



## It's Time to Review!

Every December I like to provide a review of the year and look forward a bit as well. While 2020 was dominated by the pandemic and the derecho there were a lot of other positive things going on in our town. Let's take some time to review!

**Continued growth.** If you have moved to Ely in the past 30 years you have been a part of this movement. Ely has experienced steady growth over the past three decades including 2020. While the final census numbers are not in yet, it is estimated that Ely will be around 2350 residents. This is up from 1776 residents at the last census in 2010. Growth is likely to continue with future developments coming on board over the next couple of years on the east and north sides of town.

**Projects completed and others ready to begin.** The city wrapped up projects on State Street, Knoll and North Drives this year. Also the water line loop project was completed. In 2021 a sewer line extension project will take place along Hoosier Creek, a parking lot will be installed next to City Hall and additional storm water improvements along Rowley Street. These are only the highlighted projects as additional projects will most likely take place as well.

**Capital Improvement Plan.** Staff and Council worked together to create a plan for the city to help it achieve long term goals. To review this plan please click [HERE](#). This is a living, breathing, document that will be reviewed, and adjusted, as time goes on. The first step for many of these projects starts in the planning stage. Council approved to proceed with a *Downtown Street Reconstruction Plan*. This includes planning and preliminary design services

related to the reconstruction of the City's downtown area (old Ely) to include street, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, water distribution system evaluation and preliminary design. After this plan is accepted by Council the city can start to map out the next steps to bring the plan to fruition.

**Library Expansion Project.** Council approved funds to study options for a library expansion. Public meetings were held this Fall to look at variety of locations and building options. With the study complete findings will be presented to the public in January. If you would like to review the study to this point click on the link [HERE](#). The project will continue into 2021 and I encourage residents to be involved as the goal is to design the new library for you, and future generations in Ely, to enjoy!

**Ely Generosity.** While we all know we live in a great town the area around us also caught a glimpse of how great Ely really is! From graduation banners lining our downtown to fundraisers for the fire department, our residents continually rallied around each other during these trying times in 2020 to help each other out. Below are a couple links if you want to re-live some of the great stories this year in our town!

[Fire Department Fundraiser](#)

[Flags for Essential Workers](#)

[Hula Hoop Tree in Ely](#)

[Local Business Stays Busy During Pandemic](#)

[Graduation Banners for Seniors](#)

Thanks for helping make 2020 a memorable year. I look forward to 2021 and hopefully a return to the normal we remember before the pandemic. I feel blessed every day to raise my family in this town and to be your mayor. Wishing you the best as we head into the New Year!

**Eldy Miller**

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