

TOWN OF Brownsburg



2015 ANNUAL REPORT



FROM THE TOWN MANAGER'S OFFICE

With responsible fiscal management by municipal departments and another increase in assessed value, 2015 was the third consecutive year that the Town of Brownsburg was able to provide a tax rate cut. The Town finished the year under budget and retained Standard & Poor's AA+ bond rating.

Many capital projects were underway this year, including widening Northfield Drive to four lanes and construction of the long-awaited leg of Ronald Reagan Parkway that will connect US 136 to County Road 300N. You may not realize that many projects, like those, are made possible with significant federal funds. More than \$38 million has been secured for projects between FY 2012 and FY 2021. Often, the Town only pays for 20 percent of the project cost.

We continue to work on economic development, attracting businesses and industries with assistance like low-interest loans and abatements to help create more good-paying Brownsburg jobs. And, we're pursuing new retail stores and restaurants that residents want.

Enhancing Brownsburg's quality of life will always be a priority. We're working to improve its appearance with the new gateway and landscaping projects, creating more trails for walking and biking, and making sure our public safety agencies have the personnel and equipment they need. We know the community's image is a key factor in making it attractive to new residents and businesses.

National organizations are taking note. Several consumer and home-buying advocacy websites have ranked our town's safety and quality of life high compared to other Indiana communities. Brownsburg was ranked among the state's safest places to live, and called one of the best places to live and to raise a family.

We've made a lot of progress, but know that we must continue to improve traffic flow, increase alternative transportation routes, offer more recreational opportunities, and enhance Brownsburg's image to adequately serve current residents and attract new development.

Regards,
Grant A. Kleinhenz, Town Manager

The Town of Brownsburg's vision is to foster a family environment, promote new and existing business development, create a stable property tax structure and provide a variety of educational, employment, and recreational opportunities.

2015 BROWNSBURG TOWN COUNCIL



Ashley Bacsu
President
Term: 2012-15



Dennis Dawes
Vice President
Term: 2015-18



Sean Benham
Member
Term: 2015-18



Rob Kendall
Member
Term: 2012-15



Don Spencer
Member
Term: 2012-15



FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

TOWN GIVES ANOTHER TAX RATE CUT

The 2015 budget totaled nearly \$44.5 million across 22 funds. The budget increased by 8.5 percent over 2014, but an increase in assessed value of \$61 million allowed for the property tax rate to be reduced by 1.15 percent. This was the third consecutive year that the Town has been able to reduce the tax rate for homeowners and businesses.

The portion of the budget derived by property tax revenue includes the General Fund, Motor Vehicle Highway (MVH) Fund, Building Debt Fund, and the Cumulative Capital Development (CCD) Fund. The Town of Brownsburg receives about 22 percent of the property tax paid by a homeowner. The other 78 percent is revenue for other agencies such as the county, township, library, fire territory and school district.

The Town of Brownsburg finished 2015 under budget by 3.1 percent, meaning that departments spent only 96.9 percent of what was budgeted. Through December 31, the Town was under budget by 6.6 percent in the four major funds of General, Water, Stormwater and Sewer. That savings will be added to fund balances in the following approximate amounts: General \$276,367; Water \$92,659; Stormwater \$230,736; and Sewer \$657,747* and will be utilized for future capital improvement projects such as the wastewater treatment plant expansion.

Sound financial management is credited for the 2015 Standard & Poor's AA+ bond rating, which resulted in an interest rate of 2.088 percent on the Town's 2015 general obligation bonds and a savings of \$17,000 in interest costs over the life of the bonds.

*Unaudited numbers



For **\$52.40**, the cost for dinner for a family of four at a sit-down restaurant, you receive street maintenance and improvement, recycling, brush disposal, and mosquito control.



For **\$146.36**, the cost for a few seats at a downtown concert or professional athletic event, you are protected by the Brownsburg Police Department.



For **\$22.69**, about the cost of a basic oil change, you are able to enjoy opportunities to relax and play at our Town parks, activities, and events.



For **\$47.17**, the cost of a pair of pants or new shirt, you help provide Town facilities such as Town Hall, the Police Department, and the Fire Territory Headquarters.



