



Town of New Castle Newsletter

A Monthly Update for Residents

January 2023

If Life Gives You Snow, Make A Snowman

It's time for the 2023 New Castle snowman building contest. The rules are simple: 1) Build a snowman. 2) Take a photo of your snowman. 3) Email your photo to rfirth@newcastlecolorado.org.

Be sure to include your name, the age group for your creation (one age group per entry), contact information and a name for your snowman. The deadline to submit your entry is February 28.

All entries will be posted on the Visit New Castle page on Facebook for your enjoyment. Everyone will be invited to vote for their favorite on the town's website from March 6th – 12th.

One grand prize will be awarded for each age category:
Little Kids (ages 0-10)
Big Kids (ages 11-18)
and Adults (over 18).



There is no theme this year; participants are asked to build their very best snow creation. Check out the head from Easter Island, built three years ago by a local family. Tiki torches, spotlights and even a volcano scene on the bottom right made this giant snow creation the talk of the neighborhood.

A Message from the River Center

The River Center would like to thank all the volunteers, businesses, school administrators and funders who helped make Angel Tree possible. We had 145 children registered with Angel Tree from New Castle and Silt, all of whom received a gift in December. Thank you for making Christmas extra special this year!

Get Alerts from the Town Through Text Messaging



The town has launched a program for New Castle residents called TextMyGov. This program allows users to

urgent text messages from the town using a mobile phone's regular messaging service. Textmygov will be used as another form of communication to residents.

Notifications will include information about emergencies, events, water shut offs and other pertinent information that needs to get out to the public in a timely manner.

This program joins the current pipeline of information including the town web site, Visit New Castle on Facebook, town sign boards and the weekly newsletter.

Within the next few weeks, door hangers will be distributed throughout town. The door hangers will contain instructions for signing up, as well as information about getting help. To sign up immediately, please follow the instructions below:

Text NEWCASTLE to 91896. You'll receive a text asking you to verify the request. Answer YES and you're done. You can also opt-out any time by texting STOP.

Keeping Roads Safe After a Snow Event

With winter driving conditions now upon us, Public Works crews are hard at work keeping roads safe. Town staff monitors weather forecasts in order to plan ahead as much as possible. Generally, crews will begin plowing when there is at least two inches of snow on the ground. In addition, plow drivers are on call overnight when heavy snow is forecasted. They can expect to be called into work several hours before the morning rush hour to clear roads for morning traffic.

Depending on conditions, crews drive their assigned routes more than once to create safe travel lanes. While most crews concentrate on the roads, other staff members are assigned to clearing certain sidewalks and trails. On Main Street crews initially pile snow in the middle of the road, then bring in heavy equipment to remove it. On most residential streets, snow is plowed from the center of the roadway toward the curb or designated snow storage areas.

There are many ways residents can help the Public Works crews.

- Please recognize that it can be difficult to steer a plow through tight streets. Removing parked cars from the sides of the road can make the plowing safer and more efficient. It also keeps cars from getting snowed in.
- When possible, please shovel snow from driveways and sidewalks onto lawns and not into the road. Adding more snow to the roads often creates icy and snow packed areas that take longer to melt.
- Please understand that plow drivers do their best to clear a primary travel lane on residential roads. Snow may be pushed into parking lanes and driveways. While this can be frustrating, it is unavoidable, and patience is requested.

Thank you for working with our drivers to make our town roads safer all winter long.

Bad Art on a Cold Winter Night

The Fifth Annual Bad Art Night will be held on Saturday, January 14, from 6:00 - 8:00 pm at the New Castle Community Center.

Described as "A freestyle crafting event for adults," Bad Art night is a chance to play with a selection of ridiculous craft and art materials.

Prizes will be awarded for "The Best of the Worst" and "Too Good to Be Bad."

The registration fee is \$25 each or \$45 per couple and includes two drink tickets for beer, wine or soda, as well as craft materials. Space is limited, so register soon at newcastlecolorado.org. This is an event for adults, who must be at least 21 years old to attend.



Clerk Melody Harrison, Administrative Assistant Rochelle Firth and Manager Dave Reynolds deliver Christmas cheer to the River Center Senior Lunch.

Founders Day is February 4

By proclamation of the New Castle Town Council, February is New Castle History month, honoring the town's incorporation on February 2, 1888. The annual Founders' Day celebration is the major event of History Month.

This year Founders Day will be a drop-in event in the Community Center between 9:00 am and noon on February 4.

Stop in for some traditional food (Johnny Cakes and homemade applesauce), music from The Currys, a bake sale and some old-fashioned crafts for sale (local honey, jam and jelly, handmade soap). There will be stories about New Castle history, a local trivia quiz and some pioneer games.

Pioneer attire is always welcome at this event but not required.

Corporal Terrence Davis and Chief Chuck Burrows wrapping gifts at the Shop with a Hero event in Parachute on December 3.



