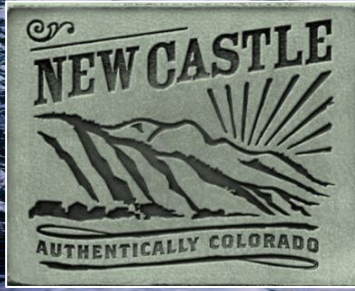


Town of New Castle Newsletter

A Monthly Update for Residents

December 2022



Police Chief Chuck Burrows Sworn in

At the November 15 Town Council meeting, Chuck Burrows was sworn in as the town's new Chief of Police. Law enforcement departments from throughout the county sent representatives to witness the event and congratulate Chief Burrows.

Burrows stated, "I want to thank all the police departments from throughout the region who came to support myself and the town in this transition. It really means a lot to me that you attended."

In the photo by Town Clerk Melody Harrison, Mayor Riddile is seen pinning on the Chief's new badge. Moments before, Burrows' wife Michelle pinned Eagle insignias on his collar.



Burrows was born in Maryland and raised in Colorado. He served in the Air Force and then worked as a contractor for the Air Force and Navy. He attended the Police Academy in 1998 and later completed a degree in Social and Criminal Justice from Ashford University.

He joined the New Castle Police Department in 2012, serving as Patrol Sergeant and then Interim Chief. He underwent an extensive interview process involving town staff, area police chiefs and residents, receiving their endorsement to serve as New Castle's Chief of Police.

Ice Rink Update

Last winter the town constructed its first ice skating rink in Frank Breslin Memorial Park. It was an instant hit and fans looked forward to its return in 2023.

Although our cold winter weather seems ideal for freezing and sustaining the ice, in fact maintaining a smooth skating surface is challenging. The parks department asks everyone to please be patient and to keep off the ice when the rink is closed. Furthermore, pets must always be kept off the ice. They damage the surface and create problems for maintenance crews.

No opening date has been announced yet, and the parks department asks everyone to stay off the ice and respect postings around the rink. The opening will be announced on Facebook and the Friday e-newsletter.



Community Center Kitchen Remodel Complete

Over the past several years, as grant funds became available, the Community Center has been remodeled and upgraded. The latest project has been the completion of the commercial-quality kitchen. Funded by the FMLD (the county's Federal Mineral Lease District) and completed by the town's public works staff, the kitchen now features a new floor, open cabinetry, shiny stainless-steel countertops and three deep sinks. The Lions Club appreciated the new facility during their annual Community Dinner on November 19.

Becoming Bear Aware

On a cold Wednesday night in November, a group of residents attended a meeting hosted by the Library to discuss bears. Bears have been very much in our minds this fall, not just because there were so many in town, but because we experienced two serious incidents. Long-time residents remember that until recently bear sightings in town were a rarity. With more people, however, came more garbage, more bird feeders, more fruit trees: more bear food.

Brenda Lee from the Colorado Bear Coalition and Daniela Kohl from the Roaring Fork Valley Bear Coalition attended the meeting to share their expertise. Both promised to be resources for the town as it moves forward, working with the Library, the town staff, the Town Council and volunteers to plan, share and educate during the months ahead. The goal is to be better prepared when the bears return to town looking for easy food sources.

Removing those food sources is the single most pro-active action we can take. We may not want to embrace these steps, but all are necessary. Garbage cans must be kept in garages or secured enclosures until the morning of pickup; bird feeders have to be taken down; fruit trees must be aggressively harvested or removed. This is the message which will be shared frequently over the next few months.

Watch for additional information in this newsletter, on Facebook (Visit New Castle and New Castle Library) and in the Friday email news. Also visit the web sites for the Colorado Bear Coalition and the Roaring Fork Valley Bear Coalition.

John Wenzel Honored for 15 Years of Service

At the November 15th Town Council meeting, Mayor Art Riddle surprised Public Works Director John Wenzel with a plaque commemorating his fifteen years of service to the town. Wenzel was hired as New Castle's Public Works Director in 2007 and is responsible for oversight of parks, streets, recreation, water, wastewater, facilities and maintenance.

During his years of service to our community, John and his team have been responsible for countless projects including upgrades to the water and wastewater treatment plants, construction of the new Public Works facilities and building new town parks. Other projects include downtown street-scaping, operation and maintenance of infrastructure, countless miles of street repair and paving and snow plowing, just to name a few.

During his years of service, John has been instrumental in obtaining grant funding for many of the projects that he managed and has won awards for his execution and management of grant funded projects.

In his acceptance of the 15-year anniversary plaque, John noted that he left a similar position in a neighboring town in order to use his skills to make a difference in the community where he lived. John added that the town is fortunate to have Mayor Art Riddle, Councilman Bruce Leland, Deputy Clerk Mindy Andis, and Water Treatment Plant Operator Kim Rider, the only people who have longer tenure with the town than he does. Town Council and town staff would like to thank those who have served this great community for so many years.



Scouts Conduct Successful Food Drive

Over the two days of November 12 and 13, the local scouts collected 5,788 pounds of food, with additional food that was collected at City Market still being counted. At press time it appeared that the Scouts will easily have exceeded the typical amount of 6000 pounds. Over the past twelve years a total of 109,000 pounds have been collected from New Castle residents.