For **\$18.06**, the cost of two movie tickets, you provide Town employees with equipment such as dump trucks, police cars, and lawnmowers needed to provide services to you.



CAPITAL PROJECTS IMPROVE TRAVEL, WATER & SEWER SERVICE

A number of capital projects were completed in 2015, perhaps most notably the **East and West Northfield Drive** improvements. Construction is complete on the \$11 million Northfield East and West widening projects. The additional travel and dedicated turn lanes, along with several intersection improvements, will alleviate congestion and improve safety on the roadway. The 4.3-mile trail along Northfield connects US 136 from east to west for walking and biking. With Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) funding, the Town paid for only 20 percent of the construction costs.

Phase II construction of the \$5.6 million **Southside Drainage** project to separate the combined sanitary and storm sewer along Tilden Road from White Lick Creek to Jefferson Street is underway. The installation of a new storm main line will relieve demands on the sanitary system during wet weather events. The street, curbs and gutters, curb inlets and manholes will be replaced. Construction is expected to be complete in summer 2016.

The **Airport Road Lift Station** upgrade is nearly complete. With substantial growth near South Northfield Drive, the Town is upgrading the lift station to increase pumping capacity for wastewater and improve the collection system for future development. The \$435,000 project is being partially funded by the developer of LaCabreah Apartments.

Construction on Phase II of the Town's \$600,000 **Water Main Loop** extension is underway. The

project on CR 900E will extend under I-74 from Motorsports Way, creating a loop to the growing northeast side of town. It will not only improve flow and water quality on Brownsburg's east side, but the additional fire hydrants will enhance fire protection in the area.

Many projects are made possible with federal funding. More than \$32 million from the MPO has been secured for projects between FY 2012 to FY 2021.

PROJECTS WITH FEDERAL FUNDING MATCHES

PROJECT	FY	FED	LOCAL
E. Northfield Drive	2013	\$4.8M	\$1.2M
W. Northfield Drive	2013	\$4M	\$1M
Traffic Signal Preemption	2014	\$403k	\$45k
Ronald Reagan Parkway	2015	\$10.1M	\$10.1M
Safe Routes to School	2015	\$427k	\$172k
Regulatory Sign Inventory	2015	\$156k	\$17k
Green Street Redesign	2017	\$2.9M	\$2.5M
Pedestrian Crossing Improvements	2017	\$178k	\$20k
Traffic Signal Backplating	2017	\$45k	\$5k
Regulatory Sign Replacement	2017	\$326k	\$36k
E. Northfield Drive CR 300N to CR 400N	2019	\$5.1M	\$1.3M
Hornaday Road & CR 300N Roundabout	2020	\$1.7M	\$428k
56th Street & Wild Ridge Boulevard	2020	\$348k	\$38k



LONG-AWAITED RONALD REAGAN PARKWAY NEAR COMPLETION

Officials from the Town of Brownsburg, Town of Avon, and Hendricks County broke ground in June for the long-awaited extension of Ronald Reagan Parkway from US 136 to County Road 300N.

Construction and design costs for the project totaled nearly \$20 million. The 1.7-mile section is underway and will include grade-separated bridges over US 136 and the CSX rail line.

Construction costs total just more than \$15 million, half of which is funded by the Urban Surface Transportation Program. The Town of Brownsburg will contribute \$7.4 million and Hendricks County will fund \$2.7 million of the costs to complete construction of the last leg of the county's major north-south connector. Construction is on track for completion by the spring of 2017.

The Town also committed \$1.1 million to partner with Avon and Hendricks County to widen Ronald Reagan Parkway from County Road 300N to US 36 which is currently under construction and should be completed by the end of 2016.

Completion of the parkway will not only ease traffic congestion and accommodate future transportation demands, but will have a major impact on long-term economic development. Growth at the interchange over the next 10 to 15 years will likely include offices, hotels, restaurants and shopping facilities that could create more than 1,000 permanent jobs and diversify the community's tax base.

CHANGES MADE TO BETTER SERVE DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

The Town's planning and building department changed its name to the Department of Development Services to better reflect the services it provides. Customers with home improvements or commercial and industrial projects will continue to interact with the staff for:

- inspection services of structures and infrastructure;
- development services such as permits, zoning, compliance, Plan Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals cases;
- record services such as GIS, permit and case information management; and
- long-range planning services including ordinance review/revisions and special projects.

