

Your Town Talk



October 2016

Don't forget to
VOTE

Good to Know

Elections 2016

Election Day is Nov. 8. Ballots will be in the mail later this month. Here is what to know about Castle Rock's elections.

Town Council election districts 1, 2, 4 and 6 will vote for a Councilmember. Visit CRgov.com/2016elections for an updated list of candidates and to find a district map.

There is also a Townwide question. All Castle Rock voters will be asked whether the Town should retain a \$714,580 TABOR surplus, or whether the money should be refunded to taxpayers through a water bill credit.

To register to vote, check your registration or update your mailing address, visit GoVoteColorado.com. Ballots can be returned by mail or in person. There are 24-hour drop boxes at Town Hall (100 N. Wilcox St.) and the Douglas County Elections Office (125 Stephanie Place).

Ballots must arrive by Election Day.

More information at CRgov.com/2016elections

Goblins, good times and goodies!

Is Halloween your thing? Castle Rock has all the fun (and frights) you're looking for.

Castle of Terror

Castle Rock Fire and Rescue's annual haunted house has added another scream-worthy date this year. It runs 7 to 10 p.m. Oct. 15, 21, 22, 28 and 29 at the Fire Training Tower, 303 Malibu Court.

Tickets are \$10 and sold at the door. (Cash or check only.) Proceeds benefit the fire and police explorer programs. It's so freaky, those under 13 are not allowed without an adult.

If you're really into fright and want to volunteer to help make others' lives a nightmare, check out volunteerconnectdc.com.

Spooktacular

This annual tradition for little goblins is at the MAC at Philip S. Miller Park. Spooktacular runs from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 29. The park is located at 1375 W. Plum Creek Parkway.

Activities include face painting, a jumpy house, games, crafts and contests. The event is free.

Trick or Treat Street

For nearly 10 years, this event has made Halloween safe and fun for everyone.

Held in cooperation with the Downtown Alliance, this tradition features a costume contest, arts and crafts, pony rides, face painting, balloon animals and more. All activities are free thanks to the investment local businesses make into this popular event.

The fun is in multiple locations this year. Festival Park at Second and Perry streets will host activities like pony rides and a barrel train. The White Pavilion at Fourth and Perry streets will host the costume contest. Trick-or-treating is at Downtown businesses; arts and crafts are at Castle Rock Fire and Rescue Headquarters on Perry Street. Balloon artists, face painting and storytelling will be at the Courtyard on Perry Street.

To make the event fun and safe for all involved, Perry Street will be closed throughout Downtown. Get full event details, including parking information, at CRgov.com/trickortreat.

Harvest Festival celebrates changing season

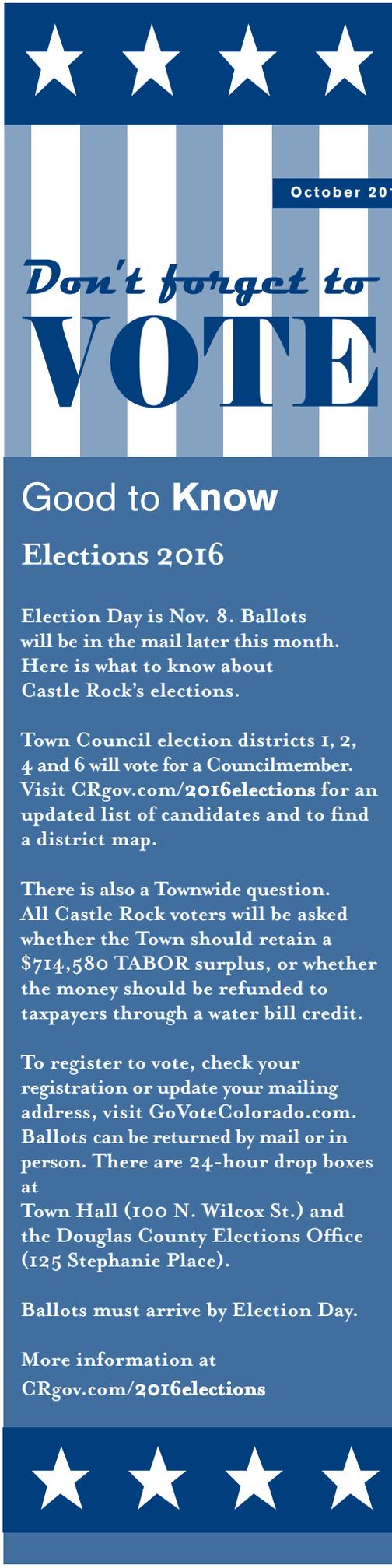
Celebrate the season where the food is richer, the drinks are warmer and the beer is crisper at the Town's new Harvest Festival. Join the festivities from 2 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 15, at Festival Park.

The Festival Park Pumpkin Patch will have pumpkins available for purchase. Carve pumpkins onsite with the help of volunteers and provided tools. Then, add the pumpkin creation to the Great Pumpkin Wall. The wall will be lit at 6:30 p.m. Then, take your pumpkin home to enjoy.

Don't miss this fall event for the entire family. Enjoy face painters, seasonal games and a mini hay-bale maze. Plus, stick around for the outdoor showing of the seasonal classic, "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown!"

Looking to stay active this season? Start the event off right with the HarvestFest 5K. Runners will get a great view of the fall foliage as they complete the course along East Plum Creek Trail and Downtown.

More information about the event, including registration for the 5K, is available at CRgov.com/HarvestFest.



2017 Budget focuses on infrastructure, safety

The Town's 2017 Budget emphasizes surface transportation and long-term water infrastructure, as well as public safety.

Town Council adopted the \$188.5 million budget in September. Full details are available online at CRgov.com/2017Budget.

