

# Your Town Talk

March 2021

## 2021 resident survey now open to all

Castle Rock residents, share your thoughts about Town services and topics through March 17 as part of the 2021 community survey.

Last month, the survey had been open by invitation only. Now, it's open to all — please visit [CRgov.com/2021survey](http://CRgov.com/2021survey) to share your perspectives!

Third-party research firm ComEngage is completing the research on the Town's behalf. The survey takes about 20 minutes to complete. Those previously invited do not need to reply again.

The Town appreciates residents taking the time to participate in this important process. Results will be available in April on the survey webpage.



## Good to Know Rebates reward water-wise residents

Castle Rock Water's rebate program rewards residents committed to conservation, and encourages them to keep up the good work. Now, the program is returning for another year to help customers be more water efficient both indoors and out.

The rebate program helps encourage residents to be more water wise and is part of Castle Rock Water's overall conservation plan. Funds are limited, and rebates are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

The 2021 rebates are:

- ColoradoScape renovations
- Smart irrigation controller retrofit
- Notary nozzle retrofit
- Toilet retrofit
- Whole-home water monitoring system

Non-residential rebates are also offered. Additionally, the Food/Beverage Toilet Retrofit Incentive Program is being carried over from 2020.

In addition to the rebate application, customers must also participate in an online Water Wiser workshop to be eligible. The rebate program is funded primarily by surcharges collected for watering schedule violations and water bill rates paid for excessive use. Get more information, or apply for a rebate at [CRconserve.com/Rebates](http://CRconserve.com/Rebates) or [CRgov.com/Rebates](http://CRgov.com/Rebates).

## Noxious weed management in Castle Rock

What do you know about noxious weeds? Non-native plants that displace or out-compete native vegetation are listed as noxious weeds by the Colorado Department of Agriculture. These plants can have significant environmental and economic impacts – like degrading the natural habitat, replacing native vegetation, reducing agricultural productivity, causing wind and water erosion, impeding recreational access and posing an increased wildfire threat. The Department of Agriculture also enforces the Colorado Noxious Weed Act, mandating control of noxious weeds on all private and public property throughout the state. To ensure compliance with State law, the Town has created a Noxious Weed Advisory Board, drafted a Townwide noxious weed management plan and will be updating the Municipal Code to acknowledge the Noxious Weed Act. Now, we need your help. The draft noxious weed management plan is available for public feedback through Friday, March 26. For additional information on noxious weed management in Castle Rock, to submit feedback or to view a copy of the draft management plan, please visit [CRgov.com/NoxiousWeeds](http://CRgov.com/NoxiousWeeds).

## Keeping in the know about development projects

Before proposed development projects move forward, they go through a public notification process. Notices of public hearings and neighborhood meetings are related to land development and include hearings before Town boards and commissions, including the Planning Commission.

Notices of public hearings are posted at the property location at least 15 days before the hearing with a yellow sign. Notices will also be posted on the Town's website at [CRgov.com/PublicNotices](http://CRgov.com/PublicNotices) at least seven days before the public hearing, and mailed to all property owners within 500 feet of the project. Annexation notices will be published in the newspaper, in addition to the website posting.

The public is encouraged to get involved and to attend public and neighborhood meetings to learn more about proposed projects and provide feedback.

# Wise up with Water Wiser

Conservation is key. It's a message Castle Rock Water is spreading to help support the Town's long-term water plan. While the community is embracing the call to conserve, residents looking to get expert tips on how to cut back should check out a Water Wiser workshop.

Castle Rock Water's interactive workshops teach customers how to detect water waste in their yards and how to improve their irrigation systems. Plus, there are tips on how to conserve indoors. Once complete, participants will earn a "Water Wiser" designation and will be exempt from the every-third-day watering schedule, and will also be eligible for turf removal, irrigation product and indoor conservation rebates.

Workshops are held virtually with a subsequent online course and test. The designation is valid for five years. So, participants who originally took the class in 2016 will need to take a renewal course.

Water Wiser workshops run from March through early October. The workshops are free, but registration is required. More information, including the class schedule and registration, is available at [CRConserve.com/WaterWiser](http://CRConserve.com/WaterWiser).