The new Unified Development Ordinance replaces the previous zoning and subdivision control ordinances combining the rules governing the subdivision of land and land use policies into a single document. The UDO is the final step in revising the Town's development and land use regulations preceded by the 2012 Comprehensive Plan and 2013 Zoning Ordinance updates.

The purpose behind updating policies and land use regulations is to improve the organization of the information, encourage redevelopment opportunities, improve the user experience, and include new processes and/or technologies in land development to improve the overall quality of development.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS ATTRACT NEW INVESTMENTS

Town leaders believe it is the municipality's responsibility to promote an improved standard of living and economic well-being in the community by encouraging growth and development of established local businesses and attracting new investments.

Economic development incentives like lease assistance, low-interest loans and tax abatements, helped attract several businesses that invested nearly \$61 million in real and personal property here. That development created or retained more than 570 Brownsburg jobs with a total payroll of \$22 million. Those include:

- Hoosier Athletic Park
- TMC Transportation
- Fleece Performance expansion
- K1ds Count
- Don Schumacher Racing expansion
- Antech Diagnostics expansion

85 commercial build/remodel permits



12 new buildings

Total value: \$7.9M

34 structural remodels

Total value: \$5.1M

LOCAL BUSINESSES GET HELP FROM FACADE IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

In 2015, the Town awarded more than \$100,000 in Facade Improvement Grants to 10 established Brownsburg businesses.

The matching grant program uses Tax Increment Financing District Funds to help local properties get a facelift with projects like signs, painting, awnings and canopies, architectural details and landscaping.

This year, grant funding plus the private match totalled a reinvestment in the community of nearly \$228,000. Since the program started in 2014, 27 grants have been awarded, with a total reinvestment of more than \$439,000.

2015 FACADE IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

BUSINESS	PROJECT COST
D&E Printing	\$28,452
Executive Corner	\$3,894
Harshman & Hays Two LLC	\$13,436
Hometown Insurance	\$4,750
Jiffy Lube	\$35,103
K1ds Count	\$23,875
Northfield Commons	\$23,470
Rhoades Properties, Inc.	\$15,864
Storen Tax & Financial	\$51,708
Wilkinson Insurance	\$34,953



IMAGE IS KEY FACTOR IN ECONOMIC GROWTH

Over the past few years, the Town of Brownsburg has made a concerted effort to improve the community's appearance. We believe that image is a key factor in making our town an attractive location for potential residents and new businesses.

The installation of decorative street lights with fresh banner designs, wayfinding signs that identify key destinations, several landscaping projects, and façade improvement grants are all part of the effort to make visitors feel welcome and residents proud of our community.

The Town even worked with the state to secure new signs for Lucas Oil Raceway at the I-74/Ronald Reagan Parkway interchange to direct the thousands of racers and fans who visit the track each year.

The new Gateway landscape project at the I-74/N. Green Street interchange will provide a friendly gateway for visitors. It also includes a shelter house and trail for local pedestrian traffic. An elevated boardwalk along the north side of W. Northfield Drive to McNeese Way not only looks great, but makes walking to that area's retail shops and restaurants safer and easier.

This gateway will also offer a connection to the future White Lick Creek Greenway that will connect to Arbuckle Acres Park and ultimately to Williams Park on the south and then connect to neighbors north of I-74 with the final phase of the project.

MORE NATIONAL PRAISE FOR BROWNSBURG

We know that Brownsburg is a great place to live and do business, but several national organizations have taken note over the past couple of years.

Accolades about the community's safety and overall quality of life continued to roll in this year.

ValuePenguin consumer website ranks Brownsburg in the top 10 safest places to live in Indiana, based on FBI crime statistics. The town was listed seventh among those with a population greater than 20,000.

Brownsburg also made The Safewise Report's list of safest Indiana cities. The home security and safety advice website also analyzes FBI crime data, comparing the number of violent and property crimes. At 19th on the list, Brownsburg's overall crime is 40 percent less than the national average and violent crime is 60 percent less.

