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History is rich in Castle Rock, and the 300 block downtown tells the story.

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Red Rocks Amphitheatre



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If You Are Prepared, You Shall Not Fear

No one ever thinks it's going to happen to them until it does.

Office of Emergency Management

The Office of Emergency Management, a division of the DC Sheriff's Office, is tasked with preventing, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from large-scale emergencies and disasters, both natural and man-made, within the county. They accomplish this through the development of programs that lessen the effects of emergencies or disasters while maintaining an all-hazard approach to planning, educating the community on emergency preparedness, and the coordination of emergency response within the county.

The primary purpose is to educate residents on the importance of being able to take care of themselves until emergency personnel arrive as well as being prepared and trained to help in assisting in saving lives, reducing injuries and protecting property. You will have a better chance of surviving and recovering from major disasters if you understand the dangers that are facing you, make your own preparations, and learn what actions you should take at the time of an emergency. We can show you how to mitigate danger, but ultimately, your safety and the safety of your family is up to you.



The Office of Emergency Management, OEM, has many tools to help families prepare for the most common emergencies in our area. Go to their website at dcsheiff.net/emergency-preparedness for links to more in-depth ideas in these areas:

Emergency Preparedness Tips

- 72-Hour Kits
- Make a Plan
- Plan for Pets
- Plan for Livestock
- Be Prepared: Flooding
- Be Prepared: Tornado
- Be Prepared: Wildfire
- Be Prepared: Snow Storm / Blizzard

Preparedness Classes

Be READY

Become a Weather Spotter

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Emergency Operations Plan

Additional Resources

Douglas County Office of Emergency Services

Colorado Office of Emergency Management

American Red Cross

FEMA

FEMA for Kids

READYColorado






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Shelf Life

Alexander Graham Bell said,
"If anything else, preparation
is the key to success."

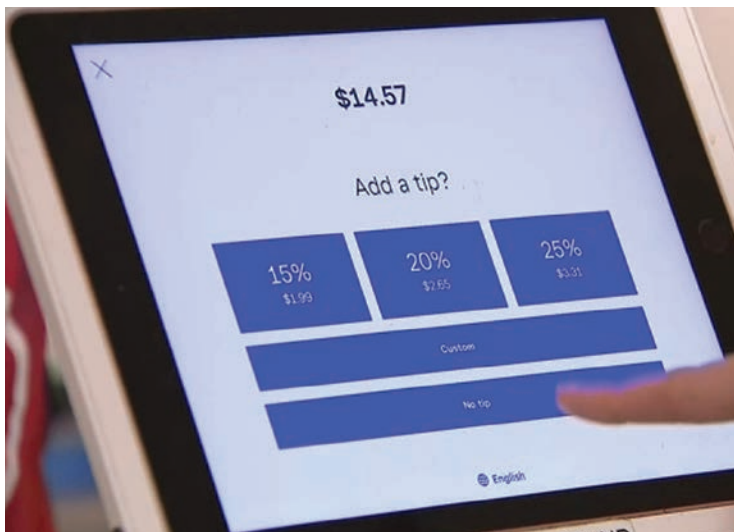
If COVID taught us anything, it's that emergencies happen quickly and being prepared makes a big difference. When we were having trouble buying milk, eggs, toilet paper, hand sanitizer, or plastic gloves, having some storage of nonperishable items in our home gave us great peace of mind. Storing food and supplies for emergencies can help us to be prepared and know we can make it through a variety of trying times. Strikes in the trucking industry, a flood or break that affects our water quality, loss of a job, personal tragedy, or, of course, a pandemic are all events that can affect our food and water sources. These or other scenarios can leave our family without our usual supplies. We can prepare for these possibilities by using a small part of our income on a regular basis to store up for such events.

