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Monthly Insight into the Elizabeth Park & Rec District

# EPR connections

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## District Updates

As 2021 rolls toward fall, the Elizabeth Park and Recreation District continues working hard to improve your park system and enhance the lives of community residents.

We recently transitioned to a new online registration system called Civic Rec, and we hope it improves your online interactions with the District. Please be sure to create a new user account for your family when you have an opportunity by visiting our website.

Design work continues on the Casey Jones Park Master Plan as well as the proposed recreation center. We look forward to sharing detailed plans with the community later this year and hearing your thoughts. Watch for open house announcements to come and learn how to support the effort to bring a recreation center to Elizabeth.

The District will soon be releasing a request for proposals to expand the campground, adding 10 full hook-up RV sites and 4 yurt structures. This project will be partially funded by a grant from GOCO that the District was awarded earlier this year.

## Youth Sports Kick Off the Fall Season

On September 11<sup>th</sup>, the fall youth sports season will officially begin in the Elizabeth Community at Evans Park. Over 245 youth between the ages of 4-12 are registered to play in our soccer and flag football programs. The District is also helping support the two Elizabeth teams playing in the Parker Pop Warner tackle football program by providing practice space within Casey Jones Park.

As we prepare for opening day, it is important to reflect on the value that youth sports bring to our families and community and how each of us can positively contribute. The most important thing to keep in mind as you head to the field this season is that these athletes are children participating in a recreational level sport league. Our programs emphasize skill development, participation, and positive sports character above all else and winning should not be the only goal. Let these kids be kids for now without the pressure of winning. Help them understand that the fun comes from the simple act of playing the game, not the final score or outcome. Help them focus on their individual development as an athlete and not the team's win / loss record.

Volunteer Coaches and Game Officials should always be treated with respect, and we ask that you help us build a positive and supportive youth sports culture by thanking them for their effort and avoiding ridiculing their performance. If you think you can help or offer support, please do so in a constructive manner.

Lastly, please remember that our children see everything we do and hear what we say. Let us set the example as adults and show them that sports are about bringing community together to celebrate and play. It is not about conflict, division, and win at all costs. They will face these types of challenges and pressures throughout their lives soon enough, so for now, let's allow them to be kids and simply play. Have a great season folks!

# Pints in the Pines

September 18, Noon – 10pm  
Casey Jones Park

Join the Elizabeth Area Chamber of Commerce for this fun annual event in Casey Jones Park. Enjoy plenty of craft beer options, a variety of food choices, live music, and a much needed time to re-connect with your neighbors and friends.



Elizabeth Area Chamber of Commerce

Cornhole Tournament - \$60 per team enters you into the double elimination tournament, gives you 2 beer tickets and a hot dog or Hamburger from the Legion tent and a chance to win prizes!

Register at: <https://elizabethchamber.org>



## words to play by

It's the things we play with and the people who help us play that makes a great difference in our lives.

- Fred (Mr.) Rogers

## Teen / Adult Sport & Fitness Offerings

### Zumba Classes

The District has partnered with local instructor, Danielle, to offer a 6-week Zumba session starting on Sept 30 in the Casey Jones Pavilion. Class runs from 7pm-8pm on Thursday evenings. Sign up now for this fun opportunity to enhance your fitness. Must be 16 or older to register. Cost is \$50.

### Yoga Classes

The District will be offering a 6-week session of Vinyasa Yoga classes beginning on Oct 10<sup>th</sup>. Classes will be held on Sundays from 11am-Noon in the Casey Jones Pavilion. Class is open to individuals of all abilities and is based on tying breath to movement. Must be 14 or older to register. Cost is \$50.

### Flag Football Tournament

The annual Elizabeth Turkey Bowl Flag Football Tournament will be held on November 6<sup>th</sup> at Evans Park. This event is open to the first 6 teams that register. Format is 5 v 5 double elimination and there are no rules or divisions related to gender. All team members must be 16 years of age or older. Cost is \$200 per team.

## Message from the Director

### Struggles of a Growing Community

In meeting and working with residents who have volunteered to be a part of the Recreation Center

Design Committee over the last 6 months, the topic of community growth has been a frequently discussed topic. Similar to the general public, committee members have expressed diverse views on whether growth is good or bad for the Elizabeth Community. Some seem to openly welcome the growth and development, some seem willing to reluctantly accept the inevitability of it, and others express a desire to shun additional development and remain a small rural community. Each of us are absolutely entitled to have and express our opinions, hopes, and desires on this sensitive topic, and I just encourage all of us to do so in a civil manner. I have certainly found that our similarities are almost always greater than our differences, and life seems better when the similarities are the focus.

In being a part of an organization that is currently pursuing development of park and recreation resources within the community, I am keenly aware and appreciative of most arguments on both sides of the community growth debate. I fully understand the love of a small rural community that so many residents hope to maintain, and I also understand the desire by so many for improved community infrastructure such as a recreation center. My hope is that the recreation center, if approved for funding by residents next May, will be viewed as a positive added amenity for all residents, not just more growth and development. Our goal is to plan, build, and manage a facility that enhances the lives of all community residents, and we hope you think that is a good idea.