

TOWN OF
Brownsburg

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Town of Brownsburg
61 N. Green Street
Brownsburg, IN 46112
317-852-1120
www.brownsburg.org



OUR VISION AND LEADERSHIP

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.



Sean Benham
2018
Town Council
President

Ward 5 Representative
Term: 2015-18



Brian Jessen
2018
Town Council
Vice-President

Ward 3 Representative
Term: 2016-19



Ashley Bacsu
Member

Ward 4 Representative
Term: 2016-19



Dennis Dawes
Member

Ward 1 Representative
Term: 2015-18



Chris Worley
Member

Ward 2 Representative
Term: 2016-19



Ann Hathaway
Clerk-Treasurer



Brian Hartsell
Interim
Town Manager



Relationship of tax rate and assessed value

When assessed value increases, the tax rate goes down. The 2018 AV grew about four percent to more than \$1.32 billion from \$1.27 billion in 2017. That equates to a 43 percent increase in AV since 2012 when it was just \$904 million.



Town of Brownsburg tax rate continues to decline

Property owners saw the 2018 tax rate decrease to .9393 from .9404 for 2017. It was the sixth consecutive year the Town tax rate was lowered. To compare, the rate in 2012 was 1.1498.



Where your property tax dollars go

Approximately 22 percent of a homeowner's property tax is paid to the Town of Brownsburg. The remaining 78 percent is distributed to other agencies such as the fire territory, county, library, township and school district.

Town Council adopted a 2018 budget of \$51.6M across more than 25 funds. The budget increased more than 5 percent from the previous year, primarily due to capital projects, downtown redevelopment economic development agreements and GO bond debt service. Property tax payers saw a rate decrease of more than 1.5 percent. It was the sixth year in a row the municipality has lowered the rate.

The portion of the budget derived by property tax revenue includes the General Fund, Motor Vehicle Highway Fund, Building Debt Fund, Cumulative Capital Development

Fund and General Obligation Bond Funds. The primary budget funds are the General, Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Funds. The General Fund is a balanced budget, with expenses matching projected revenues, particularly for recurring operational expenses.

Increases in operational expenses are generally proportionate to the Town's growth. From 2012 to 2018, the General Fund increased about 23 percent, with Brownsburg's population growing nearly 27 percent since the 2010 Census. Since 2012, the square mileage of the Town increased by about 7 percent.

DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT

Construction is nearly complete on the \$80 million N. Green Street redevelopment to create a pedestrian-friendly downtown with a mix of residential and retail options. Arbuckle Commons provides a new entry to the park. Two new parking garages and additional surface lots make it convenient for visitors.



THORNBURG PARKWAY & RTP TRAIL

The extension of Thornburg Parkway through the new Cardinal Park property to Hornaday Road was completed in October. A 1+ mile trail funded by the Recreation Trails Program increases walkability, connecting the B&O Trail south to Airport Road and to Bulldog Way on the north.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

The \$23 million wastewater treatment plant and sewer system improvements were put online in summer 2018. Expansion of the 30-year-old treatment plant helps the Town meet new IDEM requirements, improves daily operations and increases capacity for the Town's growth.



BROWNSBURG PARKS

Brownsburg Parks capped 2018 by completing Phase 1 of construction at Cardinal Park and with the purchase of 51 acres of land in the downtown area.

Among the current features of the 15-acre Cardinal Park is a parking lot that accommodates 50 vehicles, something visitors to the nearby B&O Trail welcome. Thornburg Parkway was extended to Hornaday Road using traffic calming measures including a curved road for safety. A new trail was installed that allows walkers or runners to safely travel from the B&O Trail to SR 136 via Bulldog Way. Funding for the park came from a variety of sources, including the Motor Vehicle Highway fund, a Recreational Trails Program grant, Park Impact Fees and funds from the Food and Beverage Tax.

The purchase of the former Tague property provides new options for outdoor recreation. Possible uses include youth sports fields, a playground, walking and biking trails and even a potential nature center. The community will have input as to the best uses for the site during a series of meetings in 2019.