## Getting technical about water treatment

The Plum Creek Water Purification Facility was built in 2013 with the purpose of treating surface water from the creek. It was expanded in 2020 to include additional treatment processes as Castle Rock Water began to add reuse water to the Town's supply. Having multiple treatment processes ensures redundancy for contaminant removal and equipment longevity.

After the first treatment steps, blending, oxidation and sedimentation, our water then goes through some scientific treatments that address contaminants on the molecular scale.

Before the upgrade, the water went through several specialized sand filters. Recently, Biologically Active Carbon was added to these filters. This carbon contains microbes which 'consume' biological matter. The water is then pushed through microfiltration membranes that are less than 0.1 microns (one ten-thousandths of a millimeter). This is similar to reverse osmosis, but without the excessive waste. Next, the water is ozonated, where oxygen molecules break apart any remaining constituents.

At this point, the water has been purified. The next steps to make it fresh and safe will be described in the next issue of this newsletter. Learn more at [CRgov.com/ReuseWater](http://CRgov.com/ReuseWater).

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

**March 9:** ACC Careers in Cybersecurity, 4 to 5 p.m., virtual, to RSVP, visit [arapahoe.edu/events/careers-cybersecurity](http://arapahoe.edu/events/careers-cybersecurity).

**March 9:** Four Corners Intersection Improvement Project virtual open house, 6 to 7 p.m. More at [CRgov.com/4Corners](http://CRgov.com/4Corners).

**March 14:** Daylight Saving Time begins.

**March 16:** Town Council Meeting, 6 to 9 p.m., Town Hall, 100 N. Wilcox St.

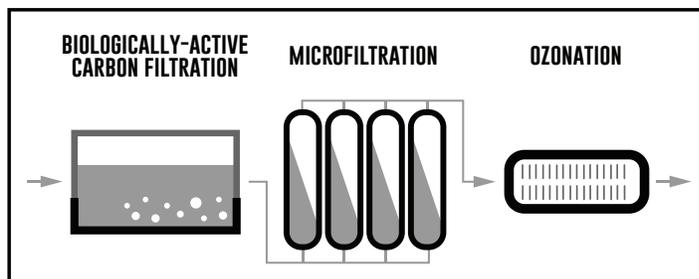
**March 20:** ShamROCK Stampede, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Douglas County Events Center.

**April 6:** Town Council Meeting, 6 to 9 p.m., Town Hall, 100 N. Wilcox St.

## Check smoke alarm batteries when springing forward

On Sunday, March 14, we'll move clocks forward for the start of daylight saving time. As clocks spring ahead, it's time to change the batteries in smoke detectors.

Smoke alarm batteries should be replaced every six months. The two times a year that we change our clocks serve as valuable reminders to change the batteries in each smoke detector. Doing so will help avoid the annoying, but purposeful, chirping later on. While you're changing the battery, also check the date of manufacture of your alarms. Smoke alarms lose their efficacy after 10 years and need replacing.



water  
**WISER!**

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

Leaks can run, but they can't hide. March 15-21 is Fix a Leak Week. That means it's time to chase down those leaks. An estimated 10% of people are plagued with a leak right now. Those little drips can add up to thousands of gallons of water, and money, wasted each month. The likely leaky culprit is the toilet. Identify toilet leaks by placing a drop of food coloring in the toilet tank. Don't flush. If any color shows up in the bowl after 10 minutes, you have a leak. You can find other possible leaks by checking your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter changes at all, you probably have a leak. Visit [CRconserve.com](http://CRconserve.com) to find videos and tips on how to catch those leaks.

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

## On the Web: Plow Tracker

Spring is right around the corner, but Mother Nature isn't done with the snow season just yet. Visit [CRgov.com/PlowTracker](http://CRgov.com/PlowTracker) to see the routes plows have traveled during a snow event. Blue dots will mark the plows' tracks. As a reminder, after March 15, plows will only visit residential streets if snow totals reach 8 inches or more of accumulation on the pavement.