



# Town of New Castle Newsletter

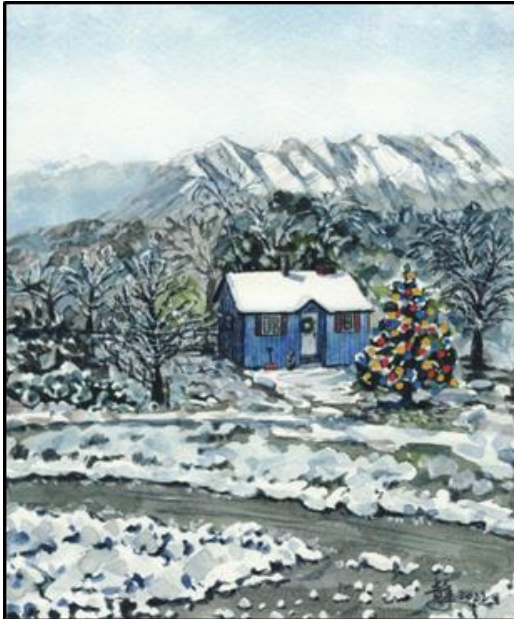
## A Monthly Update for Residents

March 2023

### Meet Your Neighbors

Watercolor artist Una Chu has been a New Castle resident for the past three years. Una loves the beauty of New Castle and spends her spare time creating one-of-a-kind postcards to sell at New Castle Coffee Company.

Una Chu is from Shijiazhuang, China. Students in China are able to choose what kind of high school to attend and Una decided to focus her attention on art school. It was while she was there that she met local worship team bass guitar player Andrew Jones while attending Suzhou International Fellowship Church. Andrew is the son of former New Hope Church Pastor Thom Jones.



The couple hit it off and in 2015 they were engaged. Una came to the United States before Covid, then due to restrictions on re-entering China she remained. She and Andrew now have a four-and-a-half-year-old daughter who attends Liberty Classical Academy.

Una delights in the sheer beauty that surrounds her

in the United States. Homes are unique and colorful, nature is pristine and inspiration for her artwork is plentiful. She loves to paint people's homes with a great backdrop. To see Una's work or contact her, you can find her on Instagram at [jing\\_art\\_and\\_crafts](#) or you can see her work at New Castle Coffee this spring when she showcases her next round of postcards.

### Living With Bears

*Community Conversations: Living with Bears* will continue this March and April with three additional gatherings while our bears are still sleeping. Each will focus on a different topic as we prepare for another season with bears.

March 1 will focus on Education, learning about what makes bears tick, what CPW's responsibilities and regulations are, and how bears operate during the different phases of their year. On March 22 we will have a conversation on Prevention. We will discuss the best ways to prevent human-bear interactions, and what we can do to deter these beautiful creatures from spending time in town. Finally, on April 19, we will discuss Encounters - what to do when you encounter a bear in town, on your property, or in your neighborhood. Encountering a bear can be scary and exciting at the same time. Knowing what to do is an important skill.

If you have specific questions you would like to discuss in any of the three meetings, please email them to Caitlin Carey ([ccarey@newcastlecolorado.org](mailto:ccarey@newcastlecolorado.org)). We will forward these questions to our experts in the field who will be working with us during each of these conversations.

Where: New Castle Community Center

When: March 1 (Education), March 22 (Prevention), and April 19 (Encounters)

Time: 6:00 pm-7:30pm



## Highwater Farm's Summer Youth Program

Patrons of the summer Community Market will be familiar with Highwater Farm's produce. In February Sara Tymczynsyn, the Director of Highwater Farm, visited the Town Council to explain their Summer Youth Program.

Each summer Highwater provides paid positions for young people interested in working on the farm. Youth Crew workers help grow and sell fresh produce while learning valuable job, life, and agricultural skills. According to their web site, Youth Crew workers will learn:

*Job skills*, including communication, receiving, and giving feedback, listening to directions, taking initiative, responsibility, teamwork, and critical thinking.

*Life skills*, including cooking with fresh produce, resilience, goal setting, reflection, integrity, public speaking, community-building, and making strong friendships.

*Agricultural skills*, including use of hand tools, growing diverse crops from seed to sale, working outdoors, land management, and understanding the local food system.

Applications are being accepted now, and the application form can be found at <https://highwaterfarm.org>.

