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Monthly Insight into the Elizabeth Park & Rec District

EPR connections

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Winter Youth Basketball Program Update

As we all continue to manage risks associated with the Covid-19 Pandemic, the District is currently assessing if and how youth basketball may be offered this winter. As expected, we have already heard from at least one of our program sites to be informed that the facility will not be available for our use this winter. We fully understand the facility's decision and agree that schools must be focused on keeping students, teachers, and school staff safe as their top priority.

While registration for youth basketball would normally be underway by now, it will be on hold until staff is confident that facilities will be available and that a program can be offered to youth in a safe manner. Though the season may look different than in the past in some ways, we do hope to be able to offer a basketball program this winter season.

Stay tuned and watch for program updates in the November issue of *EPR Connections*, on our web page, and on facebook.

2021 Budget Planning

One of my responsibilities as Executive Director of the District is to develop and propose the annual budget for the Board of Directors to review, edit, and eventually approve by December 15th each year. The District budget consists of both a General Fund and an Enterprise Fund which collectively show the allocation of financial resources required to accomplish the goals and objectives of the District over the coming year. The budget reflects the priorities being set forth by the Board in terms of operations and projects to be pursued and also forecasts the revenues to be collected to support those expenditures.

The General Fund is used to show expenses associated with core District functions such as park maintenance, facility upkeep, utilities, and District administration. General Fund expenses are primarily off-set through property tax revenues, though other revenue streams include Conservation Trust Funds from the State and development fees from local land developers. The General Fund also includes the annual allocation for Capital Improvement Projects that the District will pursue during the year.

The Enterprise Fund is used to show expenses and projected revenues associated with the District's business operations, or those services for which we assess a fee including recreation and special event programming, facility and park permitting, campground operations, concessions, and other business pursuits.

As the District looks ahead to 2021, we are focused on developing a budget that will fund improvements within Casey Jones Park and create additional revenue opportunities to sustain our pursuit for improvements and expansion of service to the community. We anticipate another great year of accomplishments in 2021 and thank you for your continued support.

Casey Jones' Haunted Halloween Haven

Friday, October 30, 5pm-10pm



Bring the kiddos by Casey Jones Park and join us for an evening of Halloween fun. The pavilion is being transformed into a spooky haunted maze and there will be plenty of tricks and treats for all. Hayrides will also be offered through a portion of the newly expanded Casey Jones Park.

Youth are encouraged to wear costumes and awards will be given throughout the evening in a variety of costume categories.

The haunted maze will allow for social distancing by familial group and face masks are required to be worn while inside the pavilion. We'll have extras on hand.

This is a free admittance event - concessions will be available



EPR Annual Adult Flag Football Tournament

Saturday, November 7th



Gather your team and get registered now for the opportunity to be crowned Elizabeth's kings of the gridiron for 2020. This competitive double-elimination tournament never fails to provide lots of fun, laughs, and excitement. It has also been accompanied by early season snow for the last three years, so always an exciting day.

Format is no contact 5v5, and there are no rules regarding gender. Teams may roster up to 10 players and all players must be at least 16 years old. Flags are provided during play.

Cost is \$250/team, with 1st and 2nd place teams receiving awards. Space is limited and registration will close when tournament is full. Register at www.elizabethpr.com or by calling us at 303.646.3599



Barrel Racing

Quote of the Month

Play is our brain's favorite way of learning

- Diane Ackerman -

Message from the Director

Envisioning Casey Jones Park as a developing community jewel

A comprehensive vision for how to enhance Casey Jones Park was recently presented to the Board of Directors, and they expressed liking what they saw and heard. The planning committee identified needed facilities and amenities to be added to the park as well as desired improvements to existing amenities, and shared a plan for how the park may look and impact the community when completed.

The proposed plan includes a call for a community recreation center and aquatic center to be built near the intersection of Highway 86 and County Road 17 in the future, it allocates space for a proposed Homestead Education Center, it calls for a re-designed rodeo arena / event venue, it adds new equestrian focused park features, adds an ag building / athletic field house and ball field, expands the campground, and sets aside over 30-acres to be conserved with minimal or no improvements being made. Allocating an area for a new and permanent dog park has also been identified as an element of the plan by the Board.

The District plans to pursue GOCO grant funding in 2021 to assist in executing its park development plan, and the Board is currently assessing which elements to include within the 2021 capital improvement project budget. I really look forward to working with the community to facilitate the development of this park site which will provide residents with expanded recreational opportunities and will provide the local economy with a dynamic new engine. It's going to be a fun next few years.