Council Highlights

- Swore in new Police Chief Chuck Burrows
- Honored Public Works Director John Wenzel for 15 years of service to the town
- Approved Resolution TC 2022-26 – Adopting a Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Approved Resolution TC 2022-27 – Approving a Hotel & Restaurant Liquor License for Hacienda San Miguel
- Approved Resolution TC 2022-28 – Approving Updates to the Public Works Manual
- Approved Ordinance TC 2022-12 – Amending Ch. 16.04 and 16.28 of the Municipal Code Concerning Street and Other Design Standards
- Approved a Special Events Liquor License for the Town of New Castle for the Chili Cook-Off, Tree Lighting and Mac & Cheese Competition Event on 12.2.22
- Approved New Castle Liquors' Retail Liquor Store License Renewal Application
- Approved New Castle Liquors' Tasting Permit Renewal Application

Did You Know That

- The 3% annual adjustment for water and wastewater service takes effect on January 1, payable February 1.
- Brandy Copeland has been appointed to the HPC Representing the Town Council.
- Town Hall will close at noon on Friday, December 23, and be closed on Monday, December 26 for the Christmas holiday.
- The Snowman Building Contest will begin January 1st. Stay tuned for details.

Renew Dog, Business and Contractor Licenses in December

All license renewals are due on January 1 and should be obtained during December. For dogs, proof of rabies vaccination and a photo are required for the licenses, along with a \$10 fee for each spayed or neutered dog. The application form is at www.newcastlecolorado.org under Departments & Services, Animal Services.

For business and contractors, applications are found on the website under Clerk's Office, Business and Contractor Licenses.

Volunteer Opportunities Abound

When residents are asked to talk about New Castle, someone is certain to mention our extraordinary cadre of volunteers. Besides the wide-spread neighbor-helping-neighbor ethos of the town, there are a number of organizations which provide service to residents, all of which welcome volunteers.

- Lions Club
- Garden Club
- River Center
- Lift Up
- New Castle Trails
- Town of New Castle
- New Castle Historical Society
- Scouts
- New Castle Schools
- Volunteer New Castle
- New Castle Library

Town events rely on the help of volunteers, including the Burning Mountain Festival, Community Market, Rides and Reggae, Chili Cook-off and Dirty Hog Dash. In addition, our churches provide service to residents and always welcome volunteers.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

The New Castle Lions are once again coordinating the Salvation Army Kettle program. The Lions are soliciting volunteers to ring the bell in front of City Market for one-hour shifts between 11:00 am and 8:00 pm, November 25 through December 24. Bring the kids, pets, music, costumes—have fun while helping out those in need in your community.



To sign up, go to <https://signup.com/go/YderGwG>, or find the link on the New Castle Colorado Lions Facebook page.

All funds raised at the City Market location are retained locally and are used to support families with emergency needs.

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

Merry Christmas from the New Castle Chamber!

Dr. Courtney Schwind, DDS, a New Castle resident, studied at the University of Texas Health Science Center and the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry, where she studied the anatomy of the face. About half of her patients come to her with pain, primarily migraines, for which she provides relief with preventative treatments. She also administers dermal fillers. Dr. Schwind practices out of Rifle Dental Care, but travels to her patients' homes to treat them. She has ten years of dental experience and opened the Dental Boutique a year ago.

Dr. Schwind notes that her love of art and photography informs the artistry of dentistry, providing her patients not only with improved health but also with renewed confidence and energy. The Dental Boutique can be reached at 970-364-3848 or dds.schwind@gmail.com.

Valley Lidz is owned and operated by the husband-and-wife team of Damien Bruck and Jules King. They currently operate from their Carbondale residence while looking for a spot in New Castle. Valley Lidz specializes in custom hats, but they can also put a logo on anything, including promotional items. They are helped in their business by Jules' 13-year-old son, Slade.

Damien and Jules believe in supporting local businesses and are most proud of their comparable prices, customer service and work ethic. Jules says that she most likes the creativity of her work and the chance to help clients' ideas come to fruition. Their web site is www.valleylidz.com and their phone number is 970-340-8638.

Senior Citizens of New Castle

Did you know that Garfield County has a Senior Program? This program includes senior lunches in all municipalities, cooking and exercise classes and a transportation service called The Traveler. Call Program Manager Judy Martin at (970) 945-9191 x3061 or (970) 456-2295. For Senior Lunch Reservations (Mondays at the Castle Valley Senior Center) call (970) 665-0041.

There is also Senior lunch at the River Center on Wednesdays from 11:30 to 1:00 pm.

Speckled Feather Returns

When Speckled Feather Mercantile closed in February, their Facebook message said: "We are moving, but we don't know where yet. We may be going into storage for a little while."

That little while is almost up. Speckled Feather will open for Holiday shopping during December at 502 W. Main Street, the former 88 Grill. They will have a formal opening in January of 2023.

Welcome back Speckled Feather!

From the Recreation Department

To register and to learn program details, including fees and locations, go to <https://newcastlerec.com>.

A selection of December happenings:

Adult Hip Hop, second Monday of each month at 6:30 pm, starting December 12.

Yin/ Restorative Yoga: December 13th at 6:30 pm.

Yoga Flow: Saturdays, beginning December 3 at 9:00 am.

Boys Youth Basketball (3rd-6th) Begins January 9. Please register now.

Little Hoopers Basketball (K-2nd grade) Saturdays in January at 10 am.



Fall Activity Days young participants making use of the newly remodeled kitchen at the Community Center.