There are many sources to find information and advice regarding storing the necessities your family will need in such a case. There are also many companies that provide large cans, freeze dried meals, storage shelves, and other supplies that make stocking food more convenient. I have been interested to see that homesteading, canning, owning chickens, farming... many of these lost arts have been on the rise and, due to the internet, have been shared through blogs and websites more easily. These are also great resources for home food storage information. Here are a few of my favorite sources:

Colorado State University extension has an in-depth page about food and water storage, including suggested amounts and tips for storing. See extension.colostate.edu/disaster-websites/food-safety-and-storage-for-emergency-preparedness/.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints teaches a lot about self-reliance and preparation. Their website offers information about food storage and financial preparedness, and you can even search for calculators to aid in these endeavors. Visit providentliving.churchofjesuschrist.org.

Jill Winger and her husband decided to live a different life than many and moved out to a farmstead far from civilization. They have been documenting their journey of learning to live off their land. In her blog, Jill shares many helpful tips about gardening, canning, and food storage. Find out more at www.theprairiehomestead.com/blog.



SPEAKING ON BUSINESS

Tipping The Scales

As more local businesses adopt digital gratuity, tipping fatigue is growing among consumers.

We're tipping past the point of no return.

Across the county, there's a silent frustration brewing about a cultural practice that many say is getting out of hand: tipping.

Some frustrated consumers are posting rants on social media complaining about tip requests at every store they enter. They're tired of being asked to leave a gratuity for a muffin or a simple cup of coffee at their neighborhood bakery. What's next, are we going to be tipping our doctors and dentists, too?

As more businesses adopt the new trend, customers are automatically being prompted to leave a gratuity - many times as high as 40% - at places they normally wouldn't. And some say it has become more frustrating as regular prices have skyrocketed due to inflation.

Unlike tip jars that shoppers can easily ignore if they don't have spare change, experts say the digital requests can produce social pressure and are more difficult to bypass. And your generosity, or lack thereof, can be laid bare for anyone close enough to glance at the screen - including the workers themselves.

Traditionally, consumers have taken pride in being good tippers at places like restaurants, which typically pay their workers lower than the minimum wage in expectation they'll make up the difference in tips. But academics who study the topic say many consumers are now feeling irritated by automatic tip requests at places where tipping has not typically been expected; workers make at least the minimum wage and service is usually limited.

So Americans are tipping less.

The tipping percentage for quick-service restaurants last quarter was 15.9%, dropping from 16.4% last year. People are tipping less in part because of inflation, experts say. They are also overwhelmed with the number of places that give them the option to tip with a card on an iPad, leading people to be less generous.

Adding to the changing dynamics, customers were encouraged to tip generously during the pandemic to help keep restaurants and stores afloat, raising expectations.

The shift to digital payments also accelerated during the pandemic, leading stores to replace old-fashioned cash tip jars with tablet touch screens. But these screens and the procedures for digital tipping have proven more intrusive than a low-pressure cash tip jar with a few bucks in it.

Customers are overwhelmed by the number of places where they now have the option to tip and feel pressure about whether to add a gratuity and for how much. Some people deliberately walk away from the screen without doing anything to avoid making a decision.

Tell us your thoughts on the trend by emailing contribute@tuellers.com.

#Downtown

History is rich in Castle Rock, and the 300 block downtown tells the story.

