



Town of New Castle

Newsletter

A Monthly Update for Residents

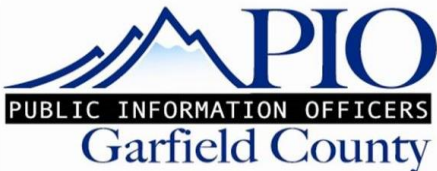
June 2022

Getting Information in an Emergency

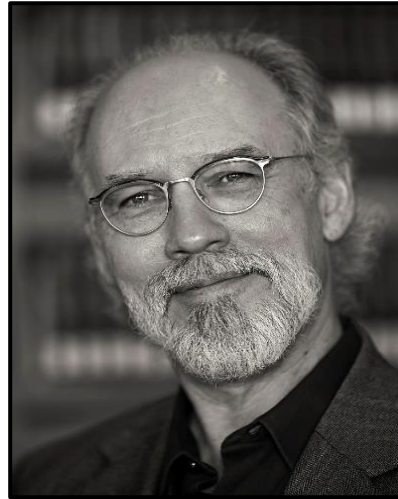
Last month this newsletter published information about the possible evacuation routes out of town. Information about any evacuation order will come from official public safety officers. For New Castle, this will be the Chief of Police, Tony Pagni, or the Garfield County Sheriff's Office. Media information related to the incident will come from New Castle's Public Information Officer (PIO).

A PIO is an official public safety communicator who is trained in the federal Incident Command System framework. The PIO is responsible for communicating with the public and the media, as well as coordinating with other agencies with incident related information. The PIO position is essential to the process of disseminating accurate information. In emergencies it is common for rumors to fly, hence the need for a single official voice.

New Castle's PIO is Rochelle Firth. She has FEMA training and is a part of the Garfield County PIO group, which operates under Garfield County Emergency Operations. In the event of an emergency, Rochelle will post vital information on the town sign board, the Visit New Castle Facebook page (which will be posted with an official PIO logo) and on the town's website.



Welcome to Library Director Jamie LaRue



The new Executive Director of the Garfield County Libraries and the New Castle Library Manager visited with the Town Council on May 17.

Dr. Jaime LaRue was the director of the Douglas County Libraries for twenty-four years, and has been the Executive Director of both the

American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom and the Freedom to Read Foundation. In 1998 he was honored as the Colorado Librarian of the Year. More recently, he has been speaking, writing, teaching and consulting on library and literacy issues, and has been interviewed on National Public Radio and in several professional publications. The full range of his expertise is on display at www.jlarue.com.

Dr. LaRue was joined at the Council meeting by Ana Gaytan, the new branch manager of the New Castle Library. Ana has worked for the library district for nearly eight years and holds a degree in Management and Leadership. Ana also holds a photography degree. When she is not at the library, she can be found taking portrait shots in town or volunteering with local non-profits.

The Town Councilors were pleased and excited to welcome both Jamie and Ana to New Castle.

New State-Wide Law for Bicycles

A new state law allows bicycle riders to slow down as they approach stop signs, then if safe, to proceed through without coming to a complete stop. Cyclists must, of course, yield to any traffic or pedestrians in or approaching the intersection. At traffic lights cyclists must come to a complete stop on red, yield to all traffic and pedestrians, then cautiously proceed straight or turn right.

Former Councilor Mary Metzger



Mary Metzger served as a Town Councilor from 2010 to 2018. She represented the town on the Garfield County Senior Programs Board and was a tireless advocate for Senior Citizens.

The River Center has recognized her as an integral part of the Center's startup and the Volunteer New Castle program. She also helped to establish the Downtown Alliance and to organize several downtown clean-ups.

Mary passed at her home in New Castle on May 7. Services will be announced at a later date.

Composting Comes to Town in June

EverGreen ZeroWaste is ready to start collecting compostables in New Castle. On Wednesday, June 1, they will deliver collection buckets, along with educational materials, to everyone who had previously signed up. New customers can sign up at <https://evergreenzerowaste.com>. Detailed information about the program can also be found at that site. The cost for the service is \$18 a month.

The collecting buckets have animal-proof lids and can be used to collect all kinds of food waste. In addition, paper, yard waste, even pizza boxes (which can't go in recycling bins) can be composted. Collections will be weekly, on Wednesdays, beginning early in the morning.

EverGreen ZeroWaste estimates that households can divert over 1/3 of their waste from the landfill by composting. To contact EverGreen ZeroWaste, call 970-930-7900 or write to info@EverGreenZeroWaste.com.

Big Plans for the 50th Annual Burning Mountain Festival

The 2022 Burning Mountain Festival will take place on Friday, September 9 and Saturday, September 10. The New Castle Recreation team is already making plans for the parade, bands, contests, vendors, food and additional surprises. They are seeking sponsors for bands and activities and they have several volunteer opportunities. If you or your business are interested in helping, please contact Kelley Cox at kcox@newcastlecolorado.org or call 970-984-3352.



Recreation and Parks staff planted two flowering crabapple trees in Grand River Park in celebration of Arbor Day on April 29.

Dog Park Plans Finalized

The Town Council will consider plans for a dog park at its June 7 meeting. A committee of volunteers has met over the past several weeks to develop the plans. They identified the southwest corner of VIX Park as the most suitable location and will propose fencing the area and installing appropriate ground cover, benches, poop bag stations and other amenities as funding permits.

The committee will develop budget details and announce fundraising plans in early June. Actual park construction will be dependent on those fundraising efforts. Direct donations will be collected on GoFundMe after Council approval. Fundraising events will take place through the summer and will be announced in early June on the New Castle Dog Park Facebook page, and on Visit New Castle. Please like those pages and share the posts as appropriate.



Did You Know That.....

