

# Your Town Talk

December 2018



## Good to Know Celebrate the Season of the Star

Make sure the holidays are full of memories, magic and merriment. Join the Town to celebrate the warmth of our community and make sure the season truly shines. More information is available at [CRgov.com/StarSeason](http://CRgov.com/StarSeason). 2018 Season of the Star Events:

### Storytellers and S'mores

5 to 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 8,  
Festival Park

Santa, along with several friends, will be at Festival Park to read holiday favorite stories from our giant Storytellers chair. Enjoy roasting marshmallows, s'mores, hot chocolate and other family-friendly fun.

### Reindeer Games

3 to 6 p.m., Friday, Dec. 14,  
Philip S. Miller Park

Santa and his live reindeer will transform Philip S. Miller Park into a winter-themed wonderland. Enjoy kid-friendly activities, including free cookies and hot chocolate, sleigh rides, outdoor games and an obstacle course in the Amphitheater.

### Carriage rides

5 to 8 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays  
through Dec. 22, Festival Park

Take a free carriage ride from Festival Park, and enjoy the holiday lights and decorations through Downtown. Rides are on a first-come, first-served basis.

## Three new members join Town Council

Three new members are joining Town Council following November's election. Voters elected Jason Gray as Mayor to represent the entire Town. Gray has lived in Castle Rock since 1998 and owns Crowfoot Valley Coffee and Crow Bar. He's married and has two sons.

He has actively contributed to the Town's vibrancy and strategic planning, serving on the Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Alliance boards, among others.

Kevin Bracken now represents District 3, comprised of eastern portions of The Meadows, Red Hawk and Castle Highlands. Kevin was a U.S. Olympic wrestler who now coaches youth wrestling, as well as football at Castle View High School. He works as a cost-savings expert for hospitals and is married with a son and a daughter.

Rounding out the new members is Caryn Johnson, who represents District 5 in southeast Castle Rock. Caryn has lived in Castle Rock for 13 years and has previously served on the Town's Parks and Recreation and Water Commissions. She spends her time volunteering in the community, including for her church, and for the Castlewood Ranch Metropolitan District. Caryn is married and has two children.

Also in the November election, voters approved seven amendments to the Town Charter, generally related to electing the Town's mayor at-large. All questions passed at 69 to 88 percent approval.

View full results of the election at [CRgov.com/NovemberElection](http://CRgov.com/NovemberElection).

## Roadwork winding down as winter winds up

Snowflakes generally signal the end of roadwork season, and projects on two major Castle Rock streets should be winding down ahead of the new year.

Drivers have been patient as utility and weather delays have impacted the planned schedule for installing a new roundabout at Wolfensberger Road and Coachline Road/Plum Creek Parkway – thank you!

Weather permitting, the intersection should be functioning as a roundabout by the end of the year – though the project won't be fully finished until spring. That said, asphalt is temperature-sensitive, so if cold comes in to stay, this intersection could remain a four-way stop until spring.

Progress continues, with pavement being placed and lighting being installed in early December. Signage and striping will serve to signal drivers how to use the intersection amid uncertain construction conditions. Please remain alert, and drive safely in this dynamic work area.

Work to restore Meadows Boulevard between Cherokee and North Meadows drives also will be wrapping up by the end of the year, weather permitting. Both this project and the roundabout project were started later in the construction season, so the reconstruction of Meadows Parkway could be completed ahead of work starting elsewhere in the area.

As with all roadwork projects, the Town thanks drivers for their patience and understanding that a cone zone is a signal to better roads ahead.

## Help shape the future of public safety in Castle Rock

Ensuring outstanding public safety is a top priority. As the community continues to grow, Castle Rock Fire and Rescue and Castle Rock Police want to make sure they're keeping up with demand. The departments are working on updating their strategic plans and need feedback from the community. Join us Tuesday, Dec. 11, for a Public Safety Strategic Planning Open House.

Police officers and firefighters will be at Fire Station 154, 3801 Prairie Hawk Drive, from 6 to 8 p.m. to discuss public safety priorities for the coming years. Learn more about Castle Rock Fire and Rescue with a formal presentation starting at 6 p.m. Castle Rock Police will also be on hand to share information and answer questions.

