

## **Castle Rock Historical Society and Museum Report, 02- 2018**

The Castle Rock Museum has had another challenging and rewarding year. 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 and civic programs at hours beyond the usual operating hours. 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.) This year in order to comply with town water regulations we installed an automated sprinkler system and can now water during the mandated timeframes.

As a prime objective the featured rotating exhibit for this year was Westward Ho, Explorers and Travelers through Castle Rock and the Douglas county area . The exhibit focuses on four adventurers that traveled to this area from 1820 to 1873. The exhibit opened on April 14th with seven mountain men demonstrating the objects and lifestyle of the early West. In March the museum hosted a student art exhibit from a local elementary school. The students took imaginative photographs around downtown Castle Rock. The museum also holds many continuing and updated exhibits about Castle Rock (This meets our objectives 3 and 4)

Through our fundraising efforts which include local businesses, the museum was able to raise the funds necessary to restore the large railroad baggage cart that was donated to the museum a few years ago. That restoration was completed and is now a popular spot for pictures at the museum. This February we were again fortunate to have another Eagle Scout project. The scouts stabilized and expanded our memorial brick yard. This is the fifth Eagle Scout project to make an important contribution to the museum. The engraved bricks serve as one of the fundraisers for the museum. (This also supports our objective 1.)

This year marked the ninth annual Trolley Tour with the town trolley. We were the first group to take out the Town's new Trolley. This year's theme was the Rhyolite buildings in Castle Rock and the importance of the stone to Castle Rock history. The tour featured the 14 rhyolite stone buildings in Castle Rock. The Castle Rock Historic Preservation board sponsored an informative brochure for the riders. The new trolley proved to be very comfortable and reliable. The museum provides walking tours of downtown Castle Rock during the summer months to educate, entertain and bring folks to downtown. Both the tours are popular with new residents and also bring visitors from outside of Castle Rock. The museum supported a local history tour for the Senior Center and a 1st Bank group from Denver. The museum provides history programs and tours for local church and civic groups. (These programs are designed to meet our objectives 5,6 and 7.)

Children from public, charter and homeschool groups continue to visit the museum during the spring and fall. A walking tour of downtown Castle Rock is now a part of the visit. We are also adding a hands on project as a part of the visit. We have done gold panning and branding as demonstration projects. The museum participates in other community events like the Car Show and Festival of Trees to build community awareness of the museum. New technology has enabled visitors to find our out of the way location. We are embarking on a project to do online exhibits to reach a larger audience. (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.

Operating expenses for the museum for the year were nearly \$89,000 .00. 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