PHOTOS CREDIT - DOUGLAS COUNTY LIBRARY



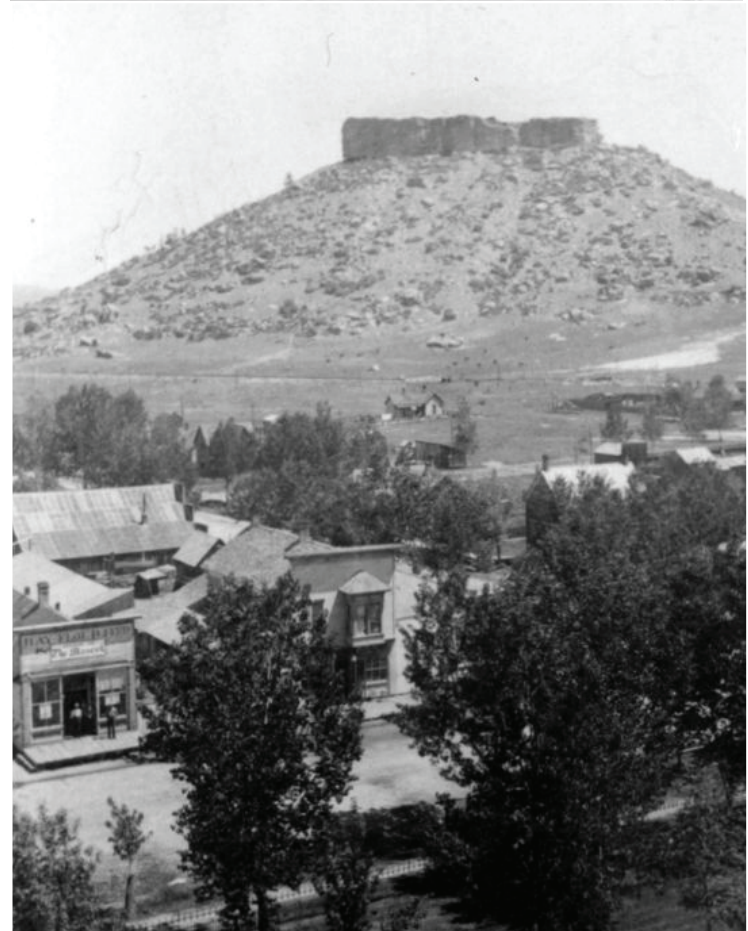
300 block of Wilcox Street 1926 - The view is looking north. Visible buildings include the First National Bank/Masonic building, Van Lopik Drugstore, and Carlson's Sandwich shop.



300 BLOCK OF WILCOX STREET

If you were to take a stroll north on Wilcox street, you'd see a stretch of buildings along the east side of the street from Third to Fourth. Many of these date back as far back as 1900 and are known as the "300 Block of Wilcox." This key row of buildings forms the east side of the historic Town square and contains eleven separate structures, making this block the Town's most visually prominent and historically significant commercial block. The 300 Block of Wilcox Street gradually replaced Perry Street as the commercial center of Castle Rock after the stone Courthouse was built on the west side of the street in 1890. Anchored by the Masonic Temple at the south end, the block includes the B&B Café. The buildings between the café and the Masonic Temple have seen considerable alterations, but their uses, as offices mixed with bars, remain the same. Even after a century, this area remains a part of the heart of Downtown Castle Rock.

"Walking Tour of Historic Downtown Castle Rock, CO"
- Town of Castle Rock Historic Preservation Board



Castle Rock and the town from the top of the courthouse, 1895

CASTLE CAFE - THE HISTORIC KEYSTONE HOTEL

The well known Castle Café, located at 403 Wilcox Street, was originally built in 1901 and known (at that time) as the Keystone Hotel. The Castle Rock rhyolite built structure had thirteen rooms on the second floor with the Tivoli Saloon on the ground floor. Ranchers, quarry workers and travelers would gather here and, in those days, the bar was known as one of the wildest in the area. No reports of any "wild west" shootouts were confirmed, but the occasional bar brawl did break out, forcing Douglas County to hire an extra deputy to patrol on paydays. He also was responsible for making sure inebriated cowboys didn't ride their horses through the bar. After the turn of the century, the hotel and café became a stopover for those traveling between Denver and Colorado Springs. A dance hall was then built over the bar and throughout the next several decades, residents from around Douglas County would attend dances at the hotel as it became a community center. Over the years, the clientele may have changed, but much remains the same. The Castle Café has remained a part of the geographical and social heart of Castle Rock.



