



STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

MAYOR - RUSSELL A. PECK
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2019

To the Great Community of East Jordan and Commissioners:

In October each year the City Charter requires the Mayor to prepare a “State of the City” address to the City Commission and the Community. Serving as your Mayor this past year has been very rewarding and I am so honored to have had this opportunity. The efforts of your City Commission, your professional staff, the members of your boards and commissions, and the countless Community volunteers, who have served this community over this past year, have tirelessly worked together toward making East Jordan a better place in which to live, work and enjoy the natural beauty of East Jordan!

Our Great Community has seen a huge amount of progress this past year and much more is in the future continuing to push the momentum forward. There is a great sense of optimism for the future of our community and this optimism blossoms not only from the positive choices we have made this past year, but also from the Community working together.

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. In the past 5 years East Jordan has had capital improvement plans funded and constructed, that shows momentum is moving in the right direction. The projects total over 8.7 million dollars of which 6.4 million was grant supported and most of these projects I will include in this address.

East Jordan has been rather aggressive with utilities and infrastructure improvements. The City is in the process of finishing a water project that replaces a 110 year old structure with a new structure which has an increased capacity of 75,000 gallons. The project also included sewer replacement with storm sewer being added to include a total of 12 City blocks, within 5 streets.

In its finishing stages is a New Boat Launch facility that was 50% funded through the Michigan DNR/Waterways commission. A more efficient launching facility design that will accommodate a wider range of vessels.

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. Through collaboration of the Charlevoix County Community Foundation, Charlevoix County Parks millage, East Jordan Rotary and the City of East Jordan, new amenities such as batting cages, bleachers (at Murphy Field), drinking fountains and completed Pickle Ball courts this year have added to recreational activities and facilities.

At this time our City (led by the DDA) and with the aid of the MEDC, is aggressively preparing for a 2.2 million dollar grant for “The Joining Jordan Bridge” project (a pedestrian bridge on the North side of the highway bridge).

Tourist Park got back on track for a great summer season after a slow month of June due to high water levels. Marina was at capacity for the year and will be back next year with a waiting list. There will be lots of Park, Recreation & Marina planning taking place for the 2020 Summer Season.

The City began a new Master Plan process in 2019. With significant changes and positive energy taking place it is imperative that we have restarted this process to help determine the future of City redevelopment property as well as EJ properties.

East Jordan continues efforts to get closer to Redevelopment Ready Community certification. With creation of the Commercial Redevelopment District, we have identified City owned properties that can help jumpstart development. Plus, Green Light East Jordan is promoting business recruitment and new businesses and redevelopments continue to open throughout the Community.

Police Department continues to move ahead with the difficult process of becoming members of the Michigan Chiefs of Police Association making EJPD a more professional, more efficient and respected Department.

Fire Department is now at 23 members who are doing national trainings as well as keeping their Department well trained and professional.

Also adding to our safety is the DPW Crew, thank you for everything you do!

A big thank you, to all of you, for keeping us safe, saving our lives, aiding our community members and visitors, taking care of our Community, protecting us from the bad guys, protecting us from bad weather and making the place a bit cleaner, plus so much more. Again, Thank you!

In conclusion: Overall, this past year East Jordan has seen much progress towards developing the kind of community we envision for both current and future generations. East Jordan continues to be positive with upbeat enthusiasm that continues to drive community efforts, projects and relationships. We continue to work closely with our neighboring communities, continue to improve on both efficiency and effectiveness with every new idea, proposal or project. We are moving toward the resilient Community we have all envisioned for the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this 2019 State of Our City. Together we will position our community for a resilient and sustainable future. The state of your Community is looking quite exciting. I'm excited, how about you?