

GOOD TO KNOW

State bag fee to begin in January

Many area retailers on Jan. 1 will begin assessing a 10-cent fee for providing a bag with a purchase, under a State law that will take effect then.

Stores with fewer than three locations and restaurants are excluded from the fee, but consumers can expect to pay for bags at most other locations including

clothing, convenience, grocery, home improvement, liquor, pet and sports stores. Shoppers can avoid the fee by bringing their own bags to use.

Retailers will retain 4 cents of the fee to help cover the cost of implementation. The remainder will be remitted to the Town beginning in 2024 and can be used toward education and other “green” efforts.

Certain purchases are exempted from the law, including dry cleaning, pharmaceuticals and purchases by those receiving food assistance. Grocery delivery orders will be subject to the fee.

Also under the law, which the Colorado General Assembly passed in 2021, plastic bags and plastic foam products will be prohibited beginning Jan. 1, 2024. Recycled paper bags will be allowed and will remain subject to a 10-cent fee.

For additional information, visit tax.colorado.gov/carryout-bag-fee.



One new member joins Town Council, two members return

One new member is joining Town Council and two are returning, following November’s election.

Voters reelected 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 Downtown and a second location in the Arapahoe Community College Sturm Collaboration Campus. He’s married and has two sons.

Kevin Bracken was reelected to represent District 3, comprised of eastern portions of The Meadows, Red Hawk, Castle Highlands and the Wolfensberger Road corridor west of Prairie Hawk Drive. Bracken 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-saving expert for hospitals and is married with a son and a daughter.

Voters also elected Max Brooks, who joins Town Council representing District 5 in southeast Castle Rock. Brooks was raised in Colorado and has lived in Castle Rock since 2006. He currently works in marketing and advertising. For over 16 years, he has served on Town boards and commissions. Additionally, he has served on his homeowners association and metropolitan district boards; has coached and umpired youth baseball; and is an avid gardener. His family includes a fiancée, three sons, three stepdaughters, two dogs and two cats.

View full results of the election at CRgov.com/2022Election. Learn more about Town Council and find out which member represents you at CRgov.com/MeetCouncil.

Town set to acquire historic Cantril School

Cantril School at 312 Cantril St. opened as Castle Rock Elementary School in 1897. It’s an architecturally significant historic building in Castle Rock, and when the Town learned the building was being sold, it became apparent that it could help preserve local history while providing a new space for programs and community use.



The Douglas County School District declared the property as “surplus,” allowing the sale of the school on the open market. Town Council and the School District Board of Education on Tuesday, Nov. 15, approved a purchase contract for the property. The Town is currently undergoing a 60-day due diligence period before the purchase can be finalized.

Learn more about Cantril School and share ideas for the potential uses at CRgov.com/CantrilSchool.

Shop close to home for the holidays

Make your list, check it twice and, when you are ready to shop, remember all of the fantastic local businesses in Castle Rock. Not only does shopping locally inspire unique, one-of-a-kind gift giving, it also allows you to give back to your community as you check off your list. The sales tax dollars generated when you spend close to home help pay for Town services such as police, fire, road maintenance, snow removal and more. And, about 60% of your spending stays in the local economy compared to only about 40% when shopping non-locally.

Local businesses are part of the character of our community and play an important role in making our Town a great place to live. They are more likely to give back to nonprofits and charities within the community, so when you choose to support them, local businesses are able to support needed services and programs, in turn.

Shopping close to home — during the holidays and year-round — helps keep our local shops, restaurants and services healthy and our economy vibrant. It's a great way to show pride in your Town and help protect what makes Castle Rock unique.

Shopping locally is a gift all on its own, and be sure to spread the holiday cheer by encouraging others to shop local, too.

New water billing system coming in January

Castle Rock Water is taking advantage of new technology, increased security features, and personalized account management and will soon update its billing system and online account dashboard. In January, customers with online Castle Rock Water accounts will need to re-register, update contact information and, if paying online, re-enter their credit card or bank information. Watch for more details to come after the new year!

Christmas tree recycling

When you're ready to take down your live Christmas tree, don't put it out with the trash — give a holiday gift to the environment by recycling it. From Monday, Dec. 26, through Tuesday, Jan. 31, you can drop your tree at one of four Castle Rock locations, and it will be recycled into mulch. Trees can be dropped off at: Founders Park, 3671 Enderud Blvd.; Metzler Ranch Park, 4175 Trail Boss Drive; Paintbrush Park, 3492 Meadows Blvd.; or Douglas County Fairgrounds, 500 Fairgrounds Drive. Be sure to remove all lights, decorations, tinsel, etc. The mulch from your trees is used in Town-owned parks and other landscaped areas and is also available for you to pick up, while supplies last on a self-serve basis, at the Fairgrounds site. The Christmas tree recycling program is part of the Town's Project Green environmental initiative. Learn more at CRgov.com/TreeRecycle.



Water conservation and efficiency tip:
CRconserve.com

Scrape those plates for clean pipes and water savings

When many of us rinse plates, pots and pans, and bowls, we send all of the food scraps, cooking oils, sauces and other sticky goo down the drain. Just like it coats your pots and pans, it can coat drain pipes, too. This can cause smelly drains and clogged pipes. Start a new habit of scraping all your food waste into the trash instead of rinsing it down the drain. A good practice is to first freeze fat, oil and grease before placing them into the trash.

EVENTS

CRgov.com/Events

Mondays and Tuesdays through

Dec. 27: Trolley Rides, 5 to 7 p.m.,
Downtown Castle Rock

Dec. 6: Town Council meeting,
6 p.m., Town Hall Council Chambers

Dec. 10: Storytellers and S'mores,
5 to 7 p.m., Festival Park

Dec. 20: Town Council meeting,
6 p.m., Town Hall Council Chambers

Jan. 3: Town Council meeting,
6 p.m., Town Hall Council Chambers

Celebrate the Season of the Star

The tree is up, the lights are strung, and The Star is shining over Castle Rock — it's time to celebrate the holidays and make memories. Be sure to experience all that Castle Rock's Season of the Star has to offer.

Join us at Festival park for

Storytellers and



S'mores on

Saturday,

Dec. 10, from

5 to 7 p.m.

Santa and

some of his

friends are stopping by

to read holiday favorites from our giant Storytellers Chair. Listen in and enjoy roasting marshmallows, making s'mores, drinking hot chocolate and more at this free family friendly event. Or, take in this magical and joyous time of year with a stroll, drive or free trolley ride through the Town's seasonal Downtown light display.

Get more information at

CRgov.com/StarSeason.



Find us online:
CRgov.com

On the web: Plow Tracker

Snowy weather has arrived in Castle Rock. When the snow falls, follow our plows in real-time as they make progress on our streets at CRgov.com/PlowTracker. Plow tracks are labeled with a blue dot. Residential streets are plowed after primary roadways. From Nov. 15 to March 15, snow accumulation on residential streets must total 4 inches before being cleared by plows.