FIRST FIREHOUSE

Castle Rock's fire department started in 1892 with a mere 300 feet of fire hose mounted on a homemade two-wheel cart. Three years later, a Fire Chief was named and instructed to organize a company of no more than seven people. Those who joined were given partial uniforms that included caps, belts, and blouses. In 1903, the hose cart was crudely stored in a shed on Fourth Street between Wilcox Street and Perry Street. Alerting people to a fire was done by ringing a **bell mounted on top of a pole** — no siren! On February 2, 1915, the first volunteer fire department was organized, consisting of 15 members plus three honorary members. It was not until 1922 that the fire department acquired a Ford hose truck and later that year they purchased an electric siren. In 1929, a GMC LaFrance Fire Engine was purchased. Twenty-five years after the first volunteers joined the fire department they were finally able to move into their first fire house. In 1935 a building fund was started to construct the building and in 1939 the Castle Rock Firemen's Association was formed. In February 1940, the building was finished, occupied, and the firemen held an open house at their new permanent home.

THE GUIDE

THE BEST PLACES TO DINE IN DOUGLAS COUNTY

In the interest of providing the 50 best dining options in Douglas County, we must be able to personally recommend each listing. The guide is subject to change. If you have a suggestion for inclusion on the list, email us at contribute@tuellers.com.

KEY

Based on a typical dinner for one person, excluding drinks, tax or tip.

\$ Under \$15
\$\$ \$15-\$25
\$\$\$ Over \$25
(EC) Editors Choice
(N) New

ASIAN FUSION

DANCING NOODLE

A small, family owned, dine-in and take-out restaurant that serves authentic homestyle Thai food.

10841 S. Crossroads Dr., Suite 10, Parker
303-805-3880 \$\$

INDOCHINE

A local go-to for quality home-style cuisine. This Parker fixture is known for a fresh, creative menu.

19751 E Mainstreet, Parker
720-851-8559 \$\$

ITO SUSHI ASIAN BISTRO

Asian fusion restaurant known for quality ingredients and fresh fish daily.

2240 Mercantile St #100, Castle Rock
720-749-6777 \$\$ (N)

JOHN HOLLY'S

Chinese and Thai dishes that are nothing less than the culinary equivalent of an exotic adventure.

9232 Park Meadows Dr, Lone Tree
303-768-9088 \$\$



PEGASUS

A local favorite for breakfast and lunch, Pegasus has something for everyone. They have served an eclectic menu in a comfortable setting for the past 31 years. While you're there, go see the giant riverboat roulette wheel behind the bar!

JUNZ

A favorite sushi place in town with a unique blend of Japanese and French at its very best.

11211 S. Dransfeldt Rd., Parker
720-851-1005 \$\$

BAKERY/DESSERTS

LA PETITE CREPERIE

The locals favorite spot to grab made-to-order crepes. Sweet or savory, you can't go wrong. Proudly serving farm to table fresh.

19751 Mainstreet, Parker
720-638-9722 \$ (EC)

PARIS BAGUETTE

Popular Korean chain that brings expertly crafted baked goods through a warm and welcoming bakery cafe' experience that delivers joy to everyone.

18374 Cottonwood Dr., Parker
720-500-5555 \$ (N)

POULETTE BAKESHOP

New artisan bakers taking Parker by storm. Order early, they sell out every day!

19585 Hess Road, Parker
303-955-5647 \$ (N)

BARBEQUE

BIG JIMS

Don't be fooled by this being a food truck; if you like southern BBQ, this is your place. **Corner of Parker Rd and Longs Way, Parker** \$\$\$

GQUE BBQ

Award-winning food. Try the wood-smoked ribs, brisket, pork, or garlic potatoes.

8433 Park Meadows Center Dr., Suite 143B, Lone Tree
303-729-2506 \$\$

HICKORY HOUSE

The Parker tradition. Known for their baby back ribs, but don't miss the pulled pork and barbeque chicken.

10335 S Parker Rd, Parker
303-805-9742 \$\$

OLD WEST BBQ

A hidden gem with family-friendly pricing. Don't miss out on their breakfast burritos. **107 Wolfensberger Rd., Castle Rock**
303-660-6340 \$

BREW PUB

20 MILE TAP HOUSE

Best known for their burgers and wings. Make sure to catch Trivia Tuesdays.

