



SPLOST on November Ballot for Gwinnett, Lilburn

On Nov. 8, our residents will join other Gwinnett County voters in deciding whether to approve a 2023 SPLOST (the one-cent Special Local Option Sales Tax). If approved, the program could raise \$1.35 billion over the next six years, 23% of which would go to 16 cities, including Lilburn, which stands to receive \$20.8 million for our town. Collections would begin April 1, 2023.

Lilburn officials have said they would spend the allocation on transportation projects including street repaving, a new street and sidewalks connection between Main Street and Lawrenceville Highway, the expansion of Lilburn City Park, improvements to the Camp Creek Greenway trails and public safety projects including the replacement of obsolete vehicles and equipment.

Collections for the 2017 SPLOST end March 31, 2023. Of the \$13.4 million in 2017 SPLOST revenue allocated to Lilburn, \$12.9 million has been spent on capital improvements ranging from a new Police Headquarters and Municipal Court complex relocated to Lawrenceville Highway from Old Town, to a new playground in Lilburn City Park and many miles of local road repaving. The 2017 SPLOST provided critical resour-

ces to replace failing wooden bridges on our beloved Greenway Trails with PermaTrak bridges that will last for the next 100 years. These are just a few of the tremendous improve-

ments the 2017 SPLOST revenue made possible in Lilburn.

Be on the lookout for more SPLOST information on our website and Facebook page prior to the Nov. 8 vote.



Lilburn's distribution of the 2023 SPLOST

is projected to be **\$20,821,224** over six years.

Here's a spending breakdown:

\$1,873,910 (9%) for Public Safety Facilities and Equipment

- Continue our police vehicle replacement schedule of 2-4 vehicles per year
- Continue to replace vest carriers, ballistic vests, tasers, and radios on a routine schedule.

\$4,372,457 (21%) for Recreational Facilities and Equipment

- Expand Lilburn City Park to include an additional 20+ acres of property owned by the city
- Add an additional playground to Lilburn City Park
- Continue to replace vehicles and equipment assigned to recreation on a routine schedule.

\$14,574,857 (70%) for Transportation (roads, streets, bridges, and related facilities and equipment)

- Expand Railroad Avenue to connect to Terry Lane to provide another route for residents and visitors to access Old Town Lilburn from Lawrenceville Highway
- Construct new streetscape along Railroad Avenue, Terry Lane, and Pine Streets including sidewalks, streetlights, street trees, etc.
- Realign Hood Road with the entrance to Bryson Park, providing a new roundabout connecting to a realigned Lilburn School Road
- Continue to match state funding for our local street resurfacing program
- Continue to replace vehicles and equipment assigned to public works/transportation on a routine schedule.



Luna's Tale

Lilburn Police Corporal Mike Johnson shares a story about a displaced puppy who found her "Forever Home."

One Sunday, a story about a puppy in need of a Forever Home was posted on the City of Lilburn's Facebook page. I knew someone in Lilburn would be a "hero" and give her a home.

I started to receive emails from so many wonderful people wanting to help. In all, almost 20 people were willing to adopt this precious puppy. You all are so special to me. This is not an easy task. Taking on a pet is not a decision to be taken lightly. It can be time consuming, with new expenses like vet bills and food.

But there you all were, ready to give her a home.

I received emails from Wisconsin, Tennessee, South Carolina, South Georgia and just about everywhere in between. The stories in each email about losing a pet and what it would mean to raise this little puppy in their homes were very touching and hit me through the heart.

One person who expressed interest in getting the puppy hit me particularly hard. She was a Cobb County 911-dispatcher. I know the recent events that led to two Cobb County Deputies being killed has hit the Law Enforcement very hard throughout the country.

But there she was, ready to be a "hero."

Then, I was contacted by a nice lady in the Lilburn area. I immediately sensed her love for animals from the moment we spoke. She

explained that she rescued her beautiful little dog, "Hollie," when she was six weeks old. Someone left Hollie in her neighborhood and never came back, leaving her for dead without a care in the world. The lady tried to find the person who could do this and took little Hollie in, giving her all the loving care in the world. She never found that person; however, she raised Hollie to be the best dog in the world for her family.

This wonderful person has dog sat for a friend and this little dog became so attached to the other dog, she became heartbroken and depressed when the dog left. The lady said it was

time for Hollie to have another dog to have in her family but couldn't find the right one. She would wait at the dog shelters, one time even at 3 a.m., for what she thought was the one, just to be turned away with the dog already being adopted.

So, she prayed.

She knew the right pup would come along at the perfect time. She then saw our Lilburn puppy photo. A pet looking for a home. She knew this Little Lilburn pup was the one. This lady is a middle school teacher and has a loving home with three teenage boys and her husband of 23 years. She is full of life. She loves all living things.

But it was the way she talked about her little Hollie, and what she meant to her, that stood out the most.

We set up a meeting. The lady came out in her front yard. She went to her knees when she saw the puppy. She cried because she knew this puppy is what was missing in her family.

