

# Your Town

## Talk

November 2018

## Good to Know

### The Lighting of the Star

The “Lighting of the Star,” or Starlighting, is an iconic Castle Rock tradition that dates back to the Great Depression. Volunteer firefighters hauled the Star up to the top of the 300-foot Rock in several pieces, without the aid of roads or trails. The Star was illuminated each year from 1936 to 1941, when it was turned off to conserve energy for World War II. After the war, it was briefly converted to a “V” for victory in 1945. It has been lit every year since.

This year’s celebration, taking place from 2 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 17, will include strolling entertainers, live entertainment, nonprofit booths, hot chocolate and, of course, Santa.

Don’t forget to enjoy the Rink at the Rock this season, an outdoor ice skating rink in Downtown Castle Rock, as well.

### Season of the Star

The holidays are a special time of year in Castle Rock. It all begins with Starlighting and runs through the end of January. “Season of the Star” is a celebration of lights and the beauty of our Town during winter. Keep your family in the holiday spirit with these family-friendly activities:

**Nov. 24-Dec. 22:** Carriage Rides

Festival Park, every Friday and Saturday from 5 to 7 p.m.

**Nov. 24:** Small Business Saturday

Downtown Castle Rock

**Dec. 8:** Storytellers and S’mores

Festival Park, 5 to 7 p.m.

**Dec. 14:** Reindeer Games

PSM Park Amphitheater, 3 to 6 p.m.

## What to know when it snows

Winter is nearly here, and in Colorado, that means snow. 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 or more accumulates on the pavement between Nov. 15 and March 15. For snow events outside of that four-month window, plows will be deployed into residential areas for 8 inches of accumulation or more.

Residents can monitor snowplow progress through Town and get an estimated time of arrival in their area with the Town’s online snowplow tracker, [CRgov.com/plowtracker](http://CRgov.com/plowtracker).

Your Town also 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 heating 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** spaces 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

## Deputy Zack S. Parrish III honored with park

The Town’s next neighborhood park will pay tribute to one of the community’s fallen heroes.

The community was shaken when former Castle Rock Police Officer and Douglas County Sheriff’s Deputy Zack S. Parrish III was killed in the line of duty on Dec. 31, 2017. So, this past summer, when the Town was seeking public feedback to name its next neighborhood park, Parrish’s sacrifice was still top of mind.

An overwhelming majority of the more than 700 online entries received recommended naming the park, near Aspen View Academy, for Parrish. And that’s what Town Council did in October, designating the park Deputy Zack S. Parrish III Memorial Park, per his family’s preference.

A formal groundbreaking ceremony was held at the park in October, and construction is underway. The \$2.6 million project is expected to be complete in spring/summer 2019.

The 5.5-acre park will include playground equipment, picnic shelters, trails, a multiuse field, and infrastructure for playing pickle ball, bocce ball, corn hole and horseshoes.

Visit [CRgov.com/futureparks](http://CRgov.com/futureparks) for updates as the project progresses.

## 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 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](http://CRgov.com/H2OAccess). And don't worry, you can still stay up-to-date on Town news. Your Town Talk newsletter 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.

Go paperless and receive a monthly water bill notice via email. Save time, stay organized and help the environment by going paperless.

## CRPD launches Rock Watch

With more and more people having some form of video surveillance for their property, Castle Rock Police is looking to create a unique community partnership. In an effort to better serve the community – and get a leg up on detecting, preventing and prosecuting crimes – CRPD is asking for residents to register their exterior or public area surveillance cameras with the Rock Watch program.

The Rock Watch program employs a modern neighborhood watch concept and creates a voluntary, opt-in partnership with the community. If an incident is reported, the Rock Watch program will help police know where there may be surveillance footage. Officers could then ask to review the footage to help identify suspects, or to be used as evidence in criminal proceedings.

It is important to note, Rock Watch does not allow Castle Rock Police to have independent access to cameras or surveillance recordings. Learn more, or register your surveillance camera, at [CRgov.com/RockWatch](http://CRgov.com/RockWatch).

## Help CRFD as it strives to 'be the best'

What are the community's expectations when it comes to fire and rescue services, and what should the priorities be for Castle Rock Fire and Rescue?

CRFD staff want community feedback on those topics and more and are holding a series of open houses to present information and then solicit opinions. The information will be used to update the department's strategic plan for 2020 and beyond.

The next open house will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 11, at Fire Station 154, 3801 Prairie Hawk Drive. Additional open houses will be held in 2019 – watch [CRgov.com/FirePlan](http://CRgov.com/FirePlan) for details. The department's current strategic plan is also online there.



water  
WISER!

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

Did your mom show you the “right” way to wash the dishes? Believe it or not, there is a better way. Start with scraping any food waste into the trash, instead of rinsing it down the drain. Keep that drain free of grease and grime by putting fats, oil and grease from cooking into the trash. A good method is to freeze the oil first, then simply place it in the trash can. This can prevent clogged and smelly pipes. Also, it's better to use the dishwasher, but only run it when it's full. Washing dishes by hand can use two to three times as much water. Impress Mom this Thanksgiving and take charge of the water-smart way to keep that kitchen looking spiffy.

## Events in Castle Rock [CRgov.com/events](http://CRgov.com/events)

**Nov. 8:** Castle Rock Historical Society and Museum's free monthly presentation, 6:45 to 8 p.m., Philip S. Miller Library.

**Nov. 8:** Coffee with a Cop, 1 to 2 p.m., Starbucks, 955 New Memphis Court.

**Nov. 11:** Castle Rock Community Turkey Drive, King Soopers Marketplace, 5544 Promenade Parkway. Buy a frozen turkey and drop it off at the truck, and you'll receive a free container of green chile (first 300); or, if you need a turkey, you can pick one up. All extra turkeys go to the Help & Hope Center (Douglas Elbert Task Force).

**Nov. 12:** Town offices closed in observance of Veterans Day.

**Nov. 17:** Starlighting, 2 to 7 p.m., Downtown Castle Rock.

**Nov. 17:** Rink at the Rock opens for the season; 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

**Nov. 22:** Town offices, the Recreation Center and the MAC closed for Thanksgiving.

**Nov. 22:** Turkey Rock Trot, 7:30 to 11 a.m., Douglas County Events Center.

**Nov. 23:** Town offices closed.

**Nov. 24-Dec. 22:** Carriage rides at Festival Park, 5 to 7 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

**Nov. 24:** Small Business Saturday at participating businesses in Downtown Castle Rock.

**Dec. 1:** WinterFest 5K, noon to 4 p.m., Festival Park.

**Dec. 7:** Coffee with a Cop, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Pegasus Restaurant, 313 Jerry St.

**Dec. 8:** Storytellers and S'mores, 5 to 7 p.m., Festival Park.

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

## On the Web: Keep up with Election results

Election Day is Nov. 6. In this election, Castle Rock voters were asked to decide among candidates to fill open Town Council seats in District 3 and District 5, as well as for the Mayor. Additionally, seven Charter amendment questions were on the ballot. Results were not available by press time for this newsletter, but if you are reading this on Election Day or later, results are available at [CRgov.com/NovemberElection](http://CRgov.com/NovemberElection). We'll report full results in the December Your Town Talk.