



## **Collister Neighborhood Association**

Quarterly Neighborhood Meeting  
September 12, 2024, 6:00pm - 7:00pm  
The James Castle House

### **Collister Neighborhood Association Board**

Greg Williams, President

Nate Black, Vice President

Jessica Aston, Secretary

Claire Fenton, Garden Tour Committee Chair

Amy Vecchione, Transportation Committee Chair

### **Agenda**

- **Welcome and Introductions**

- **James Castle House Presentation**

- Presenters: Kristen Hill (Cultural Sites Program Manager) and Mónica Galván (Cultural Sites Program Coordinator)
- Artist in residence program
- The James Castle House site was purchased by the city in 2015 and opened to the public in 2018 after 3-3.5 years of renovations. The home had been owned by someone other than the Castle family for about 20 years prior to the city purchasing it. During the renovation, they preserved what they could and added contemporary features. Eleven pieces of art were found in the walls. Those pieces were returned to the family trust, who had them repaired and then donated them to the city along with another 50 pieces of art.
- Castle is a very well-known artist. Most of his fame came after his death. He was born 1899 in Garden Valley, Idaho. He was born deaf and never learned to read, write, or use American Sign Language. He attended a school for the deaf that did not allow the use of ASL. His sister also became deaf later in life. The family moved to Star and then to Boise. The current homesite was once a 5-acre subsistence farm with a one room house. James was 32 years old living with his mother when his sister and her family moved into the home. The shed was his studio for about 32 years. During that time, he made thousands of pieces of artwork. His nephew attended art school in Portland and shared James Castle's art with a professor, which led to art shows and sales. He then had his own "cozy cottage" space that his sister had built with some of the money from his sales. James Castle died in 1977. His family took very good care of him and encouraged his art.

- James Castle used found objects to make art. He is well known for soot and spit ink wash/charcoal material, which was initially developed out of necessity, but then became his preference. He was totally self-taught, including linear perspective.
- The museum has now been open for 6.5 years and is part of the Historic Artist Homes and Studios Association.
- Castle and his family developed “home sign” and he also used art for communication. He created his own alphabet and used it to create written works throughout his career. He also developed a cast of authors (characters with little portraits to which he would attribute his writings).
- The Castle House represents a rare connection between the practice to the place.
- The Castle Family Foundation is focused on organizing and archiving the collection.
- Story, Story night is going to be hosted at the James Castle House on September 19 from 7-9 p.m. All the storytellers are deaf.
- The next Artist in Residence Workshop is on September 21 and the artist’s presentation will be on October 10.

- **Neighborhood Business**

- Scarecrow Contest
  - Entries must be submitted by 11:59 PM on Friday, October 18.
  - Voting will conclude at 11:59 p.m. on Friday, November 1.
  - Winners will be announced on Monday, November 4.
  - Full details can be found on the CAN website: <https://www.collister.org/2024-scarecrow-contest/>
- Pre-election candidate info session
  - November 13 at 6:15pm at the Library! at Collister
  - Anyone who is interested in running for a CNA Board position should attend.
- CNA Annual Meeting and Elections
  - December 3, at 7pm at Collister United Methodist Church
- Garden Tour Update
  - Claire Fenton has begun planning for the 2025 tour. You can find more information on the CNA website: <https://www.collister.org/2020-garden-tour/>
- Q&A
  - When will the Castle Hills playground be replaced? The Board will reach out the Parks and Recreation to find out if a timeline has been determined.
  - Speeding concerns on Castle Drive. Concerned neighbors were advised to reach out to the Transportation Committee and to report issues to ACHD via their online form: <https://www.achdidaho.org/community-resources/report-an-issue>

- Has there been any progress toward removing the discriminatory (red lining) language/deed restrictions from the Collister Neighborhood / Sycamore Overlay? There is now a process for having these restrictions struck from the deeds. The CNA Board will investigate whether this must be done for each individual property, or if there is a way to do it for the entire neighborhood / subdivision.

- **Adjourn**