

# Your Town Talk

December 2019

## Good to Know

The Season of the Star includes sparkly, merry, magical and festive celebrations throughout Town. Experience the warmth of the season with family and friends at our December events.

### Storytellers and S'mores

Saturday, Dec. 7, 5-7 p.m.,  
Festival Park

Santa and several of his friends will be at Festival Park to read favorite holiday stories from our giant Storytellers Chair. Roast marshmallows, make s'mores, savor hot chocolate and enjoy other family friendly fun at this free community event.

### Reindeer Games

Friday, Dec. 13, 3-6 p.m.,  
Philip S. Miller Park

Santa and his live reindeer 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. A train departs the Winter Express station at the Millhouse to take passengers on a 1-mile ride along paved trails in the park.

### Rink at the Rock

Through Feb. 17 at the White Pavilion  
Take a spin at the Downtown skating rink. The rink offers open skating, skate lessons and rentals.

More information is available at  
[CRgov.com/Events](http://CRgov.com/Events).

Throughout the season, Downtown is transformed into a brightly shining holiday wonderland with hundreds of thousands of lights and beautiful decorations. Before you head out to take in the beauty of the season, visit the parking map at [CRgov.com/DowntownParking](http://CRgov.com/DowntownParking) for parking locations.

## Winter safety tips

'Tis the season for holiday decorations, shopping and snowy weather. Keep these safety tips in mind as you enjoy December festivities.

- Be sure to water your live Christmas tree every day. A dry tree can be a fire hazard. Also, make sure to keep the tree at least 3 feet away from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators, space heaters and candles.
- Be careful with candles. In December, more than half of home fires caused by decorations are started by candles. Remember to keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything flammable, and never leave a burning candle unattended.
- A new TV or computer may be the perfect gift, but try not to alert the neighborhood to your purchase. Consider cutting down big boxes to fit in the trash can. Big boxes waiting on the curb can alert would-be burglars to your new purchase.
- Twinkle lights can make the season bright, but strands of lights with worn or broken cords should be replaced. Inspect each strand of lights before putting it up.
- Doing some last-minute shopping? Don't forget to lock your car, and hide any valuables. It's also a good idea to cover any packages or bags left in the car.
- Be aware of porch pirates – Sign up for delivery alerts so you know when your delivery is scheduled and when the package has been delivered. If your front porch has an open view from the street, try decorating it so packages can be hidden. Consider shipping packages to your place of work or use the ship-to-store option. Doorbell cameras are also a great way to see if your packages have been delivered and most give you the ability to talk to the delivery driver. If you aren't home, ask them to place the packages out of view.



'Tis the Season to

# SHOP LOCAL

## SUPPORT CASTLE ROCK

The Town relies on sales tax to provide services like fire, police, road maintenance and more.

*Support local businesses ... and help your neighbor, too.*

## Worried about winter wildlife?

Part of what draws people to Castle Rock is the beautiful natural backdrop. Wildlife, such as bears, mountain lions, owls and coyotes, also call this community 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 and don't set it out until morning
- 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 them away. And, remember to never feed wild animals. Learn more about living with wildlife at [CRgov.com/wildlife](http://CRgov.com/wildlife).

## 2020 brings lower wastewater rates

Securing the Town's long-term water future; providing great-tasting, safe drinking water; and keeping rates as low as possible are all goals for Castle Rock Water. The department is working hard to plan for the future. Each year, rates are evaluated to make sure current customers are paying the true cost of service and not carrying the burden for future growth.

Based on this year's study, Castle Rock Water will be lowering wastewater rates in 2020 by 3%. This rate is for the collection, transport and treatment of the used water flowing out of a home or business – think the water that flows down the sink drain or the toilet. The average resident can expect to see an annual decrease of almost \$13 in their wastewater rate next year. All other residential rates will remain the same.

As for developers, the typical fee for building a new home will be increased by 2.9%, to approximately \$26,667 per connection. System development fees are paid by developers to not only fund the infrastructure necessary for their residential or commercial development, but also for future water supply needs.

The new rates and fees will be in effect Jan. 1, 2020.



water  
**WISER!**

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

Do you know where your water shut-off valve is located? Your water shut-off valve is located near your water meter – most likely in your basement, on the wall closest to the street. If you have a frozen pipe that bursts, shut off your water valve and call a plumber. If you do not have a water meter within your home, the shut-off valve is probably under a sink or in a closet. Please **do not** access the meter pit in your front yard. Removing the street valve cover will allow colder air inside, potentially causing additional freezing problems. You can find tips on how to thaw out (and prevent) frozen pipes at [CRgov.com/water](http://CRgov.com/water) or call 720-733-6000.

## Events in Castle Rock

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

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

**Dec. 8:** Santa Express Train Excursion, 1:30 to 9 p.m., Royal Gorge Route Railroad.

**Dec. 12:** Coffee with a Cop, 2 to 3 p.m., Starbucks, 955 New Memphis Court.

**Dec. 13:** Reindeer Games, 3 to 6 p.m., the Millhouse at Philip S. Miller Park.

**Dec. 24:** Christmas Eve closures — Rec 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, Rec Center and MAC closed for Christmas.

**Dec. 26-Jan. 31:** Christmas tree recycling. Take your live Christmas tree to one of four participating locations — Douglas County Fairgrounds, Founders Park, Metzler Ranch Park, or Paintbrush Park.

**Dec. 31:** New Year's Eve closures — Rec Center open 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., MAC open 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Jan. 1:** Town Hall, Rec Center and MAC closed for New Year's Day.

## Stay active indoors

The Recreation Center and the Miller Activity Complex have a whole host of opportunities to stay active, while staying indoors in our newly refreshed gym and fitness studios.

New state-of-the-art cardio equipment has been installed at the Recreation Center, and the indoor cycling studio received a face lift, with new bikes and a connected experience. These new amenities will offer exciting opportunities for residents looking to get a great workout indoors this season.

More details and class schedules are available at [CRgov.com/Fitness](http://CRgov.com/Fitness).

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

## On the Web: Follow the plows

With snow season upon us, the Town's Plow Tracker is a great resource. Visit [CRgov.com/PlowTracker](http://CRgov.com/PlowTracker) to see what routes plows have traveled during a snow event. Little blue dots will mark the plows' tracks. As a reminder, plows will visit residential streets if snow totals reach 4 or more inches on pavement through March 15.