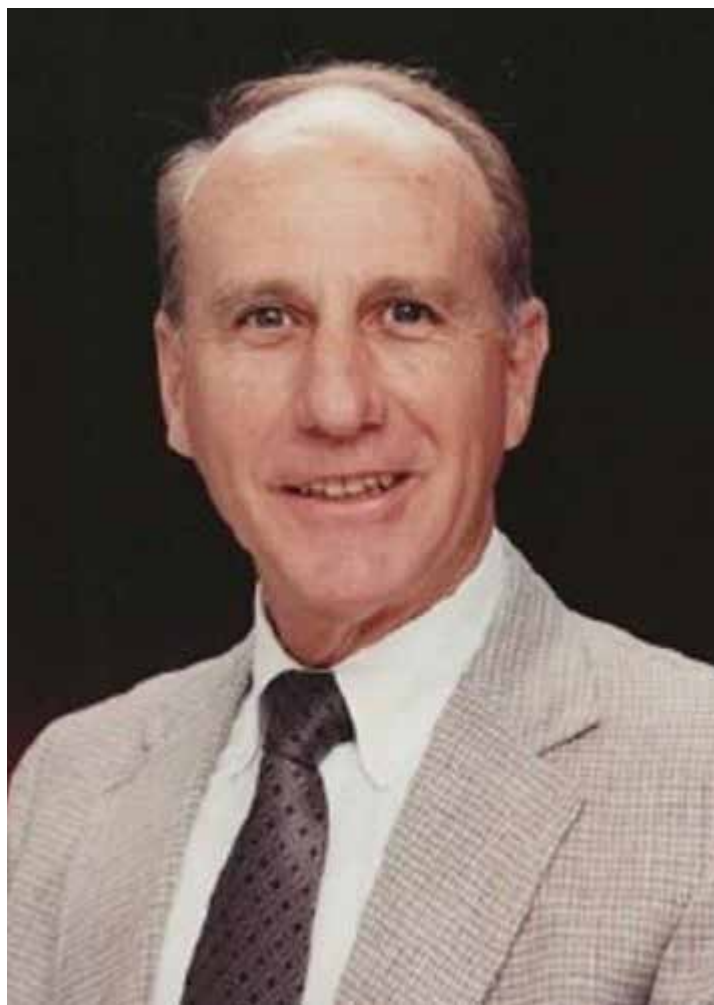
The Village Voice is the official organ of Indian Springs Village, AL - established October 16, 1990 - and is published four times a year. The mission of the newsletter is to foster community spirit and cooperation. It provides our elected officials and other Villagers a means of communicating - it is a “voice”.

IN MEMORIAM, MAYOR WEINGARTEN:

There is much to be said about “leadership”. But, if the truth were to be told when you look up the definition, there should be a photo of Walter Eugene “Gene” Weingarten. Gene was the second Mayor of the Town of Indian Springs Village, assuming the office just six years after incorporation. With our town still in its infancy, the job of the mayor would not be an easy task. Gene knew this and took the reins with calm resolve.

To backtrack the story of ISV, we go to the late 1980’s. Residents of the Valley were constantly meeting each other at zoning meetings in Columbiana in order to fight commercialization the stretch of Highway 119 that goes through our area. In 1990, the residents of the Valley became more motivated to maintain

the integrity of the area and avoid any annexations from surrounding cities who were bent of commercializing this thoroughfare. After many neighborhood meetings, much planning,



planning, petitioning, and campaigning, a vote was held to on October 16, 1990 for the proposed incorporation of the Vally. The citizens spoke, the measure passed, and the

Town of Indian Springs Village was officially formed.

With the initial focus on forming and incorporating the town, the actual blueprint for managing it had not been fully conceptualized. The main objectives stated by citizens were for the control of land use, taxes, and services to the town. The implementation of such goals was a whole different issue, with road maintenance, law enforcement, quality schools, along with fire and rescues as the main resources that were required.

To accomplish this goal, knowledge, skill, and vision was required of city leaders. One of the founders of the town, and the first mayor, was Hub Harrington, who led this vision and its implementation for six years with his expertise

as an attorney. His ideas and skills, along with that of the first town council, enabled this vision to come to fruition. The Town of Indian Springs Village is now appreciated by citizens and other governing bodies for its unique form of governing.

