

# Gilbert

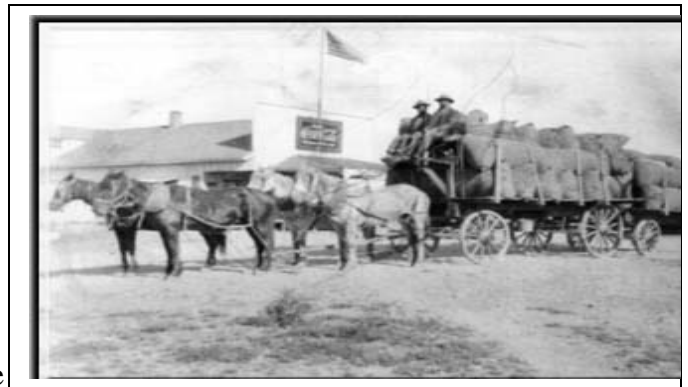
Gilbert is a young, affluent community in central Arizona. Incorporated on July 6, 1920, Gilbert is a relatively new community that has seen tremendous growth during the past two decades.

In 1902, the Arizona Eastern Railway asked for donations of right of way in order to establish a rail line between Phoenix and Florence. A rail siding was established on property owned by William "Bobby" Gilbert. The siding, and the town that sprung up around it, eventually became known as Gilbert. Gilbert was a prime farming community, fueled by the construction of the Roosevelt Dam and the Eastern and Consolidated Canals in 1911. It remained an agriculture town for many years, and was known as the "Hay Capital of the World" until the late 1920s. Gilbert began to take its current shape during the 1970s when the Town Council approved a strip annexation that encompassed 53 square miles of county land. Although the population was only 1,971 in 1970 the Council realized that Gilbert would eventually grow and develop much like the neighboring communities of Tempe, Mesa, and Chandler. This proved to be a farsighted decision as Gilbert positioned itself for growth in the 1980s and beyond.

Gilbert has experienced a rapid transition from a historically agriculture-based community to an urban center and suburb in the Phoenix Metropolitan Area. In the last two decades, Gilbert has grown at a pace unparalleled by most communities in the United States, increasing in population from 5,717 in 1980 to over 215,000 in April 2009. As Gilbert has grown, the community has recognized the need to develop a strong, diverse economy while preserving its highly desirable quality of life. To proactively direct the growth and development of the community, the Town Council adopted the General Plan 2001 on July 10, 2001, which revised existing elements, added those required under Arizona "Growing Smarter" legislation, and incorporated new land use and economic growth considerations.

Gilbert is continuously planning for the future in order to meet the needs of tomorrow. As Gilbert continues to grow so does its commitment to providing residents, businesses and employees with the best possible services, programs and accommodations. Several new projects, recently completed or currently under construction, demonstrate this commitment. These include the Polar Ice skating facility, Big League Dreams baseball facility, and Gilbert's continued investment in the Heritage District.

From world-class research to translating discoveries into personalized medicine or devices that save lives, the collection of intellectual talent, state-of-the-art facilities and public-private partnerships accelerates next-generation solutions in the life sciences



environment in Gilbert, Arizona. With the goal of becoming a Preferred Environment for healthcare-related companies such as oncology, stem cell research and storage, neurological and cardiovascular sciences, alternative medicine, research and development, and medical diagnostic devices and equipment, Gilbert's job-based attraction strategy within the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) focus is essential in creating a competitive advantage.



Maricopa County is recognized as the eighth largest aerospace market in the nation. And while Arizona is noted as the fifth largest provider in the United States for aerospace employment, approximately 70% of the Phoenix metropolitan area's science and engineering workforce feeding this industry sector is within a 45-minute commute to Gilbert, Arizona. Lockheed Martin, General Dynamics Advanced Information Systems, and Western Air International all have a strong presence in Gilbert.

On the fun side, Gilbert has been as excited and aggressive about recreation as with industry. Mostly because of the recent population explosion, many venues for leisure activities are newer with modern and up to date amenities. Popular on the list are the Gilbert Historical Museum, The Hale Theater, Senior Center, Community Center, Parks, and the Gilbert Fine Arts Association. Not surprising, a very recent addition to the popular list is the Cosmo Dog Park which features approximately 4 fenced acres, area lighting for night use, pet drinking fountains & wash stations, separate use areas for active and timid dogs, Ramada, tables and benches, plus a large swimming pond!



One powerful reason families settle in Gilbert is the schools. Our twenty-six elementary schools accommodate grades kindergarten through sixth. Seventh and eighth-grade students attend one of our six junior high schools, and students in ninth through twelfth grades attend Desert Ridge High School, Gilbert High School, Highland High School, Mesquite High School, the GPS Technology and Leadership Academy, or the Gilbert Classical Academy. Also available is the Gilbert Learning Center. Our current enrollment is over 35,000, and this represents a tremendous growth in the past few years. The District helps lead the State in academic scores as well as in a variety of extracurricular programs, including athletics and the fine arts. Emphasis is placed on the basic skills: math, reading, writing, language, science, and social studies. Physical education, computer instruction, art, music, and extracurricular activities comprise the balance of the educational programs.



It's a good life in Gilbert!

**Contact Frank for more details.**

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