

the Lilburn news

VOL 18 Issue 1

Small Town. Big Difference.

Jan/Feb 2016

VISION
 We envision a vibrant city where businesses prosper, where safety is a lifestyle, and where friends share life together in a community that will span the generations.

MISSION
 Use economic development and public safety resources to provide a great quality of life to our residents, visitors and business owners.

VALUES

- Excellence
- Integrity
- Community
- Openness
- Inclusiveness
- Cooperation



SQUARE MILES
7.0

POPULATION
13,344

HOUSING UNITS
4,418

MEDIAN AGE
36.5 years old

MEDIAN INCOME
\$54,115

MEDIAN HOME VALUE
\$173,700

Sources: American Community Survey, ESRI

The Lilburn News is an official publication of the City of Lilburn, Georgia — produced as a collaborative effort by City staff members and other contributors for the citizens of Lilburn. More detailed information about topics contained in this annual report may be found at cityoflilburn.com or by contacting Nikki Perry at 770-638-2223 or norperry@cityoflilburn.com.

Following a road map to the future

By Mayor Johnny Crist

In 2014, the City of Lilburn created a strategic plan – a kind of road map for the future. It’s a big picture of where the city is headed, and how we plan to get there. With the help of leaders from throughout the community, we developed a vision (what we want to look like), a mission (how we are going to achieve our vision), and a set of guiding values that influence each decision along the way.

Inside this annual report, you will find that the city government has remained laser-focused on this plan during 2015. We have worked to provide opportunities for development and redevelopment, specifically through new roads, sidewalks, government buildings, and events that attract investment to our town. The realignment of Main Street, completed in 2015, was the first major step. The road project opened up new ground for development. Commercial and residential



construction is slated for the corner of Main and US 29.

The centerpiece of the city’s revitalization plans and first-ever joint city-county building in Gwinnett – the future Lilburn City Hall and Gwinnett County Public Library Branch – will be located at the corner of Main Street and Church Street. It is under construction now and is expected to be complete by fall 2016. The halo effect of this project is expected to draw tremendous commercial activity to the area around Main Street.

Communicating these progressive changes and all the positive characteristics of Lilburn is critical to achieving our vision. We are making ourselves heard by working with the press, advertising, developing closer

relationships with the Gwinnett Chamber and Explore Gwinnett, increasing the reach of the city website and social media, continuing to distribute newcomer and visitor guides statewide, and ramping up city events.

Most importantly, we recognize that the trip goes faster when you have company. We partnered with Gwinnett County, the Lilburn Community Improvement District, the State Road and Tollway Authority, Lilburn Downtown Development Authority, Lilburn Community Partnership, and other organizations to achieve these goals.

Thank you for taking the time to read this first Annual Report of our city government’s accomplishments. We want you to know that we appreciate the great responsibility that we have to direct the future of this city – and that we are excited about the possibilities!

2015 Annual Report



2015 Highlights

- Broke ground in June on new City Hall and Library building, a joint venture with Gwinnett County. Estimated completion date: Fall 2016.

- Completed Main Street Realignment, which created roundabouts to slow traffic and opened up new property for economic development opportunities.
- Gwinnett County completed water upgrades and installed sewer lines in Old Town.
- Completed sidewalks on Main Street, Poplar Street, Hillcrest Road, Camp Creek, and Killian Hill.



Public Works

- Maintained 73 miles of city streets and conducted annual sign inspections.
- Maintained City Park and Camp Creek Greenway Trail.
- Chipper service removed limbs and shrub debris for residents, with an average pickup rate of 30+ stops a day.
- Drainage improved in City Hall parking lot.



Planning and Development

- 10 new sites developed/redeveloped, including 4 commercial and 6 residential. 127 building permits issued.
- Streamlined plan review process, which resulted in reduced fees.
- Lilburn's economic development efforts were featured at Partnership Gwinnett's Redevelopment Forum.
- Stormwater (MS4) permit approved, as required every 4 years by Georgia Environmental Protection Division. EPD annual stormwater report approved, as well.
- Park Master Plan begun. Completed assessment of existing resources. Conducted public survey. Began development of plans and cost estimates.
- Two major demolitions assisted by Code Enforcement to clean up eyesores in the city.



350
Permits Issued

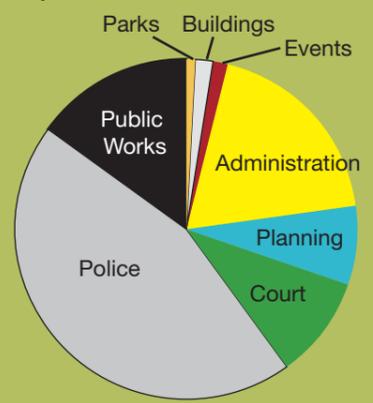
318
Building Inspections

\$7.5M
New Construction Value

The Basics

The City of Lilburn government was established in 1955 by state charter. The legislative body, the City Council, is comprised of a mayor and four council members who are elected at-large (by the whole city) and serve four-year staggered terms. The mayor and council appoint the city manager, Bill Johnsa, to manage the city's daily operations, hire staff, and implement ordinances and policies approved by City Council.

