

Your Town Talk

May 2020

Good to Know CRFD encourages residents to sign up for Community Connect

Castle Rock Fire and Rescue is rolling out Community Connect, a new tool that allows first responders to access information specific to a resident's home while en route to the emergency, saving critical seconds when it counts the most.

Community Connect is a secure, easy-to-use website that allows residents to share important information about their household to aid emergency service personnel to respond more efficiently and effectively, with the ultimate goal of better incident outcomes.

In about 5 minutes, residents can create a free, secure account online at communityconnect.io/info/co-castlerock. The secure site is only accessible by CRFD.

All information provided through Community Connect is completely voluntary. Residents can decide what information they are comfortable sharing, such as how many people are living in the home, and their ages. They can report if there is a disabled person living in the home, or if there are pets in the residence. Residents can even upload a floorplan of their home. Additionally, there is a section to report COVID-19 information.

Sign up today to save precious additional minutes in an unforeseen emergency. For more information about Community Connect, visit CRgov.com/CommunityConnect.

We are all in this together

Community support is essential as we navigate through challenging times. If you need support, visit DouglasCOVID19.com, a one-stop source of information on public health, human needs recovery and economic recovery.

No matter what you're going through, you don't have to go through it alone. Colorado Crisis Services is offering free, confidential, 24/7 support for any mental health, substance or emotional concerns.

Call Colorado Crisis Services at 844-493-TALK (8255), or text TALK to 38255. Learn more at ColoradoCrisisServices.org.

Arapahoe/Douglas Works! has a COVID-19 resource page for job seekers and businesses available on its website at adworks.org under the Resources tab.

If you want to volunteer within the community, check out Volunteer Connect Douglas County's COVID-19 related opportunities at <https://bit.ly/VolunteerDougCO>.

Looking for ways to give financially to support those around you? Consider giving where you live through the Douglas County Community Foundation's COVID-19 Recovery Fund at <https://bit.ly/DCCFGiveNow>. Priority will be given to food banks, food delivery, health care, housing, mental health, workforce development centers and COVID-19 prevention communications.

You also can support our community by shopping, dining and booking personal services locally, as allowed by current public health orders.

Roadwork update

Plum Creek Parkway improvements ► Construction of the roundabout on Plum Creek Parkway at Gilbert Street is underway. For now, the intersection is operating as a four-way stop. Motorists are advised to take alternate routes to avoid traffic delays.

The improved Plum Creek Parkway corridor will also increase the volume of stormwater runoff during rain events. In many cases, roadways work to help convey water into the stormwater system. In order to help with the water quality draining into Sellars Gulch, a pond has been added to the northwest corner of the intersection of Plum Creek Parkway and South Gilbert Street. Learn more about the project at CRgov.com/PlumCreekPkwy.

Meadows Boulevard reconstruction ► Reconstruction of the intersection of Meadows Boulevard and Meadows Parkway is nearly complete. Throughout May, crews will be reconstructing the east side of Meadows Boulevard. Motorists can expect continued lane closures and traffic delays. Please note, the main entrance of Castle Rock Adventist Hospital will be accessible throughout the project.

To see a timeline and project phasing map, visit CRgov.com/MeadowsBlvd.



What's up with wildlife

Living among nature can be a perk of calling Castle Rock home. But, sometimes, experiences with coyotes, rattlesnakes and other wildlife can hit a little too close. Last month, Colorado Parks and Wildlife received several reports of aggressive coyotes along East Plum Creek Trail — in the Downtown area, and at Plum Creek Parkway, near Safeway. While wildlife experts believe the increased activity could be due to a den in the area, as temperatures warm up, more wildlife will be emerging.

Coyotes are opportunistic hunters and this time of year are often foraging for food for their pups. Additionally, rattlesnakes will be more visible on or near trails with warmer weather.

The best way to avoid a conflict with any type of wildlife is to remain aware of your surroundings, stay on the trail, leave at least one earbud out and always keep pets on a leash. Remember, in Castle Rock, we share the community with all kinds of residents. Being mindful of wildlife, and keeping a safe distance, will help everyone coexist.

Events in Castle Rock CRgov.com/Events

Embracing new ways to connect with your community can be challenging and rewarding. COVID-19 has led many of us to try virtual meetings, digital family gatherings and creative ways to participate in the things that matter most to us. Currently, most Town events have been canceled and postponed to ensure the safety of the community. As things quickly evolve, check CRgov.com/Events for updates on cancellations. Some events may also be moved online, such as Town Council meetings, which will remain virtual through the month of May.

It's about water rights

Good water supply management means looking at all options to obtain needed water for our growing community. Castle Rock Water works hard to evaluate options for benefits and cost savings to our customers. The most cost-effective solution for additional water supplies are those already located within Town. A new emerging and growing source of supply from our creeks could positively impact our water rights - Lawn Irrigation Return Flows.

Castle Rock residents pour about half of all the water used in Town onto landscaping. Of that lawn irrigation water, some seeps into the ground and nourishes plants, some evaporates, and the rest travels underground, back into the creeks. In fact, throughout the Front Range, return flows have actually resulted in perennial streams in historically dry channels! Figuring out how much water from lawn irrigation returns to the creek, and how long that journey takes, will help us fully and efficiently utilize our existing water rights.

This summer and fall, Castle Rock Water will drill 26 shallow monitoring wells throughout Town. These 50- to 120-foot-deep wells will be located in open spaces, usually within utility easements. The drilling, to occur during daytime hours, will take one to two days for each well, with no water disruptions planned. Visit CRgov.com/WaterProjects.

Shape your future — Respond to the 2020 Census

Haven't completed the 2020 Census? Take 5 minutes today, and help shape the representation and funding in our community for the next 10 years. A complete and accurate count of Town residents in the 2020 Census is critical. It's estimated that each household in Colorado that doesn't complete the census costs a community about \$2,300 in local federal funding per person, per year, for 10 years. By completing the census, you're helping the Castle Rock community receive its fair share of federal funding for needs such as education, roads, transportation, human services, affordable housing, services for the elderly and veterans, parks and more. Visit 2020census.gov to complete the census now.



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Water conservation and efficiency tip
CRconserve.com

As irrigation season gets underway, Castle Rock Water wants customers to remember that water schedules are in effect May 1 through Sept. 30. The schedule includes watering during the cooler evening hours (8 p.m. to 8 a.m.), when less evaporation takes place. Water schedules are very effective and have helped decrease overall water use in Castle Rock by more than 20%. Another benefit of staggered watering days is healthier landscape. A good soaking, and then drying out, allows plant roots to dig deeper into the moist soil. This helps create a healthier and more drought-resistant plant. Plus, conservation isn't the only reason we have watering schedules. It also helps with peak demand. Staggering water use helps keep distribution lines free from demand constraints, which can potentially cause pressure concerns. Visit CRconserve.com/WaterSchedule for more.

crgov.com

On the Web: Upgrade your conference calls

Show your hometown pride on your next video conference call with Castle Rock virtual backgrounds.

Visit CRgov.com/Backgrounds for five stunning photos of Town you can save and use for a change of scenery on your next virtual meetup.