- ❖ June 14 is Flag Day
- ❖ The sticker contest brought in over 60 entries and voting is underway. The winners will be announced in the weekly e-newsletter on June 10th. If you have not signed up, visit “Our Town” on the newly-designed town web site: www.newcastlecolorado.org.
- ❖ The town has been awarded two grants from the Federal Mineral Lease District (FMLD). A mini-grant of \$25,000 will be used to replace floor coverings throughout Town Hall. An FMLD traditional grant of \$132,000 will be used to re-surface the hard surface trails along Castle Valley Blvd.
- ❖ Work continues on two previously-awarded FMLD-funded projects: upgrades in the Community Center kitchen and a bio-solids drying facility at the wastewater treatment plant.
- ❖ June is Colorado Bike month, and June 22 is the state’s designated Bike to Work Day.
- ❖ The new family-friendly New Castle Bike Cruise will take off at 6:00 pm on the second Tuesday of June, July, August and September. Each month there will be different themes and rides will end with live music. For more information, contact Colorado Drifters, 331 W. Main Street.
- ❖ Remember, no fireworks of any kind are allowed this summer. Have a safe and happy 4th.

Old-Fashioned Independence Day Parade

Kids and adults are invited to an old-fashioned parade and picnic on Monday, July 4 at Elk Creek Elementary School. The parade will be completely non-motorized and will traverse the school grounds. Participants are invited to dress up and bring decorated bikes, scooters, wagons, strollers, leashed pets: whatever Independence Day inspires. Horses, goats, alpacas are all welcome.

The parade will begin at 11:00 am and after everybody has taken lots of photos, there will be a picnic on the school grounds. Colorado Snow Food Truck will be selling hot dogs, nachos, funnel cakes, shaved ice and more! Bring camp chairs, a picnic blanket, water for you and your pets, doggy poop bags and, of course, your cameras.

There will be lots of prizes, and spectators are highly encouraged. Parade registration online is free at newcastlerec.com



Another Win for Coal Ridge High School



Photo courtesy of the Denver Post Jackie Camunez, Nicole Herrera, Rilyn Krueger and Natalie Smythe

The other big win was for the 4×400 relay team of Jackie Camunez, Rilyn Krueger, Natalie Smythe and Mikayla Cheney. Go Titans.

After winning the Class 3A Western Slope League Championships on May 6 and 7, the Coal Ridge girls and boys track teams competed in the State Track and Field Championship in Lakewood. The Lady Titans placed second, just behind Liberty Common.

Senior Peyton Garrison defended her state titles, winning the 100- 200- and 400- meter events.

Lions Club Yard Sale

The New Castle Lions will hold their annual Yard Sale on Saturday, June 18 from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm at 402 Jaime Lane. Every year the Lions offer a wide variety of household items, tools, home décor, sporting goods and lots more from multiple donors. All funds the Lions raise are used to provide discounted eye exams and glasses to income-eligible patients and to conduct eye exams in elementary schools. In addition they sponsor a camper at the state Lions Camp, support Leader Dogs for the Blind and contribute locally to other areas of need.



DIRTY HOG DASH

The Summer's Favorite Dash!

The Dirty Hog Dash returns to VIX Ranch Park on Saturday, July 16. The event is open to kids ages 4 to 14 who are ready to face a series of exciting challenges. The town staff has created a large number of obstacles, adding more each year. The highlight of course, is the mud pit at the end. Spectators are encouraged; they'll have almost as much fun as the kids.

Between 9:00 and 12:00 on Saturday, July 16, waves of runners will take off every 30 minutes. The cost is \$25 or \$35.00 the day of event; the proceeds will benefit the New Castle Parks and Recreation Departments. Registration is at newcastlecolorado.org/newcastle/rec.



Come Celebrate with the River Center

The River Center is hosting an "Owning Our Future" open house to celebrate the purchase of their building. Please join them in the celebration while also learning about the River Center's outreaches and its leadership.

They will share future plans and the ways that the purchase will help them continue to serve and grow in the New Castle community.

The open house is scheduled for Saturday, June 23, from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm at 126 N. 4th Street. There will be door prizes, a bounce house, snow cones and face painting.

The River Center's recent accomplishments were listed in their 2021 annual report: Two hundred three households received financial assistance, mostly for rent, overnight housing, utilities, food and medicine. The community gardens produced over 500 pounds of food. School kids were helped with the Totes of Hope, Meal Monkey and Angel Tree programs. Senior lunches started up again in April.

The Town Council considers the River Center to be a partner in serving the residents of New Castle. They congratulate them on owning their building, and they encourage everyone to celebrate and support the River Center.

Council Highlights

Approved a trail license agreement with Garfield RE-2 school district.

Approved grant funding to outside agencies.

Approved a hotel & restaurant liquor license renewal for 88 Grill.

New Castle Chamber of Commerce "Growing Businesses, Building Community"

From the Chamber

June's Business of the Month is Goofballs Party Store. Owners Randy and B.J DeHerrera opened their doors in 2015 at the Glenwood Springs Mall, before moving to their current location at 51241 Hwy. 6 Unit 4.

The DeHerrerases met in Denver and were married in 2008. B.J. works for CDOT while Randy works for Lumen (the former Century Link), but Goofballs is a full-time job for both of them. Randy says the best thing about the business is interacting with the community. He goes on to describe Goofballs as the largest party shop on the Western Slope. They have the best balloons because of their longevity. He adds that "extreme customer service" is something they provide. "The difference between a big box and mom and pop store is that the smaller store is better able to service customers in many ways."

"I love shopping at Goofballs," says long-time customer Mandy Gaudin. "They've got great items for football parties, even when you're a Chiefs fan, plus every holiday and special occasions." Walking into Goofballs is like an invitation to a really great party.