

CASTLE ROCK TOWNSHIP
2537 240TH STREET WEST
FARMINGTON, MN 55024
PHONE 651-460-2221
FAX 651-463-3569
OFFICE HOURS:
TUES & THURS 8:00 AM-12:00 PM

Castle Rock Board of Supervisors

Meet monthly - 2nd Tuesday-7:00 p.m.
Russell Zellmer, Chair 651-463-4064
Drea Doffing, Vice-Chair 651-463-3121
Mark Molitor 651-463-9590
Dave Nicolai 651-463-2327
Mike Rademacher 651-463-2232

Colette Mumm, Treasurer 651-463-4839
Jane Bistodeau, Clerk 651-463-2253

Castle Rock Planning Commission

Meet monthly-4th Tuesday-7:00 p.m.
Arlyn Lamb, Chair 651-460-4927
Monique Berg, Vice-Chair 651-463-3699
Lori Abeln 651-460-6342
Jerry Larson 651 463-2711
Sandy Weber 651-463-4725

Building Official

Scott Qualle 952-442-7520
MNSpect, Inc.

Road Maintenance

Mark Henry

Communication Committee

Mike Rademacher (Supervisor)
Volunteers:
Randy Becker
Jane Bistodeau
Colette Mumm

Finance Committee

Colette Mumm

Parks Committee

Mark Molitor (Supervisor)

Roads Committee

Russell Zellmer (Supervisor)
Ken Betzold, Chair
Elaine Wikstrom, Secretary
John Day
Mark Henry
David Mumm
Jim Ozmun

Official notices are published in the Farmington Independent and the Cannon Falls Beacon. They are posted at the Town Hall, Farmers Mill & Elevator, and the Castle Rock Banks in Farmington and Castle Rock.

Castle Rock Chronicle

Volume 3, Issue 4

November, December 2011, January 2012

Recognition

Dakota Electric Association recently awarded Maralee Rother, Castle Rock, the Township Leader of the Year award. Each year, Dakota Electric seeks to recognize outstanding leadership with the award. Dakota Electric Director Margaret Schreiner presented the award to Rother at a recent Dakota County Township Officers Association meeting.

Rother has been the secretary-treasurer of the Dakota County Township Officers Association since 2004. Rother also served on the Castle Rock Township Planning Commission for 30 years and as clerk of Castle Rock Township from March of 2000 to July of 2008.

She has served many years volunteering with various organizations including the Dakota County Fair, the Hampton Area Boosters Club, Hampton Fun Fest and Senior Day.

Rother served on the committee that built a new town hall and has served as election judge for more than 20 years, along with many other volunteer activities.

Hank Tressel, who nominated Rother for the award, said: "Maralee has done a lot for the community and has been heavily involved for years in Castle Rock and the neighboring communities."

"People who serve the local townships are very dedicated to their communities," Peggy Johnson, Dakota Electric's community relations director, said. "As a member-owned cooperative, Dakota Electric is pleased to help recognize people like Maralee who do outstanding work."

Going Green

Want to save paper by reading this newsletter on-line? We'll save on the number of newsletters we print and you'll reduce the amount of mail you receive! Send an email to castlerocktownship@frontiernet.net or call the office at 651-460-2221. We will let you know by email, when the next issue of the newsletter is posted on our township website, www.castlerocktownship.com.

Annual Election and Annual Meeting

The Castle Rock Township annual meeting and election for two town board supervisor positions and clerk position will take place on Tuesday, March 13th, 2012. Candidates may file to run for these offices on January 3rd, 2012 thru January 17th, 2012. For more information on becoming a candidate, visit the MN Secretary of State's office at www.sos.state.mn.us/index.aspx?page=136 or by calling 651-215-1440. Please consider joining the ranks of those who have served Castle Rock Township.

The residents of Castle Rock Township will also be asked to vote "yes" or "no" to Option B. "Shall Option B, providing for the appointment of the clerk by the town board, be adopted for the government of the town?" In other words, if you would like the clerk position to be an elected position-vote "no". If you would like the clerk position to be appointed by the Board of Supervisors-vote "yes".

No Excuse for Trespassing

It's hunting Season! Always ask for permission before entering private land. You need permission to hunt on agricultural land even if it is not posted. Trespassing is a misdemeanor. If convicted, you could lose your license to hunt. A land owner who allows persons on his or her land free of charge for recreational purposes is generally not responsible for or liable to such persons for injuries or damage they might sustain while on the land.

Statewide Turn in Poachers (TIP, Inc.)

Toll-free: 1-800-652-9093

24 hours a day, 365 days a year

Winter Reminder

The Town Board of Castle Rock Township would like to remind citizens to be courteous to their neighbors and not leave snow ridges across the town roads during driveway clearing operations. Technically, leaving snow on the town roads is illegal.

Buckthorn 101

Why is buckthorn a problem? According to the MN DNR website, it:

- Out-competes native plants for nutrients, light, and moisture
- Degrades wildlife habitat
- Threatens the future of forests, wetlands, prairies, and other natural habitats
- Contributes to erosion by shading out other plants that grow on the forest floor
- Serves as host to other pests, such as crown rust fungus and soybean aphid
- Forms an impenetrable layer of vegetation
- Lacks “natural controls” like insects or disease that would curb its growth.

