

Your Town Talk

September 2016



Good to Know

Curious about the crane?

You may have noticed construction equipment in East Plum Creek at Meadows Parkway. This is a stormwater project being completed by Castle Rock Water to repair damage done by storm flows within the channel.

Crews will be working the next several weeks to shore up the creek and help protect the bridge at Meadows Parkway. These repairs will also help preserve an underground water main just downstream of the bridge and the trail that runs alongside the creek. Once the repair work is completed, the vegetation will be restored.

Weather dependent, this project is expected to be completed in September. In the meantime, the trail will remain open, but trail users should use caution in the area. Signs are posted to help direct trail traffic.

For more information, or questions, contact the Stormwater Hotline at 720-733-2235 or stormwater@CRgov.com.

It's your water. Tell us what you think.

In a thriving community, long-term water is a top priority. Still, we know water is a precious resource, and Castle Rock and the surrounding communities have a limited supply. That's why Castle Rock Water has been working to secure long-term renewable water regardless of increased demand.

Since 2006, Castle Rock Water has had a Water Resources Strategic Master Plan. That plan lays out strategic steps to help ensure the community has water now and in the future. As Castle Rock evolves, the plan must be updated. Right now, Castle Rock Water is working on the third update and is looking for input. Tell us what you think by completing a survey at CRgov.com/WaterMasterPlan.

Currently, Castle Rock gets most of its water from underground aquifers. However, we are depleting the aquifers faster than they are being replenished, and it costs a lot to drill deeper wells and pump more water. That's why the 2016 master plan update outlines an "all of the above strategy." This diversified approach will help make sure Castle Rock's water future is as comprehensive as possible.

The updated plan includes:

- More conservation
- Purchasing water from northern sources
- Storing water at nearby reservoirs like Rueter-Hess and Chatfield
- Reusing water from Plum Creek

Learn more about Castle Rock's water future, and tell us what you think about the direction, at CRgov.com/WaterMasterPlan. Your opinion matters!

Proposed 2017 Budget focuses on infrastructure, safety

Budgets should reflect priorities; that's why the Town's Proposed 2017 Budget emphasizes surface transportation and long-term water infrastructure, as well as public safety.

The \$188.5 million budget was introduced to Town Council and the community Aug. 16 and will be heard by Town Council on first and second readings on Sept. 6 and Sept. 20. Public comment is invited at the hearings, which begin at 6 p.m. at Town Hall, 100 N. Wilcox St.

The Town plans to continue providing high-caliber services in 2017 without any tax increases or new taxes. A \$1.26-per-month increase is proposed for residential water bills, along with \$3 and \$1 increases to 18- and 9-hole green fees, respectively, at the Town's Red Hawk Ridge Golf Course.

The budget includes \$83.1 million for capital improvements, debt and transfers between funds and \$105.3 million for operations. In addition to progressing toward these three top priorities, the budget emphasizes six additional priorities:

- Adopting a balanced budget
- Planning and managing for balanced community growth
- Creating primary jobs, expanding the tax base and improving the business climate
- Providing and maintaining an outstanding parks, recreation, trails and open space system
- Maintaining community character, including a vibrant Downtown
- Maintaining high-quality Town services

The budget provides for property tax revenue growth of 5.5 percent, as allowed by the Town Charter. This means the Town's property tax rate for 2017 will be equal to or less than the 2016 rate of 1.474 mills, which totals \$35.20 in annual Town property tax on a home valued at \$300,000. Additional details are online at CRgov.com/2017Budget.

New traffic patterns in Castle Rock get you where you're going

It's a priority for infrastructure to keep up with demand in Castle Rock. That's why the Town's Public Works Department has been planning for growth and will continue to evaluate needs and plan for future infrastructure.

For the past 10 years, the Town has been planning, designing and building a new 2-mile road to provide a new northern connection to U.S. Highway 85 and Interstate 25. Castle Rock Parkway/North Meadows Drive is expected to help alleviate traffic along the Founders/Meadows corridor. Access it from the west side of Town, off of North Meadows Drive, near Castle View High School in The Meadows. Or, use one of the new interchanges at U.S. 85 or I-25.

On the south end of Town, Public Works has also been busy improving the Plum Creek Parkway corridor. As part of that project, a new roadway lane assignment system will give drivers better access to the Interstate.

Combined, these two projects offer three new and unique traffic designs for Castle Rock. Here's a look at each one.

Drive a SPUI at U.S. 85

What is a SPUI? It stands for Single Point Urban Interchange, but what it means to drivers is access. Because of the flood plain, railroad and other geographic constraints at the interchange of U.S. 85 and Castle Rock Parkway, engineers used this design. The interchange is controlled by one signal span at the center, rather than a signal at each side. Similar interchanges are at C-470 and Morrison Road, I-25 and University, and at U.S. 85 and Belleview. Drive safely, and follow the signs and striping through the interchange.