The HomeSnacks infotainment site recognized Brownsburg's quality of life, calling our hometown the fifth best place to live in the Hoosier state, based on criteria including unemployment rate, home prices, incomes and crime data.

Niche Local ranked Brownsburg fifth among the best Indiana suburbs to raise a family, based on demographics, school ratings, crime rates, and access to affordable housing, child care, libraries, and grocery stores. A high ranking indicates that a suburb attracts young families with good schools and a safe community.



BROWNSBURG FIRE TERRITORY AT THE READY



The demand for fire, EMS, and rescue services in our community continues to trend higher each year. Brownsburg Fire Territory firefighters and paramedics responded to 3,591 calls for service in 2015 as compared to 3,522 calls in 2014. About 70 percent of calls are for emergency medical services (EMS) and the remainder is fire-related.

Each call for help represents someone from our community experiencing an unexpected, and most times unfortunate, incident. BFT firefighters and paramedics understand the pain and loss that is often associated with an incident that requires our services. With that, our personnel strive to provide the utmost compassion, empathy and support necessary to all those with emergency situations each and every day.

The Brownsburg Fire Territory also provides safety education for territory and Hendricks County residents. Education programs include Emergency Medical Technician-Basic Classes, CPR, Safe Sitter Classes, Fire Safety, Bike Safety, and Child Passenger Safety.

The BFT also partners with other county fire departments to provide emergency coverage and services to a variety of community events annually.

Providing superior services requires visionary leadership, commitment and effective governance. It requires a "community first" approach from all employees to achieve maximum service performance.

BFT is proud to report that its fire department personnel continue to be cutting edge with each activity, project and program that the fire service can provide. Innovation coupled with a "community first" platform ensures the best fire, EMS and rescue services to the fire territory.

3,591 BFT emergency calls in 2015

70% medical calls, rescue, motor vehicle accidents & public assistance

30% fire-related responses: structural fires, odor of smoke, trash & illegal burning, and false alarms





POLICE DEPARTMENT ADDS EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL TO PROTECT RESIDENTS



The Brownsburg Police Department employs 42 full-time and 11 reserve officers. As Brownsburg continues to expand with additional businesses and new multi-family residential construction, the department again found itself assessing its readiness in terms of manpower.

During the 2016 budget planning, it was determined that the department would hire three more officers allowing the department to grow along with the town in order to meet the needs of our citizens and continue to provide the level of service it has always provided.

2015 was the third year BPD provided security and crowd control at the NHRA U.S. Nationals at Lucas Oil Raceway as a part of an agreement approved in 2011. The department utilized its new Mobile Command Center, which provided some needed autonomy from the track and supplied additional resources for the incident command function and assigned officers. The converted recreational vehicle was a welcome addition to operations at the track as well as other events during the year.

Also new to the department in 2015 was the addition of an Armored Personnel Carrier. As critical incidents, such as mass shootings, across the nation increase so must our preparedness level. The armored vehicle is another tool for response that increases the department's protection abilities.

