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Monthly Insight into the Elizabeth Park & Rec District

EPR connections

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Sorry for the Mess

As you may have noticed, Evans Park is currently a construction zone. With the current installation of the splashpad and a new playground being installed soon, there is plenty of orange fencing, erosion control logs, and parking lot barricades scattered around. We know the improvements will be appreciated, though also know that the current condition of the park is less than desirable for some, including us. So, please bear with us for the next couple months, recognize parking may be tight on Saturday game days, and keep children from entering potentially dangerous fenced-off construction areas. We'll get everything cleaned up as soon as we can.



Message from the Director

Building a Healthy Youth Sports Community

The true heart of a community can often be felt on the fields and in the gyms of its youth sports activities. Through these social gatherings where we forget about our troubles for awhile and joyfully support our children as they play, our community creates a part of its identity. Our hope is that our programs help to shine a light on all the positives of that community identity, while helping parents understand the consequences of the negative behaviors that we occasionally see.

On the positive side, we consistently see parents shout cheers of support, allow the coach to direct the team, thank officials, and celebrate being together in the park with their family. We see the proud smiles, the big hugs after the game, and the excitement as a child tells mom how she made a great pass to help the team win the championship. These moments are the power of youth sports and the experiences that make our community healthy.

Unfortunately we also do see the negative at times. We see the disruptive parent trying to play coach from the stands, we hear the parent shout a profanity at a teenage official, and we see the child who loses their interest in playing because a parent pushes them too hard to win. These moments are the dangers of youth sports.

We staff will be focusing a lot on parent sportsmanship this year in our programs, and we hope that you will join us in accentuating the positives and addressing the negatives to raise the bar for the entire community.

Dondi Connelley - District Board Member Profile

Dondi joined the Board in May of 2016 and currently serves as Secretary of the Board.

Tell us a little about yourself. “I am married with 3 kids, all of my kids are in the Elizabeth School District. I played college volleyball at Western State College in Gunnison CO which helped me continue my love for sports. I was lucky to have had the opportunity to compete at a high level and do something I loved. Sports and outdoor activities drive me, thus love what EPR provides for the community to have the opportunity to get out and do something.”

What drove you to run for a position on the Board? “EPR was not doing well at all, so many people were disappointed in what was happening, including myself. I wanted to change that, to make a difference. I was tired of the complaining and no one would do anything about it, so I stepped up to make a change. I have not once regretted my decision. I am proud to be doing something for my community and making a difference for so many kids and adults to enjoy the park and its programs. So far, I think that EPR is headed in the right direction after many stressful meetings and figuring out many changes for the better. We have a great staff that has helped the board achieve our vision for a better EPR District.

What do you want to see the District accomplish under your leadership? “My vision is to get the park back to where it was when we first moved back here, adult and kid programs packed with participants. I want the community to trust EPR again and feel like it is a great place for kids and adults to come. I want the community to see that we are making a difference in the great community that we live in. I want to offer more things for EVERYONE to do, so far we have come up with some great plans/ideas, some in the works, some that have been achieved already.”

What are some of the challenges of being a Board Member? The biggest challenge is trying to do the best we can for everyone. It is so hard to please every single person. But, we try to do what we believe is right for the ENTIRE community. Also, regaining that trust from the community.

Who is your favorite sports team? “My favorite sports teams are all Elizabeth Cardinal Teams!!!!!! GO CARDS!!!!”

Any other thoughts / comments you want to share? “EPR is doing all it can to make our district great. If you ever have an idea or suggestion, I would love to hear it!”



Dondi and family

Quote of the Month

“Fun is about as good a habit as there is”
- Jimmy Buffet -

Easter Egg-Stravaganza

A Fun Twist on the Traditional Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 20 – 2:30pm – Evans Park

Join us for one of our most fun annual special events as we creatively distribute over 2000 prize-filled eggs to eager gatherers. Youth from infant to 14 are grouped by age and participate in an egg “hunt” designed for their ability.

The Easter Bunny will also be making an appearance to play with the kids and will be available for pictures.

See you there!