



CITY OF EAST JORDAN, MICHIGAN

## STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

MAYOR RUSSELL PECK  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2016

### To the Great Citizens of the City of East Jordan...

I am very humbled and honored to have had the opportunity to serve as your Mayor this past year. It has also been an honor to have served with a great team of City Commissioners, City Administrator, a professional City staff, very knowledgeable members of our boards and commissions, and countless volunteers, it's a team that makes East Jordan a better place in which to live, work and recreate.

The state of your Great City is quite healthy and progressive! You are a Community that listens, thinks, and works together creating and updating City plans to insure a more vibrant, and resilient future and I look forward to that future, for East Jordan.

I am pleased, that with much careful consideration by the City Staff and Commissioners, we are able to present a balanced budget for 2016-2017. I am also proud to report that the DDA became debt free with final payoff of loans to the City and they are looking forward to new projects to enhance the downtown area.

The Master Plan has been completed and adopted, Way-finding signage is under way & moving on to the third stage, the recycling facility is in operation thanks to the collaborative efforts of Charlevoix County, Charlevoix County Community Foundation and the City of East Jordan. The E.J. DDA has a 2 day a week Coordinator – Amanda Baker – through a collaborative between the NLEA, City of Elk Rapids and City of East Jordan and has been a very nice fit for all involved.

Technology improvements have made some very needed changes to enable City Staff to be more efficient, such as Automatic Water Metering and switching to monthly billing creating cost savings and improved cash flow for the water Department. Cemetery Software, providing mapping, digital database for improved customer service and staff productivity. Merit High Speed Internet providing Wi-fi in downtown, coordinated by the DDA and has enhanced downtown popularity as people are outside and walking more.

The Parks Department procured outdoor movie equipment through a Charlevoix County Parks Millage grant and weekly movies were shown in August. They also produced another successful Fall Festival. Obtained a Recreation Passport grant to provide a Community Park Ice Skating Rink starting this winter (weather permitting). In the planning stage for Parks is a feasibility study for a Boat Launch move and a new Recreation Plan for the City. Other notable happenings for the Parks Department were Basketball court resurfacing, new asphalt around bleachers and concessions building at Community Park, Memorial Day Boat Rides for Veterans and a Glamping weekend for the Ladies, showing positive increases in event planning throughout the community.

Infrastructure improvements completed, include Safe Routes to School, a \$390,000 MDOT grant combined with city road funds paved fourth street, several intersections, miles of sidewalks, in addition to storm water improvements, crosswalks, signage and all was completed by the first day of school. City paving of, Williams and Erie Streets, numerous road improvements on Main, Nichols and Fifth streets adding more curb appeal investments in these areas. Improvements in progress, MDOT resurfacing of M-32 & M-66 and improvements to come will be in this coming Spring with the groundbreaking of the USDA Granted Wastewater treatment plant.

I want to thank EJPD, E.J. Fire Department and Jordan Valley EMS for doing what they do best and that is protecting the lives of the East Jordan and surrounding area citizens.

I also want to mention the many noticeable improvements, updates and trainings that are adding to the professionalism of E.J.P.D. Great job, Chief McDonnell and Officers!

In conclusion, I just want to say - This year has come and gone so fast it is hard to believe so much has been done, changes are being seen every day like, new buildings, new business, new owners/old business, new uniforms, new vehicles, new street sweeper, newer efficient lights, new carpet, new paint and many new attitudes. Positive progress is truly being seen and we are on our way to being poised for the future, thanks to the involvement of Citizens, Business, DDA, Planning & Zoning and Community Leaders. I thank you for providing me the opportunity to present this 2016 State of your City and I look forward as together we continue to position our great community for a progressive, resilient and sustainable future.

Thank you.



Mayor Russell Peck