69
Total City Employees



The city's budget year is July 1 - June 30. Property taxes are 24% of the city's operating revenue. The Council approved a 2015 millage rate (property tax rate) of 4.43 mills, which is .02 less than 2014. The owner of a \$150,000 home pays \$243.65 per year in city taxes.

The city's operating budget is also supported by sales taxes, utility franchise fees, fines, permit fees, and other resources.

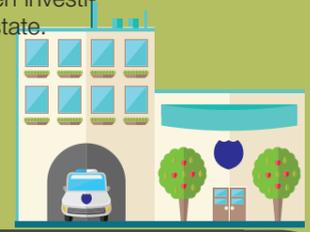
\$6.98M
2015-2016 Operating Budget

\$5.7M
SPLOST Fund Balance 2009 & 2014

The Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) is a penny sales tax implemented countywide by voters. It may be used only to build special projects, such as the new City Hall and Library.

Police

- Violent crimes decreased by 16% over the past year.
- Body Worn Cameras introduced for sworn personnel.
- Participated in Active Shooter Training. Two officers completed 360-hour Accident Reconstruction Certification Program.
- New "Zee Maps" provided crime information geographically in a specific timeframe, which assisted patrol supervisors in directing units to targeted crime areas and investigators in developing crime patterns.
- State Certification achieved for second year.
- Conducted 6 Internet Crimes Against Children investigations, including arrest of top offender in the state.
- 2 homicides reported and cleared by arrests.
- Community outreach included neighborhood watch programs, National Night Out, BAPS health and safety day, and Gwinnett County Public Schools evacuation planning.



2,591
Case reports filed

1,008
Accident reports

34
Police Officers

Business Licenses

- Business license issuance up 10.7% for a total of 919 licensed businesses in the city limits.
- Streamlined alcoholic beverage license renewal process to become more business-friendly.



85 New Businesses in 2015

Public Relations

- Received national recognition for social media campaign used to inform the public about Main Street construction.
- Generated media interest in redevelopment projects.
- Increased attendance at city events.



132,000 Website visits in 2015
6,103 Social media followers

City Park and Greenway

- New bridge and drainage installed on Camp Creek Greenway Trail.
- Camp Creek restoration begun by Gwinnett County to correct erosion issues and provide easier public access to the creek.
- Added bicycle rental vendor to Greenway.
- Updated signs in City Park and on Greenway.



Court Services

- Initiated Teen Court to help reduce the number of traffic violations by youth.
- Instead of transporting Gwinnett County Jail inmates to Lilburn for Municipal Court, video conferencing was implemented.
- E-tickets made court service more efficient for customers.



Human Resources

- Implemented Random Drug Testing Program for law enforcement.
- Applied for and received \$1,500 Wellness Grant from Local Government Risk Management Services, to be used for employee education and wellness incentives.
- Held 2nd Annual Employee Health Fair.





76 Main Street
Lilburn, Georgia 30047
Hours: 8:30am to 5:00pm
Monday through Friday

770-921-2210 City Hall
770-921-2211 Police
770-279-3710 Annex
cityoflilburn.com

Johnny Crist **Mayor** • Tim Dunn **Mayor Pro-Tem** • S. Scott Batterton **City Council** • Eddie Price **City Council** • Brian Burchik **City Council**

2015: The Year in Pictures

The City of Lilburn hosts events all year long in Lilburn City Park to build a sense of community and draw people to the heart of the city. As much as the statistics contained in this annual report, photos from the year's events demonstrate the progress we've made in 2015. City events in the park attracted approximately 45,000 attendees last year, with the largest event being the Sparkle in the Park July 4th celebration. National Night Out, a safety event held by the Lilburn Police Department and SafetySmart Lilburn Inc., was awarded 27th place out of events held by 220 similarly-sized cities nationwide by the National Association of Town Watch. Check www.cityoflilburn.com for the 2016 event lineup — we look forward to seeing you in the new year!



Building Relationships

Lilburn Daze Arts & Crafts Festival
Photo by Katie Belcher

Children and adults alike enjoyed meeting the officers and inspecting their vehicles during a "meet and greet."



Celebrating Diversity

Lilburn International Festival
Photo by Richard Ferris



Involving the Community

Lilburn Christmas Parade
Photo by city staff



Making Memories

Tree Lighting
Photo by Amber Madden