



CITY OF EAST JORDAN, MICHIGAN
STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

MAYOR RUSSELL PECK
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2018

To the Great Citizens of the City of East Jordan and Commissioners....

Each year in October, the City Charter requires the Mayor to prepare a “State of the City” address to the City Commission and the community. Serving as your chief elected official this past year has been both exciting and rewarding. I am humbled and honored to have had this opportunity. I am proud of the efforts of our City Commission, our professional staff, the members of our boards and commissions, and the countless volunteers who have served this community over the past year. Together we have worked toward making East Jordan a better place in which to live, work and recreate.

The outlook for our Great City is stable and progressive with forward momentum. I am very optimistic about the future of our community and this optimism blossoms not only from the hard choices we have made this past year, but also from the exciting new directions we foresee in the coming years.

1.Infrastructure: In this City a new time has begun with utilities and infrastructure improvements. Between well #2 being reconstructed a few years ago, converting to radio read metering, moving to monthly billing and the building of the new waste-water treatment plant, the City has made great strides

in efficiency and improvement to the water and wastewater departments. A SAW grant provided an asset management plan for the City's sewer and storm sewer infrastructure that will enable proper planning and upgrades for future development and maintenance.

Also, the City is working on a two - million - dollar grant with the MEDC that will provide for substantial improvements to utilities and street infrastructure. This project will include replacement of the Buzzle Street water tower, plus water, sewer and storm sewer replacement to five sections of the City.

2. Fiscal Responsibility: Over recent years, the City Staff and City Commission have worked diligently putting budget balancing and fund balance growth a priority. Through efficiency improvements, proper planning and goal setting sessions, our team continues to build our City's economic health both financially and structurally.

3. Public Safety : Police Department continues to put security and equipment upgrades a priority and have received a Federal grant toward the purchase of a new vehicle which now accounts for three vehicles placed into service in the last four years with no debt service remaining. Professional uniform improvements as well as grant funded equipment is allowing the department to keep up with current police enforcement changes. Also, the Chief has given me his assurance he will proceed in becoming a member of the Michigan Chiefs of Police Association which will aide in a more professional Department and also provides some cost savings to the City.

The Fire Department has been quite active with their run volume up over 50 calls this past year due to the number of storms we have had. They have received a safety grant from the Community Foundation for the purchase of safety vests, traffic wands, traffic signs and traffic cones which have greatly increased their safety while performing their duty in the roadways.

There are currently 22 Firefighter's, which is the largest number of Firefighter's ever in all of the Chief's 36 years on the department. They have recently added to their water rescue equipment with the purchase of 2 Kayaks to aide in search and rescue. Having responded to 3 different incidents this summer on the Jordan River for injured or lost persons this purchase will make for a more efficient rescue.

4. Placemaking and Quality of Life Improvements: The City Commission has embraced the concept of "placemaking" and the enrichment it can bring to our community's "quality of life." Placemaking involves identifying spaces that need improvement, assessing their current condition, visioning the future condition, and developing action plans to transform public spaces into great places.

Pickle Ball Courts have been created with donations and lots of enthusiasm.

(Which adds to recreational activities to bring people to East Jordan)

A new Boat Launch will break ground in the Spring thanks to a Michigan DNR Grant. This new launch will create a reliable and efficient site for multiple size vessels.

The Harbor and Tourist Park saw record numbers at both facilities this year. A major boost to our local economy and brings 4 to 5,000 tourists to East Jordan in the Summer.

We have a variety of events and Festivals which improve each year and are putting East Jordan on the map for Regional attractions. (Freedom Festival, Music in the Park, Movies in the Park, South Arm Classics, Sweaty Yeti, R3 Triathlon and Fall Fest which were highly successful, this year.

Bike lane stripping over the bridge and soon to be placed Bike racks will add to the attraction of East Jordan for those looking for a safe place to Bike as biking is becoming a popular mode of transportation.

5.Planning for our Community's future: The City will begin a new Master Plan process in 2019. With significant changes and positive energy taking place, it is imperative to begin this process to help determine futures of City redevelopment property as well as EJ properties.

6.Economic Strengths: Will be achieved by pursuing Redevelopment Ready Community certification. Identifying City owned properties which will help jumpstart development. Creating Commercial Redevelopment District. Green Light East Jordan promoting Business recruitment and new businesses and redevelopments opening throughout the Community.

Conclusion: Overall, this past year has seen much progress in developing the kind of community we envision for both current and future generations. There is positive, upbeat energy that is beginning to drive new community efforts, projects and relationships. We are working more cooperatively with our neighboring communities, and looking to

improve on both efficiency and effectiveness with each new idea, proposal or project. All in all, things are looking up, and we are headed in the right directions.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this 2018 State of Our City. Together we will position our community for a resilient and sustainable future. Indeed, East Jordan's future is looking quite bright.