Then, "Puppy and Hollie" met for the first time. They stared at each other for a moment. Hollie gave her the nudge. They took off chasing each other throughout the house. The puppy then went out to the backyard where any dog would want to be. There are gardens, hills, and grass. She can run. It's a pet's paradise for sure. I knew this little puppy was finally home and where she was meant to be.

The new pet owner named her "Luna." She was named in reference to the 1993 children's classic, "Stellaluna," a book by Janell Cannon about



Please Give Of Your Time

a young fruit bat. Stellaluna becomes separated from her mother and finds her way to a nest of birds. She is adopted by them and learns bird-like behavior.

Our Luna had endured a hellish week. Found abandoned. With littermates and other babies in a hot, stinky cage. Left in the trash. But her little life had meaning. Something symbolic of Lilburn, of all the decency this community strives to represent.

So, I had to save her, then figure out the rest later.

We can celebrate a happy ending after all. The other two displaced puppies are doing great in their new homes with two LPD officers. They have fit right in and enjoy their new life! The other 10 newborn puppies are with a rescue group and are being cared for until they can be adopted.

As for Luna, well, she has hit the doggy jackpot! She has a loving family now and a sister to play with non-stop for the rest of her days.

The older I get, the more I realize how little I have figured out. When the Good Lord sends us cues, we need to stop. Pause. Listen. And do it more often. See, all this time I was trying to find the right person for this little puppy.

And all this time, the Good Lord was finding Luna for Hollie.

And all this time, Hollie would find Luna.

Sometimes we have to get out of the way. Let Him do his work.

Thank you, Lilburn! You are my heroes!

Thank you to everyone who wanted to make Luna's new life possible!

And be a hero.

My route to city governance was based on my being willing to take several next steps toward being educated and gaining experience.

I was encouraged by a fellow elder at church to participate in Gwinnett Senior Leadership, which I did for eight months ending in 2000, followed by nine years of chairing various program days.

During this time, I met a sitting Lilburn City

Council member who asked me to be his appointee to the Planning Commission. After I had been on that board for two years, a Lilburn Council member decided to run for Mayor. I ran for that Council Post position and was elected.

Twelve years later, the Mayor resigned to run for the State House. I qualified for and was elected to that seat, taking the oath in March 2020.

Would your route to being an elected official follow this timeline? Not likely, because you are uniquely you. So, what is your next step?

It could be the step of being fully involved in whatever community organization you find that fits your talents.

- Give of your time and make connections that will lead to other opportunities.
- Subscribe to city informational emails to keep abreast of happenings and opportunities.
- Attend City Council work sessions and public meetings. Both are open to the public. Stay afterwards to engage elected officials and staff with any questions. These meetings are scheduled for the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. (Work Session) and 7:30 p.m. (City Council).

Your imagination and initiative are key to creating a path for yourself.

Make yourself known in the community and watch for next steps.

— Mayor Tim Dunn



Simpkins Honored As A Moxie Finalist

City Manager Jenny Simpkins was a finalist for this year's "Influence Award," a Gwinnett Chamber recognition for a female who is recognized as a leader and trailblazer in her field. Although Simpkins didn't win the recognition, our Mayor and City Council know that she embodies all that this award, and leadership in general, should entail. Congratulations to Simpkins!



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Garbage & Recycling	770-279-3703
Business Services.....	770-921-2210
Business Licensing	
Permitting & Inspections	
Pavilion Rental	
Police Department	770-921-2211
Code Enforcement	
Police	
Planning.....	770-921-2210
Development Plan Review	
Zoning	
Stormwater	

OTHER CONTACTS

Gwinnett County Government	770-822-8000
Animal Welfare	770-339-3200
Fire Department	678-518-4800
Library.....	770-978-5154
Parks and Recreation.....	770-822-8840
Taxes – Motor Vehicle.....	770-822-8818
Water Resources	678-376-6700
Voter Registration and Elections....	678-226-7210
Gwinnett County Public Schools	678-301-6000
Georgia Dept. of Driver Services	678-413-8400

COVID-19 RESOURCES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: cdc.gov	800-232-4636
Georgia Department of Public Health: dph.georgia.gov	404-657-2700
Gwinnett, Newton, and Rockdale County Health Department: gnrhealth.com	770-339-4260

For additional information, www.coronavirus.gov



340 Main Street
Lilburn, Georgia 30047

Hours: 8:30 am to 5 pm
Monday through Friday

770-921-2210 City Hall
770-921-2211 Police



cityoflilburn.com

Tim Dunn **Mayor** • S. Scott Batterton **Mayor Pro-Tem** • Emil Powella **City Council** • Yoon-Mi Hampton **City Council** • Michael Hart **City Council**

LPD Offers Safety Tips At Area Schools

Recently, Lilburn Police Department officers paid visits to area schools to educate students about safety tips and their roles as First Responders. The photos were taken at Killian Hill Christian School, the City of Knowledge Islamic School and Lilburn First Baptist Preschool. The officers are Cpl. Mike Johnson, the LPD Community Engagement Coordinator, and Officer Keanna Trice.

