



26 July, 2024

Castle Rock Historical Society and Museum Town Report 1 for 2024

Castle Rock Museum provides a venue for many visitors to Castle Rock. Local residents and their visiting family comprise much of our attendance especially during the summer and at holidays. New and potential residents come to learn about the history of the community or to decide if they would like to move to Castle Rock. Our featured exhibit for the year started in August 2023. We highlighted the importance of ranching to the local area. The exhibit had maps of the first land owners and later the large cattle ranches that were developed. Artifacts from Metzler ranch contributed to the exhibit. Our featured exhibit for this coming year is the Continental Divide Raceways (CDR) that existed in 1960's Castle Rock. The most famous racers in the world ran at CDR. We prepared an exhibit in the third Adventist hospital medical office building that opened last July. The exhibit features Dr. Walter A. Palmer who came to Castle Rock in 1903. He quickly became an integral part of the community and served as mayor of Castle Rock in 1909 and 1910. Other museum exhibits undergo routine updating. The museum has become an affiliate of History Colorado. We are beginning preparations for the 150th anniversary of Colorado and the 250th anniversary of the country. The museum operates four days per week, five hours per day as stated in the contract. However, the museum does serve additional groups such as school visits, scouts and civic programs at hours beyond the usual operating hours. More groups have requested special tours or programs. School participation has included both in school and home school children. The museum staff is continually engaged in curating and preserving museum artifacts and photographs related to the history of Castle Rock. The artifacts are principally acquired through donations. (This meets our objectives 1,2, 3 and 4.)

For May Historic Preservation Month the museum conducted its fourth Scavenge the Rock downtown Scavenger Hunt. The program was a collaboration with the Town of Castle Rock, the Castle Rock Historic Preservation Board and the Downtown Merchants Association. The aim of the hunt is to expose a little Castle Rock history and introduce residents to local downtown businesses. Participation has grown both from those playing and with support from new businesses. This has become an annual event for Historic Preservation month (This meets our objectives 5 and 7)

We continue the summer downtown historic walking tours and the annual Trolley Tour. This May the focus of the trolley tour was street names providing the history and significance of the individual the street was named for. Ghost Tours and a cemetery tour are planned for the fall. The museum and society are expanding their use of social media to supplement the in person activities. (These programs are designed to meet our objectives 5, 6 and 7.)

The Society and Museum held its principal fundraising event, Victoria's Tea in May. The Tea moved to Kirk Hall at the Fair grounds to accommodate the growth in participation. We would love to use Cantril School when possible.

The museum will continue to participate in other community events like the Car Show, Festival of Trees, Senior Center Fairs, Fangtastic and the County fair where the museum can make a contribution. The museum staff also participates in history activities in other communities when requested.(This meets our objectives 6 and 8.)

We are fortunate to have volunteer groups such as the garden club and boy scouts and talented volunteers that help the museum with landscape chores and provide restoration repairs at the museum. An Eagle Scout project repaired and refurbished our sidewalk and deck. Our IT department is principally volunteer. Society members sponsor many of our fundraising events.

Operating expenses for the museum for the first six months of the year were \$46,320.00. Funds are principally used for salaries, utilities, maintenance and exhibits. Other funds which support the museum come from donations, fundraising events, gift shop sales, recycling and donated services.

Angie DeLeo, Director, Castle Rock Museum