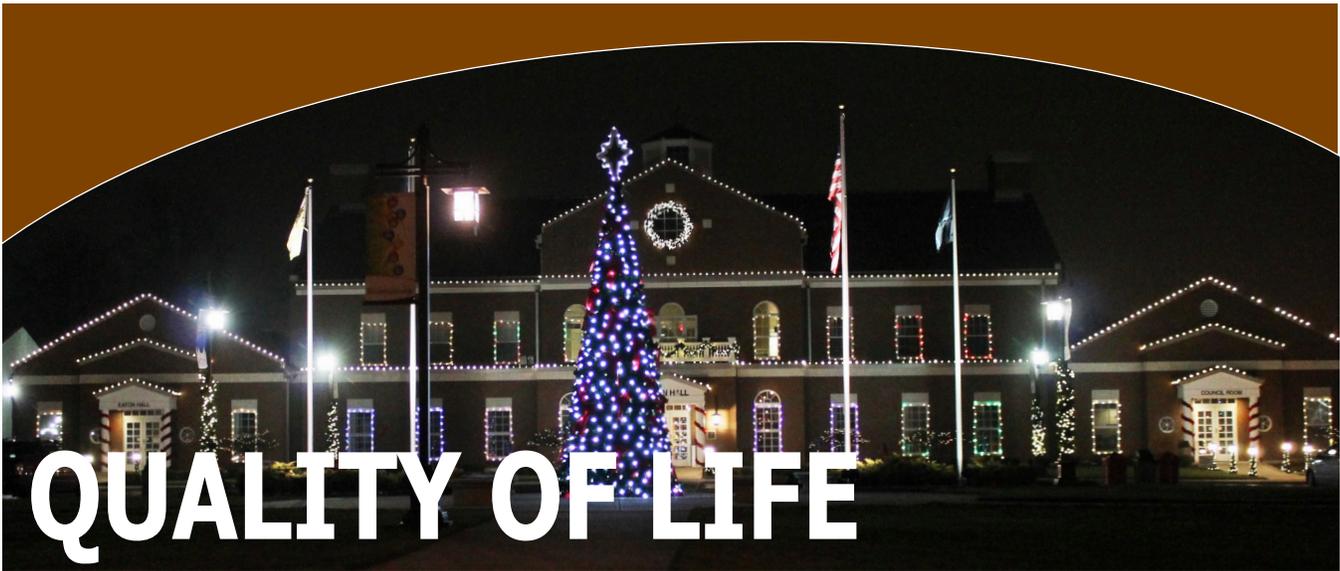
The apparatus is assigned to the Emergency Response Team which is trained on its use for tactical operations. While the vehicle may not be used on a regular basis, the protection it will offer when it is used will be invaluable.

Once again our town ranked in the top ten of safest places in Indiana. Information used by analysts to establish these rankings comes from the FBI Crime Report. Brownsburg came in at number 7 among cities with a population greater than 20,000.

On the particular list published in July, ours was the only town located in Hendricks County. Brownsburg officers continue to perform good work, proactively and responsively, and demonstrate their commitment to the protection of this community.

Routinely, crime trends support an overall low-crime community and 2015 proved consistent.





TRANSPORTATION PLAN PUTS EMPHASIS ON WALKABILITY

We know that Brownsburg is attractive to new residents for its quality of life – its small town character, great schools and safe neighborhoods. Another big factor in what makes a community a great place to live is walkability.

More than 80 percent of respondents in a community survey said additional pedestrian and biking facilities are of high importance, and more than 90 percent would bike and walk more if facilities were closer to their homes. Development of more trails and greenways not only increases recreational opportunities, but better connects neighborhoods to destinations with a safer walking and biking environment.

The Town has several trail projects planned or underway. The new 4.3-mile Northfield Drive trail connects US 136 from east to west and links up Creekside Commons, Northridge, Austin Meadows and Summer Ridge. Residents can safely access the commercial nodes at Northfield Drive and N. Green Street as well as at E. US 136 and E. Northfield Drive.

The N. Green Street/I-74 interchange gateway will be a trailhead for a path under the interstate for access to the Brownsburg Point, Whittington Estates, and Green Street Village neighborhoods.

BROWNSBURG PARKS WINS STATE AWARDS



Brownsburg Parks received not one, but TWO awards from the Indiana Parks and Recreation Association for demonstrating excellence in its services in 2015!

The “Excellence in Resource Improvement” award describes an agency that has gone from “good to great” over time. Brownsburg Parks has proven over time that our business operations are an indispensable part of Brownsburg. We have expanded our services to reach three record breaking years in revenue, addressing the unmet needs of residents without overburdening the property tax budget.

The “Innovative Program” award describes an agency that introduces new ideas or methods within their community. The Before and After School Enrichment (B.A.S.E.) program serves Brownsburg Schools students with daily physical activity, academic assistance, and enrichment opportunities. We strive to make safety the number one priority, deliver valuable benefits to participants, and respond to the needs of participants, parents and the School Corporation.

It was with great pride that Brownsburg Parks accepted these awards. Our commitment is to provide the best services for our community and consistently improve the quality of life for our residents and employees.

DYK? Brownsburg Parks maintains over \$13 million in Town assets! 245 acres of park land, 15 shelters, 4 playgrounds, the Watermill splash pad, and 8+ miles of trails.



