

Your Town Talk

November 2017

Good to Know

The “Lighting of the Star”

The “Lighting of the Star” is a Castle Rock tradition that dates back to 1936, when the Star was designed during the Great Depression. Volunteer firefighters from Castle Rock Hose Company No. 1, the original name of the CRFD, hauled the Star in pieces to the top of the 300-foot Rock, which at that time had no roads or trails. The Star was lit each year from 1936 to 1941, when it was turned off to conserve energy for World War II. At the end of the war, the Star was converted to a “V” for victory. The Star has been lit each Christmas season since 1945, and is maintained by the Castle Rock Fire Department to this day. This year’s celebration will again include hot chocolate, nonprofit booths, live entertainment, and Santa will be present for photos and visits.

Celebrate the season at Festival Park

For nearly a year, Castle Rock’s beloved Festival Park has been undergoing a transformation. Now, just in time for the holiday season, construction at the park is set to be complete. Get a sneak peak of all the improvements at this year’s Starlighting celebration. The park will officially open with a ribbon cutting at 3:30 p.m. prior to Starlighting. Or, keep an eye on CRgov.com/FestivalPark for more grand opening details. Save the date! Join us for a grand opening celebration on Saturday, June 2. More details coming soon.

Town Hall construction update

Construction at Town Hall is coming to a close, and a new daytime public entrance is now open to better serve you! When visiting from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., please use the east entrance closest to the parking lot; the Wilcox Street entrance will be secured during daytime but will be open for public meetings. Visitors can pay water bills, obtain building permits and more all from the new central lobby accessible from the east entrance.

Season of the Star ready to shine again

The holidays are a special time of year in Castle Rock. The season begins each year with Starlighting on the Saturday before Thanksgiving, and runs through the New Year. The Season of the Star is a series of events that encapsulates our Town’s holiday spirit. Here’s a list of activities that will be taking place that will be fun for the whole family:

Nov. 18: Castle Rock Starlighting, Wilcox Square, 2 to 7 p.m.

Nov. 18-Feb. 19, 2018: Rink at the Rock, White Pavilion, 414 Perry St.

Nov. 25: Shop Local Saturday, Downtown Castle Rock

Dec. 2: WinterFest, Festival Park, 1 to 5 p.m., 300 Second St.

Dec. 9: Storytellers and S’mores, Festival Park, 5 to 7 p.m., 300 Second St.

Dec. 15: Reindeer Games, Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park, 3 to 6 p.m., 1379 W. Plum Creek Parkway

Dec. 24: Candlelighting, Festival Park, 6 to 7 p.m., 300 Second St.

What to know when it snows

Winter is nearly here, and when it snows, our crews are prepared. Are you? During snowstorms, it’s a priority for the Town to make streets safe and passable for both emergency crews and other drivers. Main thoroughfares and school bus routes are the Town’s No. 1 priority and will be plowed for every snow event.

In neighborhoods, crews will clear one lane when 4 inches of snow or more accumulates on the pavement between Nov. 15 and March 15. For snow events outside of the four-month window, plows will be deployed into residential areas for 8 inches of snow or more. During that time, temperatures are typically warmer, so snow melts faster.

In addition, the Town removes snow from public properties, including buildings with public access, and bicycling and walking paths. This maintenance begins after 2 inches of snow accumulation.

Residents can monitor snowplow activity with the online tracker, CRgov.com/plowtracker. In addition, the Town will provide updates on its homepage, CRgov.com, and on its Facebook page and Twitter handle, [@CRgov](https://twitter.com/CRgov). For more safety information, visit CRgov.com/Fire.

Be prepared for winter weather with these safety tips

Your Town wants you prepared. As winter weather approaches, Castle Rock Fire and Rescue wants you to remember these safety tips:

- Inspect and service your furnace — this should be done once a season.
- Clean and inspect your chimneys and vents: the leading cause of chimney fires is creosote build-up.
- Choose dry, seasoned wood for use in your fireplace and wood stove.
- Use a metal or heat-tempered glass fireplace screen.
- Have children stay at least 3 feet away from the fireplace, wood/pellet stove, oil stove or space heater.
- Ensure space heaters have space and an automatic shut-off.
- Plug space heaters directly into the wall outlet, rather than using an extension cord.
- Test your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. Change the batteries at least once a year.

Going paperless could pay off

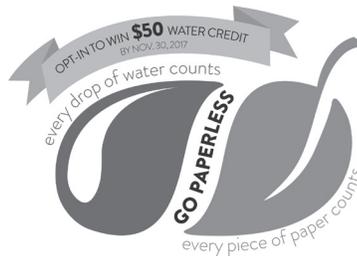
Just as every drop of water counts, so does every piece of paper. Stay organized, and help Castle Rock Water serve you better by signing up for paperless billing.

Log in to your H2OAccess account to go paperless by Nov. 30 and be entered into a drawing for a \$50 water credit on your water bill. Current paperless customers are already entered into the drawing.

