



29 July, 2022

Castle Rock Historical Society and Museum Report, 1 for 2022

The Castle Rock Museum continues to see improved visitor numbers. Many visitors this year were in Castle Rock to visit family after limits due to the pandemic. Many newcomers come to find out about their new community. During the last year the museum featured an exhibit on the history of the Telephone in Castle Rock. The telephone first came to Castle Rock in 1899. Telephone numbers were only two digits. Telephone calls were even routed over barbed wire. The exhibit featured old phones, a telephone booth and a 10lb cell phone. The Castle Rock Museum will celebrate its 25th year of operation in August of 2022. This year the museum will again feature an exhibit on the Civilian Conservation Corps Camp that was in Castle Rock during the depression. The exhibit shares the history of the area where a new trail is being built on the old Camp site. 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. Groups such as the Thunderbird car club came for a get together and lunch. 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 objectives 1 and 2.)

For May Historic Preservation Month the museum conducted its second 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 business. (This meets our objectives 3 and 4)

We continue the summer downtown historic walking tours and the annual Trolley Tour. This year the trolley tour featured the Craig and Gould neighborhood. 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 museum will continue to participate in other community events like Festival of Trees Fangtastic and the county fair where the museum can make a contribution. The museum staff also participates in history activities in other communities when appropriate.(This meets our objectives 6 and 8.)

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

Operating expenses for the museum for the first half year were \$40,300. 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.

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Dorinda Or, Director, Castle Rock Museum