



## STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

MAYOR- RUSSELL A. PECK  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2020

### **To the Great Community of East Jordan and Commissioners:**

First, I want to say it is an honor to have served with a very talented group of City Commissioners. Second, I have been amazed at the direction and leadership of Administrator Cannon and the professionalism of all city departments. Third, I would also like to say thank you for all the service given by the members of the boards, commissions and volunteers. It has been an honor for me to serve as your Mayor over the past year and looking back on the thought, work and efforts put forward by this Community during this year of the Covid-19 Pandemic has given me an immense amount of pride and a continued sense of knowing that the people who are East Jordan, will always work together toward making East Jordan a better place to work, live, and enjoy this naturally Pure Michigan City!

It is the requirement the City Charter to report on the State of our great City and my fellow citizens I can say this Community is responding well even with all the challenges that COVID-19 has set in our way, we are staying resilient. We have received and welcomed CARES Act short term assistance with the loss of state revenue, but long- term sustainability will remain a focus for our community.

East Jordan should be proud of the accomplishments of recent years in private development, which are a result of good city planning and investment into the city. Consistent planning and capital improvements of the infrastructure is critical for our

future and the city is very thankful to agencies such as MEDC and USDA for making this happen. Projects such as the Sewer Facility, replacement of the 110-year-old water facility on Buzzell Street (that included replacement of storm sewer & street improvements that included 12 city blocks within 5 streets), a new Boat Launch facility are great examples.

As I have touched on in past State of the City Addresses, East Jordan has embraced the idea of "Placemaking" and the enrichment it can bring to our community's "quality of life" - Joining Jordan is far more than a beautiful walkway. A beautiful Placemaking development that will attract private development of the western corridor of Bridge Street and Water Street and create a safer walking access to both sides of the river and lake. This project should open to the public by the beginning of summer 2021.

The Harbor (despite COVID-19) had a record setting year for seasonal boaters and fuel dock business. Looks like East Jordan is becoming a more popular destination for boaters so the City can continue to focus on capital improvements for the entire facility.

The Parks and Recreation Department continued to struggle with Mother Nature and were proud to maintain a campground that was less in space but visitors still showed that desire to be in East Jordan had not been lost. Don't forget Rob - "It's not nice to fool Mother Nature!" The Softball field also known as Loveday Field is looking better every day.

The Public Works Department continues to do so much with very trimmed Act 51 funds. The crew continues to persevere by tackling small infrastructure projects that build on efficiency and long- term sustainability.

The Fire Department added water rescue operations which have been critical for Charlevoix County as a whole. Both river and lake rescues have increased substantially this year and dedication and cooperative efforts have been unsurmountable.

The Police Department continues to move ahead with the process of working on accreditation through the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Council allowing for a more professional, more efficient and a more respected E.J.P.D. New body cameras were purchased this year by a grant which will be a great asset for the department.

The City began a new Master Plan process in 2019 which is now completed and adopted by the City Commission and we are well underway of implementing that plan.

East Jordan continues efforts to get closer to Redevelopment Ready Community certification but, it is a process and being so it takes time jumping through the hurdles, East Jordan has not completed this race but the finish line is in sight.

In conclusion: By being smarter, safer and more aware, we can help in beating the virus that challenges all of us in our Community and when we take care of ourselves we help prevent challenges to our Essential Workers who the rest of us need to keep us moving, entertained, happy and smiling, fed, watered, healthy, sane and most of all -Alive!  
Wash your hands, do not touch your face, wear a mask, and stay 6 feet apart. Just stay safe! Thank you everyone for the opportunity to present this address and I'll see you on the streets, I'll be the one wearing a mask!