The Town plans to continue providing high-quality services in 2017 without any tax increases or new taxes. The only increase in the cost of Town services the average Town resident can expect for 2017 is a \$1.26-per-month water bill increase.

The budget includes \$83.1 million for capital improvements and debt service and \$96.5 million for operating costs.

Key projects include reconstructing Meadows Parkway between Prairie Hawk and U.S. 85 and Emerald Drive between Plum Creek Parkway and Emerald Court; constructing Fire Station 152 in Crystal Valley Ranch; adding two patrol officers for CRPD; and working on several long-term water projects.

The 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. Town Council will finalize this amount in December.

Senior shuttle program needs volunteers

Community services come in many forms - even helping seniors get around Town. Volunteer as a driver for the Castle Rock Senior Activity Center and help get seniors and disabled adults to appointments, grocery stores, and other errands.

This service empowers seniors to live independently, but the volunteers also find the delightful conversations make this time thoroughly meaningful. Because of increasing demand, the senior center is seeking additional drivers to shuttle, or for individual trips to medical appointments in the metro area.

Training is provided on all the vehicles in the fleet. See the volunteer page castlerockseniorcenter.org for more information. If interested, contact Volunteer Coordinator Steph Schroeder at 303-688-9498 or sschroeder@CRgov.com.

New roadways in Town are connecting us to new goods and services

Last month, the new Castle Rock Parkway/North Meadows Drive opened, giving commuters new access to U.S. Highway 85 and Interstate 25. The 2-mile road also provides new routes to Castle Rock Adventist Hospital, local schools, the Outlets at Castle Rock and the new Promenade at Castle Rock, which just opened new stores.

TJ Maxx, HomeGoods and Maurices are now open. Petco and Ulta are expected to open by early October. To access these stores, the new Promenade Parkway is open from Castle Rock Parkway to U.S. Highway 85.

More stores are expected to come online later this year. For a full list, visit ShopPromenadeCastleRock.com.



Water conservation and efficiency tip
CRgov.com/waterwiser

Brisk air, dropping temperatures and changing leaves - all signs that fall is in the air. As irrigation season comes to an end, keep winterizing the lawn and sprinkler system top of mind. Winterization isn't just about blowing out the sprinkler system, it's also a time to prepare plants for the coming winter season.

Add a blanket of 3 to 5 inches of mulch to perennial flowerbeds. As for the lawn, it's time to feed those roots so they have stores for the winter. Cut your grass a final time. Fertilize cool-season turf (like Kentucky Bluegrass) with high potassium. Also, be sure to aerate your lawn to get more food and oxygen to the roots.

Though pruning is usually a spring-time chore, trim weak or damaged tree or shrub branches. In addition to being more rewarding, health plants use less water!

CONTACTS

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

Events in Castle Rock

Oct. 7: Chamber of Commerce's Town Council Candidate Forum, 7:30-9:30 a.m., The Move, 202 Sixth St. Get to know the candidates running for Castle Rock Town Council. Coffee and a light breakfast will be provided.

Oct. 8: LiveBIG Run, 7:30 a.m.-noon, Philip S. Miller trails and Challenge Hill. Race options include a 5K, 10K and Family Adventure Run. Proceeds benefit the Castle Rock Parks and Trails Foundation. Register and learn more at CRgov.com/livebig.

Oct. 8: Touch a Truck event - hosted by Castle Rock Police Department, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Castle View High School's north parking lot, 5254 N. Meadows Drive. Bring the kids to explore vehicles such as fire trucks, police cars, Air Life helicopters, tow trucks, cement mixers, hummers, and even "Tow Mater" from CARS and the Batmobile monster truck.

Oct. 13: Castle Rock Historical Society and Museum's free monthly presentation, 6:45-8 p.m. Hear spooky stories in local history.

Oct. 15: Harvest Festival, 2-8 p.m., Festival Park. This traditional fall event includes a Great Pumpkin Wall, pumpkin carving, live entertainment, a beer garden and more. Plus, don't miss the outdoor showing of "It's the Great Pumpkin Charlie Brown."

Oct. 15: Falling for Genealogy, noon-4 p.m., Philip S. Miller Library, 100 S. Wilcox St. Start your family search with a variety of skilled genealogical specialists at this free open house. Hosted by the Castle Rock Colorado Genealogy Society

Oct. 15: Fall Chili Cookoff and Open House, noon, The Barn.

Oct. 15, 21, 22, 28, 29: Castle of Terror, 7-10 p.m., 303 Malibu Court. Castle Rock's scariest haunted house, hosted by the Castle Rock Fire and Rescue Department. Tickets are \$10 cash at the door. No one under 13 admitted without an adult.

Oct. 22: Drug Take Back Day, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Castle Rock Police, 100 Perry St. Turn in used or expired medication for safe disposal.

Oct. 22: Tip-a-Cop fundraiser, 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Red Robin. Law enforcement will be the servers, with all tips benefiting Special Olympics.

Oct. 29: Spooktacular, 1-3 p.m., the MAC. Bring your littlest ghosts and goblins to this fun family event.

Oct. 31: Trick or Treat Street, 2-5 p.m., Downtown Castle Rock. Enjoy trick-or-treating at Downtown businesses, a costume contest, face painting, pony rides, arts and crafts and more at this free Halloween event. Learn more and register for the costume contest at CRgov.com/TrickOrTreat.

crgov.com

On the Web: Scavenge the Rock

Your opinion matters! Securing water for our future takes planning and that plan could impact water rates. Castle Rock Water is currently working on the 2016 Water Resource Master Plan update and is looking for community input. Take a quick survey at CRgov.com/watermasterplan. We are looking for customer's thoughts on the goals and strategies outlined in the plan update.