

Neighborhoods

PLACES TO LIVE, PEOPLE TO SEE IN COLORADO NEIGHBORHOODS

ELIZABETH



PHOTOS: STEVE BERCOVITCH, SILVER DOG PRODUCTIONS

THE ESSENTIALS



WHERE IT IS—45 MILES SOUTHEAST OF DENVER. THE TOWN OF ELIZABETH SITS EAST OF FRANKTOWN ON THE ROLLING HIGH PLAINS OF RAPIDLY GROWING ELBERT COUNTY. A MIX OF OPEN PRAIRIE AND RIPARIAN PINE WOODLANDS SITTING AT 6,500 FEET, ELIZABETH IS A RURAL BEDROOM COMMUNITY ABOUT 25 MINUTES EAST OF CASTLE ROCK/I-25, 30 MINUTES

SOUTH OF PARKER AND AN HOUR NORTH OF COLORADO SPRINGS.

WHAT MAKES IT SPECIAL—SMALL TOWN NEAR A MAJOR METRO AREA. WITH AN AUTHENTIC, SMALL-TOWN FEEL AND LOTS OF ELBOW ROOM, ELIZABETH IS THE PERFECT SPOT FOR THOSE WHO SEEK A QUIET COUNTRY LIFESTYLE WITHIN STRIKING DISTANCE OF THE DENVER METRO AREA. A SLEEPY LITTLE TOWN SURROUNDED BY CONVERTED RANCLAND, ELIZABETH FEATURES BREATHTAKING VISTAS AND STUNNING HORSE PROPERTIES, ALL IN A LOCATION THAT IS ENOUGH OFF THE BEATEN TRACK TO RETAIN ITS RURAL QUALITY, BUT CLOSE ENOUGH FOR EASY ACCESS TO THE URBAN CORRIDOR.

THE HOMES—COUNTRY HOMES WITH ACRES OF LAND! IF SPACE IS WHAT YOU WANT, ELIZABETH IS THE PLACE. MOST HOMES IN THE AREA BOAST A MINIMUM OF ONE TO TWO ACRES OF LAND, WITH MANY HORSE PROPERTIES TOPPING OUT AT 40 TO 100 ACRES. SITTING ON THESE LARGE TRACTS ARE IMPRESSIVE, MODERN-APPOINTED HOMES—BUILT MOSTLY IN THE LAST 20 YEARS—WITH AT LEAST FOUR BEDROOMS, FOUR BATHS AND 2,800 SQUARE FEET.

WHY IT'S HOT—A COUNTRY ALTERNATIVE TO THE SUBURBS

"We talked about living closer to the city, but we prefer the big, open spaces here, and we like that it's so peaceful and quiet," explains Aimee Hunt, who lives with her family in Elizabeth and works at The Players Bench Corporate office in Lowry. Indeed, Elizabeth presents a compelling option to the typical suburban subdivision. Anchored by a cute downtown with Victorian buildings and Americana charm, Elizabeth features small-town ambience, undulating high plains landscapes and luxurious homes on multi-acre sites, all within driving distance of urban jobs and amenities. Just a bit secluded and proud of it, Elizabeth is a welcoming tight-knit community that combines the privacy and peacefulness of wide-open country living with the opportunities and conveniences associated with the Front Range economy.

HISTORY—FROM SAWMILL TO EXURB

The area that is now Elizabeth was originally settled in the 1850s by the Weber brothers as a sawmill camp on the shores of Running Creek. Spurred on by gold, logging, ranching and the arrival of the Denver & New Orleans Railroad, the town continued to grow and was eventually incorporated in 1890. While it flourished for a few decades, beginning with the Depression Era, Elizabeth experienced a long economic decline until modern transportation upgrades brought it "closer" to the rapidly expanding Denver metropolis.

STORY: JON GOLDBERG

Beginning in the 1970s and 1980s and continuing today, Elizabeth's character has evolved from primarily an agrarian community to an "exurban" bedroom community for professionals who work in the Denver area but choose to live in this pastoral setting. Populated by more horse estates than working ranches, and located in one of the fastest growing counties in the United States, Elizabeth continues to embrace change while preserving its small-town identity.

LIFE IN ELIZABETH—ENJOYING THE BACK

40 One of the most appealing attributes of living in Elizabeth is the breathing room that comes with acreage. Because your neighbors also have big tracts, there is a consistent openness and pristine ambience in this lovely country set-

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ting with its alternating grasslands and stands of ponderosa pines.

The downtown itself, while very small, boasts an eclectic selection of charming shops and restaurants, from the fun toy store Jabberwocky to the excellent Mexican offerings of Botana Junction. You might also catch the popular Elizabeth Celtic Festival held every July at Casey Jones Park. Although the county remains rural, the growing pop-

ulation around Elizabeth has prompted more urban-style public investments such as Evans Park, a modern recreational center with playing fields, a fishing pond, an inline hockey rink and even a skate park.

WHO LIVES HERE—PROFESSIONAL

COMMUTERS Elizabeth is an attractive choice for business professionals who work in the southern part of the Denver metro area—some even commute south to Colorado Springs—and want to raise their families (and horses) in a country lifestyle.

WHAT YOU'LL PAY—\$500,000 TO OVER

\$1 MILLION Considering the expansive acreage as well as the size and newness of the homes, prices in Elizabeth are surprisingly reasonable. Most family homes start in the \$500,000 range with grander horse properties on more than 40 acres fetching upwards of \$1 million.

Elizabeth is located in the high-achieving Elbert County School District. Most youngsters attend Running Creek Elementary and move on to Elizabeth Middle School and Elizabeth High School. Parents drop off kids at private schools in Parker and Denver as well.

When he is not writing about neighborhoods for Colorado Expression, Jon Goldberg sells residential homes as a Realtor with Prudential Colorado Real Estate in Cherry Creek. An attorney who practiced for several years in national firms before pursuing real estate, Jon has published articles in law journals and appeared on radio. Jon lives in Denver with his wife and two young sons.

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