

GURMALE GREWAL

Singh Development Company

For over 25 years, Singh Development Company, Ltd. has been recognized throughout southeastern Michigan in the residential and commercial building business. A nationally ranked builder/developer, Singh's focus is on upscale apartment communities, luxury single family subdivisions and homes, senior living communities and premier commercial properties.

The story of Singh began in 1921 when Gurmale's grandfather, Sarwan S. Grewal, left his village in India, headed for California, and settled in Detroit. Sarwan developed strong and lasting interests in land and buildings. This interest brought about the purchase of the Wolverine Hotel, where Comerica Park now stands.

Sarwan kept in close touch with family in India and brought grandsons, Tahil, Lushman, Jeat, and Gurmale to the United States for their education. When Sarwan passed away in 1968, the grandsons unanimously agreed to finish their education and carry on in their grandfather's footsteps after college. Gurmale received a degree in business in 1973 from Wayne State University, and his brothers pursued higher education upon completion of military duty.

In 1973, Singh Development Company, Ltd. was established. Gurmale was chosen to be CEO, a position he still holds today. Singh has evolved into a third generation family-owned and operated company with the addition of nephews, Pargat as vice-president of finance, and Darshan as president of Singh Homes. Singh is very proud to be one of the oldest Indian-owned companies in the United States.

Notably, too, the Grewal family is one of the oldest Sikh Indian families in the United States. Sikhs carry the honor in

northwest India of being the "Lions" or "Warriors" from northwest India — protectors of all that is good. Sikh men are most uniquely known for their beards and turbans, and all share the same middle name of Singh. Therefore, the meaning of Singh is a tribute to Sikhs and something that all the Grewals take very seriously, as reflected in their ethics and business practices today.

Singh's vision of the future is to be on the cutting edge of product, location, and business cycles. "If you don't change, you will be left behind." Gurmale attributes Singh's success to these basics: 1) great interaction and diligent work within their close-knit family; 2) total and unequivocal honesty, from honoring commitments to paying bills; 3) focus on core business with plenty of hard work; and 4) having a great staff of employees. "More than anyone else, my hard-working brothers and nephews, along with a great Singh staff, are responsible for Singh's accomplishments."

Singh maximized on its philosophy through vertical integration within the company, where development/planning, construction, management/marketing, and financing are under one roof. This team approach directly attributes to Singh's achievements. Current developments are located in many metropolitan Detroit communities, including Auburn Hills, Birmingham, Canton, Detroit, Novi, Northville, Rochester Hills, West Bloomfield and Wixom.

Gurmale, his wife, their three children, his brothers and nephews, reside in West Bloomfield. Free time allows Gurmale to run with family and play squash. He has successfully completed the Free Press Marathon four times. Annual travel to India helps him catch up on their family seed farm business, another success story. ■



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