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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 still unable to commit to offering a youth basketball program this Winter. We are talking with the schools that we typically utilize for practices and games and attempting to balance our desire to play with their focus on keeping students, teachers, and school staff safe.

While registration for youth basketball would normally be underway by now, it will be on hold until at least November 1st, at which time staff and the program host sites will determine if a program can be offered.

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

Understanding District Finances

In May of 2022, the District Board of Directors is considering asking voters to support a mill levy increase to fund the construction of a recreation center, and potentially other park system improvements within the Elizabeth Community. As tax payers, it is important to understand the finances of taxing Districts and know that your tax dollars are being efficiently and effectively utilized.

The EPRD assesses a mill levy of 2.466 to properties included within the district as a component of your property taxes. For a home with a total property valuation of \$550K in 2021, this equates to a payment of \$97 to the district. While \$97 a year may not seem like a huge amount, your dollars go a long way to provide parks and recreation services for you and your neighbors to enjoy. Overall, the District will collect about \$700K in tax revenues from this mill levy in 2021. The District anticipates collecting another \$510K from operational revenues such as campground fees, facility rentals, program fees, fees from developers, and other sources.

Annual operational expenses for the District in 2021 are projected to total \$839K and include payroll and benefits, utilities, property and liability insurance coverages, supplies and materials, maintenance and repairs, contracted services, expenses for programs and events, and other smaller expense categories. The District anticipates spending an additional \$532K on capital projects in 2021 including Casey Jones master planning and recreation center / design & engineering, new campground restroom / shower building, new pick-up truck, trail enhancements, and the annual premium / interest for property purchased around Casey Jones Park in march of 2020.

A preview of the 2022 budget will be shared in a coming newsletter.

Casey Jones' Haunted Halloween Haven Friday, October 29, 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 through the forest will also be offered.

This is a free event!

EPR Annual Adult Flag Football Tournament

Saturday, November 6th

Gather your team and get registered now for the opportunity to be crowned Elizabeth's Champs of the Gridiron for 2021. This competitive double-elimination tournament never fails to provide lots of fun, laughs, and excitement. It has also been accompanied by early season snow in recent years, so always an exciting day.

Format is no contact 5v5, all players eligible, 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

Recreation Center Project Update

The design of the recreation center is progressing along and we can't wait to soon show it off to the community. The highlight of the facility will of course be the aquatics space, which will resemble a small water park with slides and other elements, offering families tons of year-round water play, swim lessons, and aqua fitness classes. The facility will also include a gymnasium, lobby area, a child drop off / watch room, fitness space, a party / program room, and restroom / locker space.

The Board of Directors is planning to ask voters to increase the current 2.466 mill levy assessed by the District to fund construction in May of 2022. With one of the lowest mill levies for a Park and Recreation Special District in Colorado, the Board is hopeful residents will support the increase and allow this amazing facility to be built.

Please watch for upcoming opportunities to view the recreation center design and join the building excitement to help get this done for your family and the community.



Words to Play By

Our brains are built
to benefit from play
no matter what our
age is

-Theresa Kestly -

Singing Hills Turkey Trot

November 14 – Casey Jones Park

Parents and supporters of Singing Hills Elementary, in cooperation with Elizabeth Park and Recreation District are hosting a 5K Run / Walk to raise funds for a new playground at the school. Please make plans to join us for a day of outdoor fun as participants stroll through the woods and paths of Casey Jones Park and enjoy the scenic course. Pre-registered participants will receive an event t-shirt, and top finishers will receive an award.

Participants can pre-register at www.elizabethpr.com or sign up in the park on race day beginning at 11am. Cost is \$25 for each participant, with all proceeds going toward the playground replacement project. Let's help these students get a playground!