A roundabout at an interchange

On the west side of Castle Rock Parkway's interchange with I-25, a roundabout will give drivers access to all directions of both the Interstate and Castle Rock Parkway. Remember: yield to traffic already in the circle. Other similar interchanges are in Colorado mountain towns such as Idaho Springs, Georgetown and Glenwood Springs.

Electronic traffic management on Plum Creek Parkway

New electronic signs on westbound Plum Creek Parkway will maximize lane use during peak morning rush hours. These electronic signs will designate lane assignments (whether they are through-lanes, through-or-right lanes, or right-turn-only lanes) based on time of day. For example, during morning rush, two lanes will give drivers access to I-25, while the rest of the day will be limited to one turn lane to accommodate variable traffic patterns.

Learn more and see graphics at CRgov.com/PCroadwork. Learn more about the Public Works Department at CRgov.com/roads.

TABOR question on November ballot

Castle Rock voters in November will decide whether the Town should retain its \$714,580 TABOR surplus or whether the money should be refunded to taxpayers through a water bill credit.

If a majority of voters say yes to the ballot question, the Town will retain and expend the funds as approved on police, fire and transportation needs. If a majority of voters say no, the resolution of the surplus will default to a refund.

The refund will be accomplished through a one-time utility bill credit to all residential Castle Rock Water customers who are active in the water billing system as of the December 2016 billing date who were also active customers as of Dec. 31, 2015.

The Town anticipates the number of recipient accounts being about 16,500, meaning each residential account would be credited about \$43 if voters reject the ballot question.

Comments for and against the TABOR question may be submitted to the Town Clerk for inclusion in a notice that will be mailed to voters prior to the election. Additional details, including the verbatim question, are online at CRgov.com/2015TABOR.

CONTACTS

Town information	303-660-1015
Library	303-791-7323
Recreation Center	303-660-1036
The MAC	303-733-2222

Events in Castle Rock

Sept. 8: Tunes for Trails/Perks for Parks – Free concert series, 6:30-8 p.m., Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park.

Sept. 10-11: 27th Annual Colorado Artfest at Castle Rock, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Downtown Castle Rock. Learn more at ColoradoArtFest.com.

Sept. 10: Pooch Plunge, 10 a.m. to noon, Butterfield Crossing Pool. Bring your pooch for a dip in the pool before it closes for the summer.

Sept. 10: Rock After Dark, 6:30-10 p.m., Downtown. Experience this classic event after-hours with live 80s music, food and more. Additional ticket required.

Sept. 13: Coffee with a Cop, 10-11 a.m., Cookies and Crema, 4284 Trail Boss Drive. Get to know your local officers in a relaxed atmosphere.

Sept. 16: Downtown After 5, 5-8 p.m., Festival Park. Unwind after work with live music, food, vendors and more. Learn more at CRgov.com/After5. Supermagick will play a mixture of soul, jazz, and rhythm and blues.

Sept. 17: Scavenge the Rock, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Festival Park and all over Downtown. Dash around Castle Rock to learn more about Castle Rock and win prizes.

Sept. 17: Shopping Extravaganza at the Outlets at Castle Rock, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Access exclusive discounts and help raise money for local charities. Learn more at OutletsAtCastleRock.com.

Sept. 17: Date Night Movie – Spectre, 6-10 p.m., White Pavilion. Learn more at DowntownCastleRock.com.

Sept. 22: Castle Rock Water Winterization Workshop, 6-8 p.m., 175 Kellogg Court. Learn about watering in the winter in Colorado. The class is free, but reservations are required. Visit CRgov.com/WinterWorkshop.

Sept. 24: Public Lands Day – Hike and Help Day at Quarry Mesa Open Space, 8 a.m.-noon. Enjoy a guided hike, followed by a few hours of service to spruce up Madge Trail. Learn more at CRgov.com/events.

Sept. 24: Castle Rock Fire and Rescue car seat check event, 9 a.m.-noon, Castle Rock Adventist Hospital.

Sept. 24: Celebration Concert Series – Starship, Featuring Mickey Thomas, Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park. Box office opens at 4 p.m. Gates open at 6 p.m. Opening band is at 7 p.m., with Starship starting at 8:30 p.m. Get tickets at CRgov.com/PSMconcerts.

Oct. 1: Household Chemical Roundup, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Castle Rock Water, 175 Kellogg Court. Dispose of unwanted chemicals such as oil-based paint, mercury thermometers, gas, degreasers and lawn chemicals. CRgov.com/events.

Oct. 1: Oktoberfest, 1-8 p.m., Downtown Castle Rock. Learn more at DowntownCastleRock.com.

crgov.com

On the Web:

Scavenge the Rock

Uncover Castle Rock's hidden treasures with the Town's new Scavenge the Rock event. Form a team and pick up a clue sheet Saturday, Sept. 17, at Festival Park. Teams will self-guide through the clue sheet by solving a clue and taking a selfie in front of the destination. The photos should be posted on Instagram. Tag the Town's page (CRGOV) and #ExploreCastleRock. More at CRgov.com/ExploreCastleRock.