FIRST RESIDENT ACADEMY CLASS GRADUATES

The first class of 33 residents participated in the Town of Brownsburg’s new Resident Academy. Designed to help residents better understand municipal operations and how services are delivered, the six-session program provided a mix of instruction and hands-on interaction with Town departments.

Participants learned about the Town’s budget process, its limitations, and how their tax dollars are used to deliver municipal services and programs — from administration and parks to public works and public safety.

Sessions met in various Town facilities for tours and an up-close view of day-to-day responsibilities and operations. They covered specific topics such as boards and commissions, the zoning and planning process, economic development, parks programs and developments, and neighborhood watch.

COMMUNITY ENGAGES VIA SOCIAL MEDIA AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Town continues to make government transparency a priority. In 2015, more residents than ever took advantage of the variety of ways we work to keep you informed. Attendance was consistent at public meetings like Town Council and the bi-monthly Town Hall meetings. Hundreds more watched live or archived video on the Town website.

Residents are relying more on social media and e-newsletters. The Town’s Facebook and Twitter

accounts have each gained more than 1,000 followers since the end of 2014. Both see a high number of likes, shares and clicks to the website. The email program has grown to nearly 2,500 subscribers. The Town sent more than 52,000 emails in 2015 with nearly 5 percent of recipients clicking through to the website, on average.

We’ll continue to print the bi-annual newsletter mailed to more than 15,000 households and use traditional media like local community affairs programming to help keep you informed.

The Town Hall Green was the site for many community events. The Brownsburg Farmers Market presented by IU Health West Hospital brings fresh produce, artisan baked goods, and handcrafts to local shoppers all summer. For the third year, the market was voted as the “Best in Hendricks County.”

The Town partnered with Lucas Oil Raceway and the NHRA to host the Rev Rally and the Big Go Block Party fan fests to celebrate Brownsburg’s motorsports industry. Brownsburg Parks hosted its Summer Concert Series and partnered with the Town on the Halloween-themed 3rd Annual Pumpkin Smash Bash. And, Christmas Under the Stars always brings crowds of families to downtown Brownsburg to enjoy the parade, tree lighting ceremony, and holiday entertainment.

The Town hosted Municipal Government Day for the Summer Lunch Bunch, sponsored a community blood drive, and put on the annual “Let’s Give” food drive, where more than 2,700 nonperishable food items were collected to help Messiah Lutheran Church stock its food pantry shelves for the holidays.





2015 TOWN OF BROWNSBURG BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Advisory Plan Commission:

Charles Bischoff, Eric Cottongim, John (JD) Nesbitt, Glenn Nulty, Brett Scowden, Jack Swalley, Chris Worley

Board of Zoning Appeals:

Mike Arnould, Charles Bischoff, Tom Lacey, Brett Scowden, Bronson Troyer

Redevelopment Authority:

Michael Dowden, James Risk, Travis Tschaenn

Economic Development Commission:

Derek Clinton, Joe Dunbar, Jason Gibson

Redevelopment Commission:

Matt Browning, Dennis Dawes, Richard Holmes, Rob Kendall, Joy Vrabec

Park Board:

Lindsey Jackson, Michael Klitzing, Scott Lattimer, Jennifer T. Morris, Cari Palma, Phil Utterback

Police Commission:

Allan Bolante, Stan Comer, Ray Kotarski, Terry Smith, Don Spencer

TOWN ADMINISTRATION & DEPARTMENT HEADS

Grant A. Kleinhenz, Town Manager

 @BrownsburgTM

Jeanette Brickler, Clerk-Treasurer

Todd Barker, Development Services Director

Mike Good, Water Superintendent

Phil Parnin, Parks Director

Claudine Sutton, Human Resource Manager

Annisa Rainey, Communications Manager/Grant Writer

Brian Hartsell, Assistant Town Manager

 @Brownsburg_ATM

Jim Waggoner, Street Superintendent

Jack Swalley, Building Commissioner

Kathy Dillon, Wastewater Superintendent

Chris Keers, Fleet Maintenance Superintendent

Debbie Bernhardt, Utility Office Manager

Steve Chambers, Purchasing Manager



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www.brownsburg.org

Connect with us!



Town of Brownsburg



@BrownsburgIN