Did You Know That

- New Castle PD and other local area police departments participated in the Parachute and Garco Sheriff Shop with a Hero programs in December.
- The Town Hall staff delivered cookies and holiday cheer to the Senior Lunches at the River Center and Senior Housing.
- Chief Burrows was the guest speaker at the Senior Network luncheon to talk about fraud.
- The Public Works staff was busy during December snow shoveling and plowing.
- The 2023 utility rates are printed on the back of the January bill.
- Police officer Aurelio Rubio was the graduate speaker at the December 2022 graduation ceremony at Colorado

2023 Special Events for the Town of New Castle

January 1 - February 28 - Snowman Building Contest

February 4 - Founders Day

April 21 - 22 - Earth Day

April 28 - Arbor Day

May 13 - Hogback Hustle 5k

May - Fishing Derby

May 6 - Community Yard Sale

June - Bike Rodeo

July - Parks and Recreation Month

July 4 - Independence Day Non-Motorized Parade

July 6 - August 31 - Community Market

July 15 - Dirty Hog Dash, Kid Mud Run

August 4 – 5 - Rides and Reggae Mountain Bike Festival

August 1 - "Pyro" Trail Run – Sponsored by the Dubois family

September 8 & 9 - Burning Mountain Festival

September - BBQ with a Cop

September 9 - "Fire in the Hole" 5k- sponsored by River Center

October 31 – Trick or Treat New Castle

November - Lions Club Thanksgiving Dinner

December 1 - Holiday Tree Lighting and Chili Cookoff

Learn to Play the Ukulele This Winter

New Castle Recreation will offer a twelve-week course, beginning January 9. Lessons will be on Mondays from 4:30 – 5:30 pm at the Community Center. The course will teach chords, melody and basic music theory utilizing an established ukulele curriculum and simple song literature. Music educator Jeff Van Devender will be the instructor. A recital will be offered during the final session.

The cost for the classes will be \$20 per session. Ukuleles can be purchased for \$25. Save by paying \$240 in advance for all twelve sessions and get the ukulele for free. Sign up at www.newcastlerec.com

Happy New Year from the Town of New Castle

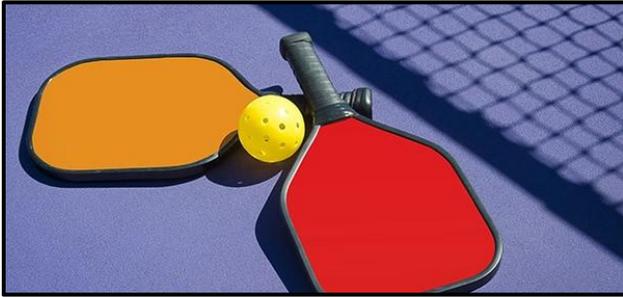
Council Highlights

- Approved Grants to Outside Agencies
- Resolution TC 2022-29 – Approved the 2023 Budget
- Resolution TC 2022-30 – Approved a Directory of Fees and Charges for 2023
- Approved a Contract for the purchase of Body Cameras for the Police Department
- Approved a Service Agreement for the Town Prosecutor
- Approved Tapatios' Hotel & Restaurant Liquor License Renewal

From the Recreation Department

Pickleball Open Play

What's Pickleball you say? Only the fastest growing sport in America! It's a combination of tennis, ping-pong, and badminton, and it's easy to learn. This 10-week session will be played on a 20x44 ft. courts. There will be 3 indoor courts at Riverside Middle School and play will move outside when weather permits. There will be beginner, and intermediate courts available.



Winter Session 1: January 17 - March 21, 2023, Tuesday evenings from 7:00 -9:00 pm at Riverside Middle School. The fee is \$50.00 for 10 weeks session or \$7.00 drop-in rate.

Coal Ridge Cheer Dynasty

On Saturday, December 10, the Coal Ridge Co-Ed Cheer Team captured their fifth consecutive State 2A/3A Championship. Their first-place run has even garnered the attention of the Denver TV channels!

The Town of New Castle is very proud of this group of talented individuals and hopes to see them take on nationals once again.

A video of their performance can be found on the Coal Ridge Cheer Facebook page as well as Visit New Castle.



New Castle Chamber of Commerce “Growing Businesses, Building Community”

From the Chamber

Happy New Year from the New Castle Chamber! As we welcome in 2023, we reflect on the Chamber's accomplishments in 2022 and invite everyone to join us in 2023.

Our monthly Bingo Nights have been a big success for the Chamber. Held on the second Thursday of the month at the Community Center, doors open at 6:00 pm and we start playing at 6:30. There are great opportunities for our members to promote their businesses by being a caller for a Bingo Night. Chamber members interested in calling Bingo should contact Mari Riddile at the Chamber office (970-984-2897).

For players, six games may be purchased for \$10.00. We also play a final game of Blackout Bingo, which costs \$5.00. Bingo Nights are family friendly, though we ask that children are supervised by an adult.

The Chamber also held Business After Hours events monthly, providing opportunities for Chamber members and potential members to mingle with other local businesses. We hold our events on the 4th Wednesday of the month at various members' businesses. Potential hosts should contact Mari Riddile, who will provide all the details.

Our other big endeavor in 2022 was a Chamber booth at the Community Market each week. Members were provided with yet another opportunity to showcase their businesses.

Our only disappointment was cancelling the Spirit Walk due to lack of actors and guides. We want to come back better than ever in 2023. If you can volunteer to help, we'd love to have you. Mari Riddile will be happy to talk to you about that too, the sooner the better.

Finally, the Chamber was a sponsor for various events around town this year, including Rides and Reggae, Burning Mountain Festival, RIDE and local sports teams and camps.