



Castle Rock Historical Society and Museum Report, 01-2020

The Castle Rock Museum had a great start to the year, but closed in March and reopened on 27 May. The staff operated from home as feasible during the closure. The museum normally 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 and civic programs at hours beyond the usual operating hours. We expect these to be curtailed for the near future. The museum staff is continually engaged in curating and preserving museum artifacts related to the history of Castle Rock. The artifacts are principally acquired through donations. (This meets our objective 1 and 2.)

The museum is working on our major exhibit for this year, "The other depot: The Santa Fe, ATSF". The Santa Fe Railroad came to Castle Rock in the 1880s. The existing depot is the third built for Castle Rock as the first two burned down. The town also contributed to a bridge over Plum Creek to bring passengers into the business district. This exhibit will be opening in July. Our first exhibit of the year was an art exhibit of paintings by local watercolor artist Cindy Welch. The exhibit features many of her paintings and prints of local historic buildings and sites. The museum has the painting that Cindy did of the museum. The exhibit was extended to the end of June because of the museum closure. We made a film of the exhibit and posted it on our website and social media to broaden our outreach. We plan to continue these new services. The museum is now the site of a public art piece. A new sculpture was just installed. (This meets our objectives 3 and 4)

We have conducted an historic trolley tour each May for the last ten years. This year's tour has been postponed until September pending the situation at that time. Our plan is for a tour of the Craig and Gould neighborhood. We conducted the first walking tour of downtown Castle Rock and will continue the summer tours within the guidance of group size. Both tours are popular with new residents and also bring visitors from outside of Castle Rock. The museum and society are using social media to supplement the in person activities which have been restricted. (These programs are designed to meet our objectives 5,6 and 7.)

We prepared a number of outside interpretive signs to illustrate features of our site and surrounding areas. We are working on durable and weather resistant placements. The museum will continue to participate in other community events like the Car Show and Festival of Trees when they return. We have made plans for more events when possible. Museum visitors are slowly returning to the museum.(This meets our objective 6 and 8.)

We also enjoy the services of talented volunteers who work as docents, provide exhibits and do restoration repairs at the museum. Our IT department is principally volunteer. Society members sponsor our fundraising events.

Operating expenses for the museum for the first six months of the year were \$40,450. The 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