

# Your Town Talk

November 2016



## Good to Know Starlighting 2016

The holiday season is upon us, and it's almost time to celebrate an 80-year tradition. Starlighting is Nov. 19. Sponsored by the Castle Rock Chamber of Commerce, this year's event starts at 2 p.m. and will include hot chocolate, nonprofit booths, strolling entertainers, live entertainment and Santa. The Starlighting ceremony begins at 5 p.m., with lighting at about 5:30 p.m. This is a very popular tradition, so plan ahead by visiting [CastleRockCulture.com/Starlighting](http://CastleRockCulture.com/Starlighting).

## Go skating!

Rink at the Rock opens with Starlighting Nov. 19 and runs through Feb. 20. Generally, the rink will be open from 4 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays; 4-9 p.m. Fridays; 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturdays and 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Sundays. Get details at [RinkAtTheRock.com](http://RinkAtTheRock.com).

## Season of the Star to shine again

Our community is particularly charming during the holiday season. This year, the Town of Castle Rock is bringing back Season of the Star, a popular event series that made its debut in 2015.

Starting the week after Starlighting, Season of the Star events will be held at Festival Park each Saturday. Admission to all events is free. Please note, however, that charges may apply for merchandise, food and beverages. Mark your calendars:

- Nov. 26: 12 Stops of Christmas, 2-5 p.m., Festival Park and Downtown
- Dec. 3: Winterfest, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Festival Park
- Dec. 10: Storytellers and S'mores, 2-5 p.m., Festival Park
- Dec. 17: Castle Rock Winter Express, 2-5 p.m., Festival Park
- Dec. 24: Candlelight Service, 4-5 p.m., Festival Park
- Dec. 31: Castle Rockin' New Year's Eve Celebration, 5-8 p.m., Festival Park

During each event, with the exception of Christmas Eve, there will be a variety of ongoing activities, which include taking Selfies with Santa, dressing up in Rocky the Elf's Dressing Room at the Elf House Experience, shopping at Kris Kringle Market, taking a carriage ride, and snagging giveaways at the North Pole Welcome Center. Learn more at [CRgov.com/StarSeason](http://CRgov.com/StarSeason).

The Town's events staff is finalizing details. Stay tuned to [CRgov.com](http://CRgov.com) and the Town's Facebook page, [facebook.com/CRgov](https://facebook.com/CRgov). Details will be posted there as they become available. Or, sign up for updates at [CRgov.com/notifyme](http://CRgov.com/notifyme).

## The gift that keeps giving: shopping locally

The biggest shopping day of the year – Black Friday – is this month. In Castle Rock, there will be new stores to explore, but shopping locally also helps provide local services long after that final gift is unwrapped.

As a full-service municipality, Castle Rock provides fire, police, emergency medical, road maintenance, snow removal, code compliance, parks and recreation maintenance, and more using general tax support. These services make our Town a desirable place to live, and it's our honor to help make Castle Rock the strong community it is. Still, we all know the services require funding.

Take a look at your property tax bill. On average, the owner of a \$300,000 home in Castle Rock pays about \$35 in property tax to the Town. As a result, we depend on sales tax. That means, when you shop in Castle Rock, your dollar goes further, because it supports services like road improvements and public safety.

So as you're making your list and checking it twice, make sure you look to your friendly local business first. You'll be providing a better future for our entire community.

### Check out your options!

For a local business directory, visit [CRgov.com/411](http://CRgov.com/411).

### Here's a hint at what's new:

Talbots, Francesca's, Crocs and Christopher & Banks are now among the 112 stores open at the Outlets at Castle Rock.

T.J.Maxx, HomeGoods, Ulta, Verizon, Vitality Bowls and more are open at The Promenade at Castle Rock.



# Small water rates changes bring big improvements

As Castle Rock Water works hard to plan for the community's long-term water future, funding is always a consideration. To help accommodate the needs of the community, there will be small changes to Castle Rock Water customers' bills in 2017.

The new rates – approved by Town Council – will have minimal impacts to customers but big benefits to Castle Rock, as the Town works to secure the community's future. Overall, residential customers can expect to see an average increase of about \$14 per year distributed among several fees on their bill. These additional funds will help further the Town's long-term water program and fund needed capital improvements to the Town's stormwater system.

Most of these changes will be seen in customers' water usage charges. These charges are still based off a tiered system. The more water customers use, the more they will pay.

Resident fee changes will also be seen in the stormwater fixed fee. This nominal increase will help pay for stormwater capital projects and increased flood protection throughout the community.

Lastly, system development fees will also be increased in 2017. These are the fees paid by developers to make improvements to our system and help fund our long-term renewable water plan.