2018 was a tremendous year for partnerships. Thanks to IU Health West Hospital and Duke Energy, the Williams Park Outdoor Classroom now features two pollinator gardens to lure butterflies, bees and birds. The two organizations teamed with the Brownsburg Public Library on a new Story Walk along the trail in Arbuckle Acres Park. Throughout the year, library staffers change the stories on display to give visitors a new book to experience.



Follow Brownsburg Parks social media @brownsburgparks or the Parks Buzz blog on www.brownsburgparks.com. Attend Park Board meetings on the third Thursday of each month (except November and December, when the Park Board meets on the second Wednesday) at 6:30 pm in the Town Hall Council Room.

BROWNSBURG POLICE

The Brownsburg Police Department is one of the best trained in the county and that knowledge is demonstrated during the response and investigation of crime scenes with results leading to suspect development, arrest and conviction. The department's experience and insight is often called upon to assist other local law enforcement agencies with major crimes investigations. As the community grows, so do the incidents of major crimes that continue to test BPD's preparedness level, skills and procedures.

The department is working to keep current with ever-changing technology. A new electronic arrest paperwork platform was designed by BPD staff with the Hendricks County Prosecutor's Office to reduce officer paperwork by eliminating charging affidavits and developing new forms to be used by the whole county. The department also transitioned to an entirely new computer-aided dispatch/mobile data product and a new scheduling and time-tracking program was adopted in 2018.

Once again the National Council for Home Safety and Security ranked Brownsburg in the top 10 safest Indiana cities based on information from the FBI Uniform Crime Report. The Town has done well in this ranking for the last several years, which is a testament to its law enforcement services, community policing and citizenry.



BROWNSBURG FIRE

Brownsburg Fire Territory recently earned a Class 1 Insurance Services Office (ISO) Accreditation. ISO ratings calculate how well-equipped fire departments are to put out fires in a community. This is a major honor, with BFT only the third fire department in Indiana and 349th countrywide to achieve the Class 1 rating. This puts Brownsburg Fire Territory in the top 1 percent of ISO certified fire departments in the nation.



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

The Town continues to place an emphasis on community engagement, which includes using the Town Hall Green as a gathering space for events. One of the most popular is the Brownsburg Farmers Market presented by IU Health West Hospital. Thousands enjoyed shopping for fresh produce, artisan baked goods and handcrafts through the summer months.

The new Family Fun Day presented by Hendricks Regional Health added fun and games to the annual Easter Egg Hunt and local kids kicked off summer in a big way at Friday Fest on the last day of school. The Town continued its partnership with Lucas Oil Raceway and the NHRA for the Big Go Block Party motorsports fanfest and Brownsburg Police hosted its annual Night Out Against Crime on the Green. The new Trunk-or-Treat at Town Hall was a great complement to the Haunted Police Station on Halloween.

Communication is key to keeping residents engaged. More and more, residents rely on the Town's social media pages and e-news for timely information. The Town continues to mail a bi-annual newsletter to more than 15,000 households and use fresh website content as well as traditional media outlets to help keep residents in the know.

2018 TOWN OFFICIALS, BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Advisory Plan Commission: Greg Anderson, Barry Francis, Ben Lacey, Claire Rutledge, Brett Scowden, Jack Swalley, Chris Worley

Board of Zoning Appeals: Mike Arnould, Maggie Clifton, David Emery, Claire Rutledge, Brett Scowden

Brownsburg Improvement Committee: Ben Lacey, Scott Lattimer, Robert McLaughlin, Jennifer Mulligan, Matt Simpson

Economic Development Commission: Michael Dowden, Joe Dunbar, Robert McLaughlin

Fire Territory Executive Board: Brian Jessen, Tom Kmetz, Don Peoples

Park Board: Lindsey Jackson, Judith Kenninger, Nick Mayes, Jennifer T. Morris, Cari Palma, Phil Utterback

Park Impact Fee Board: Ken McGee, Randall Hackworth, Scott Lattimer,

Police Commission: Dennis Dawes, Ray Kotarski, Terry Smith, Don Spencer, Paul Whalen

Redevelopment Authority: Jeff Ball, Julie Lacey, Keri Loy

Redevelopment Commission: Troy Austin, Matt Browning, Barry Gardner, Paul Logsdon, Matt Simpson, Travis Tschaenn

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