



10 January, 2024

Castle Rock Historical Society and Museum Town Report 2 and Final for 2023

Many of our visitors come to Castle Rock to visit family especially during the summer and at holidays . New residents come to learn about the history of the community or to decide if they would like to move to Castle Rock. Visitorship is above pre pandemic levels.. Our featured exhibit for the next year started in August. We are highlighting the importance of ranching to the local area. The exhibit has maps of the first land owners and later the large cattle ranches that were developed. Artifacts from Metzler ranch contributed to the exhibit. We opened the exhibit with a Western Art Show and sale by a local artist. We prepared an exhibit in the third Adventist hospital medical office building that opened on July.. The building is named after 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. The exhibit formally opened on 6 July with the Palmer family attending. 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. Many special needs groups came to the museum this Fall. School participation has included both in school and home school children. 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 1,2, 3 and 4.)

For May Historic Preservation Month the museum conducted its third 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 especially with new businesses. We plan to make this an annual event (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 rhyolite, both buildings and quarries. The museum has now hosted Ghost Tours of downtown Castle Rock for the third year. Participation has grown and we have added more tours. The tours also serve as a fundraising opportunity. 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 available.

The museum will continue to participate in other community events like Festival of Trees, Senior Center Craft Fair, 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. Our IT department is principally volunteer. Society members sponsor many of our fundraising events.

Operating expenses for the museum for the year were \$91,500. 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