Using financial projections, Castle Rock Water is working strategically to make sure any required rate increases are as small as possible to minimize the impact to customers. Keeping comparable rates, while still ensuring the community's water future, is a top priority for the department.

## Check for Town credentials

As fall fills the air, and temperatures begin to drop, many homeowners are calling on experts to help with home maintenance projects. But, before you let a stranger into your home, it's important to keep a few safety tips in mind.

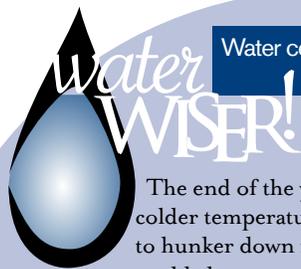
You may have heard of other communities that have had individuals posing as utility workers to gain access to a home. While this has not been a concern in Castle Rock, safety for our residents is extremely important. Here are a few things residents can expect if a Town employee comes to their home.

For Castle Rock Water, an appointment to access a homeowner's water meter may be periodically required. This would typically be as a result of a missed meter read. A blue door tag would be left requesting a resident to call and schedule the appointment.

When the meter technician arrives at the appointment time, they should

- 1) be driving a car with a clearly marked Town of Castle Rock logo,
- 2) be wearing a Town of Castle Rock shirt, and
- 3) have a picture ID badge.

If someone comes to your door without these credentials, do not let them in.



Water conservation and efficiency tip  
[CRgov.com/waterwiser](http://CRgov.com/waterwiser)

The end of the year is quickly approaching, and colder temperatures are in the air. As you prepare to hunker down for the winter season, your landscape could also use some winterizing care. Winter watering can help protect trees during the colder season. Until it snows, trees may need water about once a month. Just make sure temperatures are above 40 degrees. It's also a good idea to wrap young, thin-barked, trees with a paper tree wrap. Tree wraps can help protect the tree from weather damage. Also, remember to blow out irrigation systems. Water left in pipes or valves can freeze and damage the sprinkler system.

## CONTACTS

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

## Events in Castle Rock

**Nov. 10:** Castle Rock Historical Society and Museum's free monthly presentation, 6:45-8 p.m., Philip S. Miller Library. Learn about the Arlington ladies.

**Nov. 11:** Veteran's Day Tribute, 11 a.m.-noon, Veterans Monument Plaza, corner of Wilcox and Fourth streets Downtown. Join the Douglas County Office of Veterans Affairs and the Douglas County Veterans Monument Foundation for a tribute.

**Nov. 15:** Coffee with a Cop, 10-11 a.m., Pegasus restaurant, 313 Jerry St. Get to know your local officers in a relaxed atmosphere.

**Nov. 16:** Transportation Master Plan open house, 6-7:30 p.m., Town Hall, 100 N. Wilcox St. Give your input on the future of transportation in Castle Rock.

**Nov. 19:** Starlighting, 2-7 p.m., Downtown Castle Rock. Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, this tradition kicks off the holiday season in Castle Rock. Learn more at [CastleRockCulture.com](http://CastleRockCulture.com)

**Nov. 19:** Rink at the Rock opens, 414 N. Perry St. Get hours and details at [RinkAtTheRock.com](http://RinkAtTheRock.com).

**Nov. 24:** Thanksgiving. Town offices closed, including the Recreation Center and MAC.

**Nov. 24:** Turkey Rock Trot, 8:30 a.m., Douglas County Fairgrounds and Events Center.

## Season of the Star events

**Nov. 26:** 12 Stops of Christmas, 2-5 p.m.

**Dec. 3:** WinterFest, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

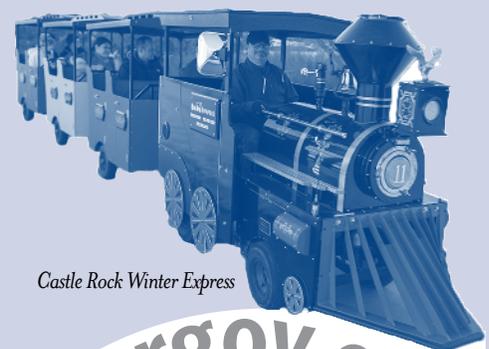
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**Dec. 31:** Castle Rockin' New Year's Eve Celebration, 5-8 p.m.

All events are at Festival Park. Learn more online at [CRgov.com/StarSeason](http://CRgov.com/StarSeason).



Castle Rock Winter Express

[crgov.com](http://crgov.com)

## On the Web: Map the future!

It's important infrastructure keeps up with demand. That's why we're updating our Transportation Master Plan for 2040. Think beyond roads to bikes, trails and transit. Tell us your vision. Visit [CRgov.com/TMP](http://CRgov.com/TMP) to learn what's planned for our infrastructure over the next one to five years. Then, tell us your wish list through 2040.