



24 January, 2025

Castle Rock Historical Society and Museum Town Report 2 for 2024

It is the mission of the Castle Rock Museum to preserve and promulgate the history of the Town of Castle Rock and the surrounding area through programs and exhibits. It provides a venue for local and traveling visitors to learn about the amazing history of Castle Rock. In addition to local residents, the museum usually attracts visitors from 40 states and several foreign countries every year. 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 2024 was the Continental Divide Raceways (CDR) that resided here during the 1960's in Castle Rock. The most famous racers in the world ran at CDR and it is always a popular exhibit as many residents never knew that there was a world class race track in Castle Rock. Other museum exhibits undergo routine updating. The museum has become an affiliate of History Colorado and can benefit from their expertise. Our featured exhibits for 2025 will be the 150th anniversary of the museum/depot building which was constructed in 1875 and the 60th anniversary of the 1965 Flood. 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 the hunt, and with support from new businesses. This has become an annual event for Historic Preservation month (This meets our objectives 5 and 7)

In September the Museum hosted a model train day with model trains of several gauges and featured model historic Castle Rock buildings. We had a crowd of enthusiasts of all ages. It will be featured again this fall when we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the museum building. Save the date, Saturday September 6th. 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. In October our Ghost Tours and Cemetery tour remain very popular.

The museum and society seek to expand our media presence. Exposure in the Town media has always proved to be a huge benefit. (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 will seek to use Cantril School in the future.

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, the 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 year were \$117,350. 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