Don't have an account? It's easy to set up at CRgov.com/H2OAccess. And don't worry, you can still stay up-to-date on Town news. This Town Talk will be sent directly to your email.

By creating an H2OAccess account, you will get 24/7 access to your water account – plus, the ability to pay your bill online, schedule automatic payments and view 12 months of statement history.

Going paperless also allows you to receive a monthly water bill reminder via email. Save time, stay organized and help the environment by opting to go paperless.



Shopping local: the gift that keeps on giving

November is traditionally a month of busy shopping activities, punctuated by Black Friday (the day after Thanksgiving), the biggest shopping day of the year. As a full-service municipality, Castle Rock provides services including police, fire, emergency medical, road maintenance, snow removal, code compliance, parks and recreation, and much more, using the taxes generated in stores right here in Town.

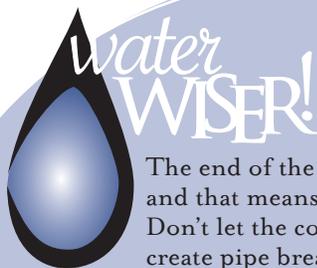
These services make our Town a desirable place to live, and it's our honor to help make Castle Rock the strong community it is.

Shopping locally helps provide local services long after that gift is unwrapped. That's why the Town of Castle Rock is a big supporter of local businesses, and we encourage you to patronize the businesses featured in our Shop Local campaign on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. For a directory of local businesses, please visit CRgov.com/ShopLocal.



Town of Castle Rock on social media

[Facebook.com/CRgov](https://www.facebook.com/CRgov)
[Instagram.com/CRgov](https://www.instagram.com/CRgov)
[Twitter.com/CRgov](https://twitter.com/CRgov)



Water conservation and efficiency tip
CRconserve.com

The end of the year is quickly approaching, and that means one thing - time to winterize! Don't let the coming freezing temperatures create pipe breaks, unnecessary repairs and wasted water.

A little work now can prevent some big headaches next year. Outdoors – be sure to blow out sprinklers, drain hoses and cover outdoor spigots. As for indoors, try insulating your pipes to keep water warmer and don't forget to flush your water heater. Keeping things in order before the winter season will help prevent leaks and water waste this spring.

Events in Castle Rock

Nov. 4: 25th Anniversary Castle Rock Craft Show Extraordinaire, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Douglas County Fairgrounds and Events Center. Visit the area's largest craft sale to take care of some holiday shopping.

Nov. 4: Pie Bake Off, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., The Millhouse at Philip S. Miller Park.

Nov. 9: Castle Rock Historical Society and Museum's Free Monthly Presentation, 6:45 to 8 p.m., Philip S. Miller Library, 100 S. Wilcox St.

Nov. 10: Veterans Day, Town offices closed, Recreation Center and MAC open normal hours.

Nov. 11: Veterans Day Ceremony, 11 a.m. to noon, Douglas County Veterans Monument, at the corner of Wilcox and Fourth streets. The Douglas County Veterans Monument Foundation will host a Veterans Day Ceremony with George Brauchler as the keynote speaker.

Nov. 14: Town Council meeting, 6 p.m., Town Hall at 100 Wilcox St.

Nov. 14: Coffee with a Cop, 10 to 11 a.m., Pegasus Restaurant on Jerry Street. Get to know your Castle Rock Police Officers.

Nov. 18: Castle Rock Starlighting, 2 to 7 p.m., Historic Wilcox Square cross streets. This year's celebration will again include hot chocolate, non-profit booths, strolling entertainers, live entertainment, and of course, Santa will be present for photos and visits.

Nov. 18: Rink at the Rock opens today and runs through Feb. 19, 2018. Visit rinkattherock.com.

Nov. 22: Plum Creek Water Purification Facility Tour, 10 to 11 a.m., Plum Creek Water Purification Facility, 1929 Liggett Road.

Nov. 23: Turkey ROCK Trot, 8 to 10:30 a.m., Douglas County Events Center, 500 Fairgrounds Drive.

Nov. 23 and 24: Town offices closed. Recreation Center and MAC closed Nov. 23, open normal hours Nov. 24.

Nov. 25: Shop Local Saturday, various businesses in Downtown Castle Rock.

Dec. 2: WinterFest, 1 to 5 p.m., Festival Park. Celebrate winter in the new Festival Park!

Dec. 9: Storytellers and S'Mores, 5 to 7 p.m., Festival Park.

Dec. 12: Coffee with a Cop, 10 to 11 a.m., Einstein Bros. Bagels, 3993 Limelight Ave.

crgov.com

On the Web: Castle Rock a top town

If you've ever wondered why Castle Rock is such a desirable place to live, look no further than the numerous awards our Town has accrued over the last few years. Factors like livability, jobs, family-friendliness and safety are factors for our success. Read more at crgov.com/TopTown.