

Your Town Talk

October 2019



Good to Know

Rock your Halloween in Castle Rock

Trick-or-treat season is upon us, so find your costume, and get ready for a frightfully good time. Whether you're looking for some unique treats or family fun, Castle Rock has something for everyone.

Spooktacular

Saturday, Oct. 26

For younger goblins, the Spooktacular festival will offer activities such as face painting, a jumpy house, games, crafts and contests. It will run from 1 to 4 p.m. at the MAC.

Fangtastic Festival

Thursday, Oct. 31

The Downtown Alliance will host this event in Festival Park on Halloween from 1-4 p.m. Kids will be able to enjoy inflatables, face painters, balloon artists, candy, hay rides and carnival games.

Castle of Terror (CANCELED)

Please note, the Castle of Terror haunted house has been canceled this year due to concerns over construction in the area of the fire training center.

Keep safety in mind

Finally, remember to keep safety in mind while out with those little goblins. Be sure costumes are bright, reflective and flame-retardant. Carry a flashlight. And, always trick or treat with an adult. It's also a good idea for parents to make sure candy is well wrapped and identifiable before breaking into the treats.

Enjoy a safe and happy Halloween!

2020 Budget includes property tax and water rates decreases

The Town's \$228 million budget for 2020 includes decreases in the Town's property tax mill levy rate and in its water rates for typical residential customers.

The budget, which Town Council approved in September, contains \$135.9 million for operations and \$67.5 million for capital improvements – including about \$40 million in water system improvements.

Also slated for construction in 2020 is a neighborhood park in Cobblestone Ranch and the widening of Plum Creek Parkway between Gilbert Street and Eaton Circle. Additionally, three new police officers will be added to the Town's force.

A projected 4% growth in sales tax revenue over 2019 is enabling funding for the officers.

Property tax is expected to bring in \$1.3 million in 2020. The Town Charter caps the growth in property tax revenue to 5.5% annually, so the Town must lower its mill levy rate from 1.330 mills to 1.187 mills to account for an 18% increase in property valuation within Town. The proposed rate, which is anticipated to be finalized in December, means the owner of a median-valued home in Castle Rock (\$427,537 as of May 2019) would pay \$36.29 in annual Town property tax in 2020.

Learn more about the Town's 2020 Budget at CRgov.com/2020Budget.



Vote early: 24-hour ballot drop-boxes make it easy

DOUGLAS VOTES.COM

Registered voters will receive their ballot by mail in mid-October. Don't wait, deliver your ballot early at ballot drop boxes available countywide. Please note the following changes for Castle Rock

voters. The Downtown drop box is now a walk-up location in front of the Douglas County Government Building at 100 Third St. The Voter Service and Polling Center has moved to the CSU Extension Office at the Douglas County Fairgrounds. There will not be a drop-off location at Town Hall. Visit DouglasVotes.com for ballot drop box locations and election and voter information. No matter how it's returned, your ballot must be received by 7 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 5.

Roadwork projects update

Roadwork on Founders Parkway and Allen Way is expected to be completed by November. Work on Founders Parkway and Crowfoot Valley Road will be completed by the end of the year. For more information on these projects, visit CRgov.com/Roads.

As part of its Transportation Master Plan, the Town is widening Plum Creek Parkway between Gilbert Street and Eaton Circle. Construction on the parkway will be completed in phases. In October through January 2020, work will take place on the installation of new storm sewer pipe; drainage inlets and manholes; erosion control; and landscape restoration. For the most part, this phase will be completed outside of the existing pavement along Plum Creek Parkway from Gilbert Street to Eaton Circle, and on the southern end of Gilbert Street. Completing the storm sewer work in the winter months will reduce construction time for the widening of Plum Creek Parkway by several months. Impacts to traffic flow are expected to be minimal throughout the project. Visit CRgov.com/PlumCreekPkwy for details.

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 and choose the option to go paperless by Saturday, Nov. 30, to be entered into a drawing for a \$50 water credit on your water bill. Current paperless customers are automatically 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 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.

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



Water conservation and efficiency tip
CRconserve.com

Fall is in the air, and for your irrigation system, that means one thing – it's time to shut things down. Properly prepping your irrigation system can help prevent damaged pipes and potentially costly leaks next spring. Typically, winterizing your system involves shutting off the water, turning off the valve connection to your controller, blowing the water out of the lines and insulating any exposed backflow devices. Most systems will need an air compressor to effectively blow the water out of the lines. Don't worry if you can't get to winterizing before the first snow; make sure have it done before the first hard freeze, or when the outdoor air temperatures dip below 27 degrees.

Events in Castle Rock

CRgov.com/events

Oct. 5: Castle Rock Trail Festival/LiveBIG 5K & Family Adventure Run, all day, PSM Park and trails and Challenge Hill.

Oct. 5: Gateway Mesa Northern Trail Extension Project, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Gateway Mesa Open Space.

Oct. 12: Barks and Brews, noon to 3 p.m., Outlets at Castle Rock.

Oct. 12: Fall Festival featuring Creepy Crawlies Around the Rock, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Festival Park.

Oct. 19: 3rd Annual VetFest 5K/10K and Festival, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Kirk Hall at the Douglas County Fairgrounds, benefiting the Douglas County Veterans Monument Foundation.

Oct. 25: Castle View Football Elementary School Night, 6:15 to 10 p.m., Douglas County High School Stadium.

Oct. 26: Spooktacular, 1 to 4 p.m., Miller Activity Complex.

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

Nov. 2: 27th Annual Castle Rock Craft Show Extraordinaire, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Douglas County Fairgrounds.

Nov. 2: Pie Bake-Off, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Millhouse at PSM Park.

Report streetlight outages online

Have you noticed a broken or non-functioning streetlight in your area? IREA's online form is the most effective way to report it. Visit IREA.coop, then select Report a Streetlight Outage under the Outage Center header. The form requires minimal information and has the option to include a photo. Photos are encouraged, as they help IREA to more quickly identify the streetlight.

crgov.com

On the Web: Fire Prevention Month

The theme for this year's Fire Prevention Month is "Not every hero wears a cape. Plan and practice your escape!" A simple reminder of the small but important actions residents can take to keep themselves and those around them safe. A home fire escape plan is an essential part of fire safety. For more information, visit CRgov.com/FirePrevention.