

Your Town Talk

October 2018



Good to Know

Rock Halloween with these events!

Spooky fun and Halloween treats will be at several locations this year.

Castle of Terror “Prison Break”

Castle of Terror “Prison Break” is a scary haunted house at the Town’s Fire Training Tower, 303 Malibu St., recommended for those age 13 and up. Opening night will be Saturday, Oct. 13. The event will also be held from 7 to 10 p.m. Oct. 19, 20, 26 and 27. Admission is \$10 at the door. Proceeds benefit the Town’s Fire and Police Explorer programs.

Spooktacular

The Town’s Spooktacular event is Saturday, Oct. 27, at the Miller Activity Complex. Sensory-friendly activities will be featured from noon to 1 p.m. Those with last names starting with A-L are asked to join in the fun between 1 and 2 p.m., and those on the latter half of the alphabet from 2 to 3 p.m. There will be games, bounce houses, face painting, prizes, food and — of course — candy.

Fangtastic Festival

Downtown Castle Rock is hosting the Fangtastic Festival from 1 to 4 p.m. Oct. 31, with costumes, candy, inflatables, carnival games, hay rides and more at Festival Park.

Wicked Wednesday

The Outlets at Castle Rock will be hosting Wicked Wednesday from 5 to 7 p.m. Oct. 31, with face painting, a spooky magic show, a costume contest, and store-to-store trick-or-treating.

Election Day is Nov. 6, 2018

In this year’s election, Castle Rock voters will be asked to decide among candidates to fill open Town Council seats in District 3 and District 5, as well as for Mayor. Additionally, seven Charter amendment questions will be on the ballot.

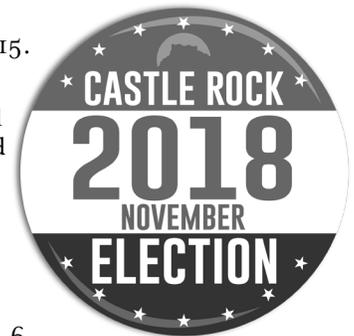
Ballots will be in the mail the week of Oct. 15.

Most of the Charter amendment questions relate to the restructuring of Town Council to six Council Districts and a Mayor elected at-large. Registered voters who live within District 3 and District 5 will have those candidates on their ballots. The Mayoral candidates will be on the ballots of all registered voters in Castle Rock.

All ballots must be returned by 7 p.m. Nov. 6.

Completed ballots can be returned by mail, or at one of two 24/7 drop-off boxes, which are in the parking lot of Town Hall, 100 N. Wilcox St., and the parking lot of the Douglas County Elections Office, 125 Stephanie Place.

Learn more about the election at CRgov.com/NovemberElection.



2019 Budget reflects community’s priorities

The Town’s 2019 Budget includes a healthy amount of capital projects and operating resources, especially in the areas of transportation, water and public safety.

That said, the Town remains challenged to assemble adequate funding for future roads and parks in particular, as well as to secure all needed operating funds — especially within the Police Department.

A Town Council-approved increase in development-related impact fees — paid when new buildings are constructed — will help needed infrastructure like roads, parks and fire stations keep pace with growth.

The 2019 Budget contains no tax increases, nor new taxes. The owner of a median-valued home (\$373,245) will still pay the Town only \$35.74 in annual property taxes, and the Town’s portion of the sales tax rate will remain 4 percent. There will be minor fee increases in 2019 for golf course and recreation facility users, as well as a modest rate increase for outdoor water use.

The total 2019 Budget is \$236.6 million, which includes \$83.9 million for capital improvements and \$128.3 million for operations. Expected revenues are \$203.8 million. The difference between revenues and expenditures is attributable to the planned use of reserves — or past years’ savings — for capital projects, which is a common and sound practice.

Budget highlights include the addition of five positions in police and roadwork projects totaling over \$20 million. Projects to secure long-term water will continue, and the Town’s next neighborhood park will be designed. Learn more at CRgov.com/2019budget.

Castle Rock's longest-serving firefighter appointed Fire Chief

Castle Rock's longest-serving firefighter is now leading the department — Norris W. Croom III was appointed Fire Chief on Sept. 18, 2018. Croom has been with Castle Rock Fire and Rescue for over 32 years as both a volunteer and career firefighter.