Fill out a feedback form to help set priorities for the departments, and help shape the future of public safety in Castle Rock. More information is available at [CRgov.com/publicsafetyplans](http://CRgov.com/publicsafetyplans).

## Worried about winter wildlife?

Part of what draws people to Castle Rock is the Town's beautiful natural backdrop. Wildlife, such as bears, mountain lions, owls and coyotes, also call this natural habitat home. So, what do you need to know about winter wildlife?

While bears may be hibernating, other wildlife, such as coyotes, are active through the winter. Like most wildlife, coyotes can live alongside humans, but usually avoid people. However, they are curious, clever, adaptable and sometimes look for food in urban areas. Coyotes, along with owls, can be a common danger for small, unsupervised and unleashed pets.

To avoid attracting wildlife to your home:

- Make sure garbage is tightly sealed
- Remove fallen fruit or birdseed from the yard
- Trim overgrown shrubs
- Never leave pet food outside
- Protect pets by keeping them inside

If you encounter wildlife near your home, make loud noises, or use yard lights to frighten animals away. And, remember to never feed wild animals. Learn more about living with wildlife at [CRgov.com/wildlife](http://CRgov.com/wildlife).



**water  
WISER!**

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

With winter weather in full swing, many people are looking for ways to make shoveling the driveway easier. But, using a deicing agent can wreak havoc on the community's water quality. The best way to keep your sidewalk and driveway clear is to shovel snow the old-fashioned way. Shoveling frequently will help prevent snow from compacting into ice. Be sure to put snow in the yard instead of in the street or gutter. This provides grass and plants with winter watering. If you must use a deicing agent, check labels for environmentally conscious products. Traditional rock salt contains trace amounts of cyanide and chloride, which can contaminate waterways and be corrosive to plants and concrete. Less harmful deicers (like the one the Town uses on roads) contain magnesium chloride and calcium magnesium acetate.

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

**Dec. 7:** Coffee with a Cop, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Pegasus Restaurant, 313 Jerry St. Get to know your Castle Rock Police Officers.

**Dec. 8:** Storytellers and S'mores, 5 to 7 p.m., Festival Park. Enjoy an evening around a campfire, listening to stories and making s'mores.

**Dec. 9:** Santa Express Train Excursion, 1:30 to 9 p.m. Ride the Royal Gorge Santa Express Railway to meet Santa Claus! This is a winter wonderland, where children of all ages wear cozy pajamas and relax with family and friends on a journey you'll treasure forever. On the way to pick up Santa and his elves from the North Pole, enjoy sing-along Christmas songs, cookies and hot cocoa. Hurry, space is limited, and you don't want to miss this special trip. Call 720-733-3569 for details.

**Dec. 11:** Public Safety Strategic Planning Open House, 6 to 8 p.m., Fire Station 154, 3801 Prairie Hawk Drive. Learn about public safety, hear how departments serve our community and set priorities for coming years.

**Dec. 14:** Reindeer Games, 3 to 6 p.m., the Millhouse at Philip S. Miller Park. Join the Town and Santa for the 2018 Reindeer Games! Enjoy kid-friendly activities in a winter-themed wonderland including live reindeer, Santa, cookies, hot chocolate, sleigh rides, outdoor games and an obstacle course.

**Dec. 24:** Christmas Eve closures:  
■ Recreation Center open 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
■ MAC open 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
■ Town Hall open 8 a.m. to noon

**Dec. 25:** Town Hall, Recreation Center and MAC are closed for Christmas.

**Dec. 31:** New Year's Eve closures:  
■ Recreation Center open 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
■ MAC open 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
■ Town Hall open all day

**Jan. 1, 2019:** Town Hall, Recreation Center and MAC are all closed for New Year's Day.

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

## On the Web: In the know about snow

Winter is here, and in Colorado, that means snow. It's a Town priority to make sure the community's major streets are safe and passable for divers and emergency vehicles. While we're all still sleeping, the Town's snowplow crews are hard at work. During winter, the Town clears one lane on residential streets when 4 inches of snow (or more) accumulates on the pavement. Monitor snowplow activity in your area with the Town's online tracker – [CRgov.com/plowtracker](http://CRgov.com/plowtracker).