These plants were originally imported from Europe beginning in the mid-1880's, but were soon discovered to be highly invasive and damaging to native species. Sales were halted in the 1930's, and the MN DNR now lists two varieties on the Restricted Noxious Weed List which makes it illegal to import, sell or transport these varieties of buckthorn.

Common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*)

Appearance: Tall understory shrub or small tree up to 25' high with a spreading, loosely branched crown, often with multiple stems at the base. There are both



female and male plants. **Leaves:** Egg-shaped, pointed at the tip, smooth, dark, glossy and finely toothed. 3-5 pair of curved leaf veins. Leaves stay green late into fall. **Branch:** Buds and leaves are opposite. Twigs often end in sharp, stout thorns. **Wood:** Brown bark with elongate silvery corky projections (caution: native plums or cherries have a similar bark). Cut branch exposes yellow sapwood and orange heartwood. **Fruit:** Large, round, berry-like clusters of black 1/4" fruit that ripen in August and September.

Glossy buckthorn (*Fragula alnus*)

Appearance: Tall understory shrub or small tree, grows up to 18' high, has a spreading, loosely branched crown, often with multiple stems at the base. **Leaves:** Oval, smooth, dark, glossy, and toothless edges. 8-9



pair of leaf veins. Leaves stay green late into fall. **Branch:** Buds and leaves are alternate. No thorn at tip of twig. **Wood:** Brown bark with elongate silvery corky projections (caution: native plums or cherries have a similar bark). Cut branch exposes yellow sapwood and orange heartwood. **Fruit:** Small clusters of berry-like, 1/4" fruit, which ripens

progressively from a distinctive red-brown to a dark purple in August and September.

Depending upon the infestation, eradication can be time-consuming, especially if seeds are in the soil. Small seedlings can be removed by hand. If larger than 3/8", special hand tools are available to remove plants. For larger areas of infestation, Glyphosate (Roundup) may be used, which will kill all actively growing vegetation. Triclopyr will target the broadleaf plants when used according to direction. Trees 2" in diameter and larger are best controlled by cutting down the tree and covering the stump with black plastic or a tin can to prevent re-sprouting, or spraying the stump with herbicides listed above. The best time to cut and chemically treat the stumps is in late summer and throughout the fall. More info is available at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/woody/buckthorn/id.html>.

Conservation Easement Awarded

On May 24, 2011, the Dakota County Agricultural Society Board of Directors approved selling a permanent natural area conservation easement for 193.2 acres of land just south of the Dakota County fairgrounds in Castle Rock Township. The property includes the headwaters of the Vermillion River's South Branch (a designated trout stream) and mowed trails used for recreation by thousands of citizens and by teachers for environmental education classes. The \$750,000 purchase price included \$50,000 for a dedicated natural resource stewardship fund. Funds for the purchase came from the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (\$509,965) in support of the Vermillion River Corridor Plan, the VRWJPO (\$50,000), and the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund.

Of Mice and Men...

Save, inexpensive and green alternatives available that are quite effective for ridding your garage or house of mice...

Peppermint: Mice hate the smell of peppermint. You could soak cotton balls in peppermint oil and place around your interior foundation/floorboards/entry areas.

Moth Balls: Much like peppermint the scent of mothballs is a natural pest deterrent.

Steel Wool: Fill even small holes around your home (especially under the kitchen sink) with steel wool.

Soda Pop: Mice love the sweet flavor of soda pop but they can't digest carbonated fluids. It's a deadly treat. Place saucers of soda in areas where you think they are coming in.

Instant Mashed Potatoes: Place instant mashed potatoes and a dish of water close together. The mixture will gel in their stomachs before they can be digested.

Plaster of Paris with Chocolate: Mix dry chocolate powder with dry plaster of Paris. They will eat this mixture and then go search for water. Cornmeal and dry cement powder is another useful combination that works in the same way.

We thank the following businesses for their support!

Happy Thanksgiving



Meeting Calendar

Board of Supervisors

Regular Meetings

7:00 PM

Tuesday, December 13th, 2011

Tuesday, January 10th, 2012

Tuesday, February 14th, 2012

Monday, March 12th, 2012

Planning Commission

Regular Meetings

7:00 PM

Tuesday November, 22rd, 2011

Tuesday, December 27th, 2011

Tuesday, January 24th, 2012

Tuesday, February 28th, 2012

Inside this issue:

Recognition	1
Annual Meeting	1
Hunting	1
Going Green	1
Winter Reminder	1
Buckhorn 101	2
Conservation Easement	2
Of Mice and Men...	2
Advertisers	3
Meeting Calendar	4

CASTLE ROCK TOWNSHIP

2537 240th Street West
Farmington, MN 55024-9756

Phone: 651-460-2221
Fax: 651-463-3569
Email: castlerocktownship@frontiernet.net

www.castlerocktownship.com