"We have established a great team within the department, and without their support, I would not be in this position today," Croom said. Croom further attributed much of his success to the "undying love and support" of his wife, Jody, and three sons, Norris IV, Carson and Brogan.

A native of North Carolina, Croom moved to Castle Rock in 1986. He has spent his entire career since with CRFD, serving at all levels and in nearly all areas. Town Manager David L. Corliss recommended Croom as Chief out of more than 100 applicants for the post.

Croom is a graduate of the Executive Fire Officer Program and holds Chief Fire Officer and Chief EMS Officer designations from the Center for Public Safety Excellence Commission on Professional Credentialing.

"Norris exemplifies the Fire Department's values of strength, honor, integrity, excellence, leadership, dedication and service," Corliss said. "We are fortunate to have him leading the team forward."

Two Town departments receive awards

Residents know Castle Rock is an award-winning community. Now, several Town departments are being recognized for their efforts.

The Parks and Recreation Department has been awarded the 2018 National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management. The award recognizes excellence in parks and recreation through long-range planning, resource management and innovative approaches. View the extensive application and the video created for the award at CRgov.com/ParksandRec. This is the second award the Parks and Recreation Department has recently received. The department was also awarded a 2018 Best Projects award from ENR Mountain State for Festival Park.

Castle Rock Water was awarded the Gold level of the Colorado Environmental Leadership Program for its efforts in voluntarily going beyond compliance for environmental laws and regulations. The department spent five years developing a sustainability program and implementing a long-term environmental plan before earning the gold status.



water
WISER!

Water conservation and efficiency tip
CRconserve.com

Is it better to shower in the morning or the evening? Evening showers are a good way to unwind and release muscle tension, while morning showers prepare your body and hair for a new day. There isn't technically a better time to shower, but there is a better way. October is Shower Better Month! That means it's time for a few tips on how to shower better: 1) Change your showerhead to a low-flow WaterSense version, and use between 20 and 50 percent less water each shower; 2) Try reducing your shower time to just 5 minutes; 3) While the shower water is heating up, collect the water in a bucket for use on houseplants, in pet bowls, etc.; 4) Insulate your hot water pipes to reduce the time, water and energy it takes to get to your shower.

Events in Castle Rock CRgov.com/events

Oct. 3: Coffee with a Cop, 9-10 a.m., Rock Ridge Elementary School.

Oct. 4: CRFD Strategic Plan Open House, 6-8 p.m., Fire Station 153, 5463 E. Sovereign St.

Oct. 6: Castle Rock Trail Fest, 7 a.m.-5 p.m., Philip S. Miller Park.

Oct. 6: Tunes for Trails/Perks for Parks Free Concert: 6 Million Dollar Band, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., the Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park.

Oct. 11: Castle Rock Rec's Totally Awesome '80s Party, 5:30-8 p.m., Castle Rock Recreation Center, 2301 Woodlands Blvd.

Oct. 13, 19, 20, 26 & 27: Castle of Terror "Prison Break," 7-10 p.m., Fire Training Center, 303 Malibu St.

Oct. 17: Downtown Mobility Study Open House, 5:30-7 p.m., Town Hall, 100 Wilcox St.

Oct. 20: Creepy Crawlies at the Rock, 1-3 p.m., Festival Park. Celebrate the creatures of the Halloween season.

Oct. 27: Spooktacular, noon-3 p.m., Miller Activity Complex (MAC).

Oct. 27: VetFest 5K/10K/Street Party, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Festival Park, benefits the Douglas County Veterans Monument Foundation.

Oct. 31: Fangtastic Festival, 1-4 p.m., Festival Park.

Oct. 31: Wicked Wednesday, 5-7 p.m., the Outlets at Castle Rock.

Nov. 3: 26th Annual Castle Rock Craft Show Extraordinaire, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Douglas County Fairgrounds and Event Center.

Nov. 3: Pie Bake Off, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., the Millhouse at PSM Park. Go to CRgov.com/pies for more information.

crgov.com

On the Web: Going paperless

Reduce clutter, increase organization and save time by opting in for paperless water billing. Sign up for an online account and opt in for paperless billing at CRgov.com/H2OAccess. It's one of the easiest ways to reduce the hassle of monthly bills. Current and new water customers who opt-in for paperless water billing before Nov. 30, 2018, will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 water credit.