In 1996, the town was at a crossroads. Mayor Harrington did not seek re-election which meant that a new mayor would be needed. Appreciation of the uniqueness of the city and understanding the very specific goals set forth during the first six years was a must. Stepping forward to accept this challenge, was Gene Weingarten, who was elected and began serving his first of two terms in January of 1996. The leadership that Gene displayed was transformative for the town. So much was expected, so much was required, and this all had to be done with minimal expense. Gene was not a newcomer to ISV's needs and had attended many meetings before and during the first six years of the town's existence. In order to continue the example set forth, Gene would become the quintessential public servant. As mayor, he

would forge relationships and partnerships with officials and leaders in state, county, school, and other cities in the area. Mayor Weingarten's calm and friendly demeanor, along with his street smart experiences set the pace for fostering these alliances which carried Indian Springs Village forward. In his first "Message From the Mayor" in The Village Voice October 1996 edition, Gene referred to his belief that aside from family, church, and work, one of the most important responsibilities that anyone has is to "pay their civic rent". Gene believed that this was an obligation not only to neighbors and community, but to one's self. This was the impetus to everything that Gene Weingarten did, and he certainly did it well.

As ISV prospered, growth was inevitable. Having seen the success of the town, and the protections that it offered, others wanted to become part of this unusual safe haven. Three Oak Mountain schools had already been annexed, with a fourth on the books to be built. Control of annexation was necessary in order to be able to

provide for the residents without extra taxation from adding too much too soon. Through careful and meticulous annexation, Mayor Weingarten was able to continue to foster the original concept of "preserve, protect, and enhance" the "peaceful and quiet atmosphere" of what had been known as "the valley". Continuing to keep random commercialization away from the town's limits was premier in keeping this commitment to ISV's citizens.

During Mayor Weingarten's tenure at the podium, the Indian Springs Village Comprehensive Plan was adopted. The planning alone was a monumental task, and took two years to formulate. But, Gene met the challenge like he met everything else – full speed ahead! At first the Plan was met with great skepticism. After all, ISV was formed out of the need for the community's need to just be left alone. It was the "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" mentality that conceived of the village in the first place. But as time passed, progress around the town continued to march on. It was time to establish more than just boundaries. It was

time for these boundaries to have definitive purpose. More meetings than you could count were held. Mayor Weingarten reached out to project planning firms who were hired for their expertise. The Mayor insisted that all elected and appointed town officials plus citizen committees were to be involved in the planning. On February 26, 2002 a town meeting was held in the cafeteria at the new Oak Mountain High School which some 130 plus residents attended. Mayor Weingarten knew the plan might be met with some trepidation by a few residents, so strict guidelines were established for how the meeting would be conducted.

Every person who wanted to speak was

given the floor, questions were raised, suggestions and ideas were discussed. The meeting ended on a positive note and the plan was sent to the drawing board. When dust finally settled, the Plan was adopted. Indian Springs Village now had a plan for the future, all laid out literally from A to Z. This was a tremendous accomplishment, and one that would never have come to fruition had it not been for Mayor Gene Weingarten.

There were many other accomplishments that can be attributed to Gene. One of great importance was the town's "adoption" of the Oak Mountain Schools. Yearly donations began for Oak Mountain Elementary,

Intermediate, Middle and High School, as well as Inverness Elementary, which fed students into these four schools. These donations continue to this day.

Along with monetary donations, Gene championed the donation of portable defibrillators to each school. Under the mayor, our Town Hall was renovated and brought up to ADA standards, and the Town Hall Pavilion was built. Storm sirens were added inside the town for alerting the citizens about dangerous weather conditions. Drastically needed turn lanes on Highway 119 were encouraged by Mayor Weingarten and he and Councilman Herb Robins held many discussions



with the State of Alabama DOT to accomplish this goal. These are only a few accomplishments that are attributed to Mayor Weingarten.

Of great significance is the fact that the Town of Indian Springs Village became a full-fledged city in 2001 when the census revealed that the population had more than doubled in size and was officially 2,227, up from 1,005 in 1990. And through Mayor Weingarten and the council's good stewardship, the "city" continued to operate "in the black". ISV had no debt, had money in the bank, and has not operated "in the red" since. This point is well-taken by residents who realize that the city has not added any property or automobile tag taxes.

For these achievements, along with countless others, Indian Springs Village owes a debt of gratitude to Mayor Gene Weingarten. The city, or town as many of us still prefer to call it, is grateful for his contributions to the unique approach of protecting property and land use, limiting taxes,

and following the founders promise to maintain a peaceful, quiet and beautiful atmosphere that is Indian Springs Village. Gene's rallying of people to volunteer and gathering much needed resources established a foundation for ISV that is still followed today. The quality of life in ISV is exceptional! All of this is due solely by his strength, willingness, and fortitude as a true leader and public servant.

Gene Weingarten passed away peacefully at home on December 15, 2023. Though he is gone from this earth, the legacy of Mayor Walter Eugene "Gene" Weingarten continues to live on.



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