12543 N Hwy 83, Parker
303-841-6782 \$\$

GREAT DIVIDE BREWERY & ROADHOUSE

Destination locale with an informal ambiance offering hearty comfort classics

215 Wilcox St Suite G, Castle Rock
303-955-5788 \$\$ - \$\$\$ (N)

ROCKYARD BREWING CO.

Douglas County's longest running brew pub. Steaks, burgers, pizza and soup!

880 Castleton Rd, Castle Rock
303-814-9273 \$\$

TAILGATE TAVERN & GRILL

Your neighborhood tavern for breakfast, lunch or dinner. Sports bar with live music not to miss on the weekends. **19552 E. Mainstreet, Parker** 303-841-7179 \$\$

THE LIBRARY CO. BAR & KITCHEN

Offering great food & amazing drinks in a relaxed and warm atmosphere. Clear and simple menu options. **3911 Ambrosia St., Suite 101, Castle Rock** 720-389-5986 \$\$

ITALIAN

CRANELLI'S

Comfort Italian food in a rustic, cozy, casual family-oriented format. **10047 Park Meadows Dr., Lone Tree** 303-799-3661 \$\$

DANIELLE'S SCRATCH KITCHEN

Stylish, energetic eatery offering elevated Italian fare with an emphasis on great customer service. **872 Happy Canyon Rd. Suite 100, Castle Rock** 303-524-9788 \$\$\$

PORTOFINO

Authentic Italian eatery featuring pizza, pasta, calzones and heros. The local "go-to" for fresh Italian. **10920 S Parker Rd, Parker** 303-841-9900 \$\$

SCILEPPI'S

A modern Italian restaurant focused on family recipes and premium ingredients. **210 Third St., Castle Rock** 303-688-9000 \$\$

VIA BACI

Neapolitan pizzas join modern Italian fare at this casual eatery featuring a full bar & patio. **10005 Commons St, Lone Tree** 303-790-0828 \$\$

MEXICAN

ADRIANNA'S

Intimate Mexican eatery for authentic cuisine in a relaxed ambiance. Great for parties. **7272 E Hwy 86, Franktown** 303-663-7800 \$\$

CASA MARIACHI

Unassuming local joint serving up straight-forward Mexican plates. **9771 S Parker Rd, Parker** 720-842-5105 \$\$

LA LOMA

Upscale-rustic atmosphere known for traditional Mexican meals. **6361 Promenade Pkw, Castle Rock** 303-632-9900 \$\$ (N)

LAS POTRANCES

Casual Mexican restaurant full of real Mexican culture, Mexican Food, Fresh Drinks, and Friendly Hospitality. **19600 Solar Cir, Parker** 303-840-0325 \$\$ (N)

LOS DOS POTRILLOS

Elegant family-owned eatery. There's a combo dish to please everyone. **6370 Promenade Pkwy., Castle Rock** 720-769-5474 \$\$

LOS VOLCANES

Don't miss the Carnitas! And bring your appetite for the large portions. **10471 S. Parker Rd., Parker** 303-841-0160 \$\$

NEW AMERICAN

CASTLE CAFE

Set in a former 1890s hotel. Plating hearty American fare like pan-fried chicken & burgers. **403 Wilcox St, Castle Rock** 303-814-2233 \$\$

VALERIE'S BREWHOUSE

Uniquely fun sports bar with a creative menu of brats and dogs. **971 Park St., Castle Rock** 303-660-2399 \$

CRAVE

A favorite gourmet burger joint. Imaginative menu with amazing handcrafted shakes. **3982 Limelight Ave, Castle Rock** 303-814-2829 \$\$

DOUG'S DAY DINER

American breakfast cafe where everything is made from scratch. **18595 Mainstreet, Parker** 720-476-7162 \$\$

MANNA

A casual sit-down destination with a menu that reflects Colorado's growing season. **2350 Meadows Blvd., Castle Rock** 720-455-3664 \$

PARKER GARAGE

The Parker landmark located right downtown offers a locally-sourced menu. Great service and large portions. **19420 Mainstreet, Parker** 720-389-8105 \$\$ (EC)

PEGASUS

A local favorite for breakfast or lunch. American, Greek or Mexican dishes. **313 Jerry St., Castle Rock** 303-688-6746 \$\$

RORY'S

Comfort food and baked goods at their finest. Don't see it on the menu? Ask for it! **11020 S Pikes Peak Dr., Parker** 720-708-2889 \$\$

SIERRA

High-end, wood-fired kitchen with a warm ambiance, preparing select American dishes. **10680 Cabela Dr., Lone Tree** 303-662-8800 \$\$

TRIBE AT RIVERWALK

Upscale, yet casual dining experience with a one-of-a-kind menu. Don't miss the brunch. **115 Wilcox Street, Castle Rock** 303-362-0904 \$\$\$ (N)

WEST MAIN TAPROOM

A modern and open venue that boasts thoughtful and honest cuisine. A haven for the gluten-free crowd. **18595 Mainstreet, Parker** 720-826-3689 \$\$

PIZZA

ANTONIO'S

A traditional family-style Italian pizza restaurant with a Brooklyn flair. **12947 S Parker Rd., Parker** 720-851-5300 \$

ARTISAN

Delicious Neapolitan-style pizza that makes each dish an individual work of art! And don't forget dessert. **12311 Pine Bluffs Way, Parker** 303-840-0518 \$

COLORADOUGH

A refreshing take on made-from-scratch pizza. So fresh they don't even have a freezer! **17860 Cottonwood Dr., Parker** 303-386-3333 \$\$

LIL' RICCI'S

New York pizzas & other red sauce staples in a low-key setting. Can't miss the garlic knots. **16526 Keystone Blvd, Parker** 303-220-7422 \$\$

PARRY'S

NY-style pizza, wings, & casual Italian eats, in kid-friendly quarters. **5650 Allen Way, Castle Rock** 303-814-8686 \$\$





STEAKHOUSE

DUKE'S

Rustic restaurant featuring beef & seafood dishes, plus a sports tavern with an Irish vibe.

**363 Village Square Lane,
Castle Pines**
303-814-2487 \$\$\$

FOGO DE CHAO

Upscale Brazilian steakhouse with all-you-can-eat meat carved tableside. Guaraná is a must, and try the Creme de Papaya. **8419 Park Meadows Center Dr., Lone Tree**

303-481-4001 \$\$\$ (EC)

PERRY'S

Chops, seafood, wine, & cocktails served in an upscale setting with a lounge & live jazz. **8433 Park Meadows Center Dr., Lone Tree**

303-792-2571 \$\$\$

TEXAS ROADHOUSE

Texas-themed steakhouse with a great menu and wonderful atmosphere.

**11205 S. Parker Rd,
Parker**
303-805-5848 \$\$

TRAPPER'S CHOP HOUSE

Upscale hideaway local favorite featuring their signature Volcanic Hot Rock sear-it-yourself experience.

**19308 Cottonwood Dr.,
Parker**
303-248-2132 \$\$\$

UNIQUE

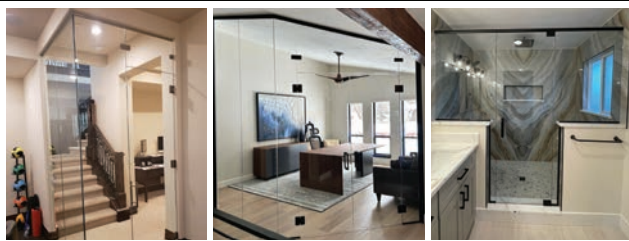
VISTAVINO MODERN

Quaint Tuscan grill made fresh from local fare. Every dish is a winner!

611 Wilcox St., Castle Rock
303-814-2487 \$\$



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