Also on their website is information about Hightower Farm's CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) program. Members purchase a share of the farm's harvest in advance to help the farm with the up-front costs of seeds, equipment, supplies and labor in the beginning of the season. In return, members enjoy a weekly share of the farm's harvest from June to October and build a relationship with their farmers and the land. A CSA membership is an opportunity to invest in the local food system and build community.

## Earth Day is Coming in April

Earth Day is Saturday, April 22, and the Climate and Environment Commission will once again host a celebration next to City Market. They will be joined by Evergreen ZeroWaste, Mountain Waste, Garfield Clean Energy, CRFR and others. Any local groups or organizations which would like to join in can contact the Commissioners at [CEC@newcastlecolorado.org](mailto:CEC@newcastlecolorado.org)

The Town of New Castle will be conducting clean-up efforts. If you would like to be involved, please contact Rochelle Firth at town hall.

A full schedule of Earth Day activities will appear in the April newsletter.



Ice rainbow formed on a cold February day in New Castle. Photo courtesy Remi Bordelon

## New Castle History

Colorado is known as the Centennial State, since it achieved statehood in 1876. Using the same standard, New Castle's incorporation also happened on a centennial anniversary. The town was incorporated in 1888, one hundred years after the 1788 ratification of the U.S. Constitution.

A brochure with a walking tour of historic New Castle buildings can be found in the Community Center, next to the Chamber office, along with other useful information about the town and surrounding areas.

## Did You Know That...

- Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 12.
- Grizzly Hockey hosted their first free learn to skate at the New Castle Ice Rink for future hockey players.
- Valentine's cheer was spread throughout the town, from the town, during their annual February "Love Where You Live" campaign.
- Defiance Cyclery is beginning their third season on Main Street in downtown New Castle.
- Public Works has put a bid out for the building of the dog park.
- St. Patrick's Day is March 17.
- Colorado Drifters on Main Street hosts Trivia Night the second Wednesday of each month.

## Notes from the New Castle Garden Club

March is the time to start planning summer gardens. Start by drawing out beds on paper and then design according to plants' height, color, bloom, light and water needs. Keep a seed catalog handy to get the data for each plant. For more help, google High Country Gardens, an excellent resource for our Zone 6. It offers options for clay soil, drought tolerant plants, sun and shade, as well as height and color information. It also has garden layout ideas.

Black Gold garden products are available locally (blackgold.bz). Your plants will thank you. Of course compost is the ideal soil amendment. You can create your own compost in an out-of-the-way spot that gets plenty of sun, or use one of the wide variety of composting containers available. Composting amendments will not only improve the soil but also reduce waste in landfills.

Alternatively, Evergreen Zero Waste provides composting service to our area. They provides a bucket for weekly pick-up and a list of what is compostable. The fee is \$22 per month. (evergreenzerowaste.com).

Finally, as spring approaches, please help the bees by letting dandelions flower. Dandelions are one of the first sources of food for bees. Wait until the blossoms wilt, then remove them before their seeds blow.



Public Works Department teaming up to remove snow from Main Street.

## Council Highlights

- Held a Work Session with the Garfield County Board of County Commissioners
- Approved a Special Events Liquor License for the Rides & Reggae Event
- Approved a Cooler Modification Liquor License Application for City Market
- Approved Renewal Liquor License Applications for Hogback Pizza, Stop N Save and Lazy Bear Restaurant
- Resolution TC 2023-4 – Supporting an FMLD Grant Application for Construction of a Dog Park
- Resolution TC 2023-5 – Supporting an FMLD Grant Application for Streets Maintenance

## Helpful Hints

When crossing a street at night, even in a crosswalk, turn on your phone's flashlight so drivers will be sure to see you.

## Snowman Judging in March

Thank you, residents for entering the 2023 Snowman Building Contest. This year we had over 15 very creative entries across all three categories. Photos will be posted on the Visit New Castle Facebook page a week prior to voting.

Voting will open on our website beginning March 6<sup>th</sup> and run through the 13<sup>th</sup>. Winners will be announced in the weekly e-newsletter on Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>.

If you have not signed up for our weekly email newsletter, you can do so by visiting the direct link on our website: [OurTown/Residents/e-newslettersubscription](#).

## Spring Break Activity Days for ages 6 to 12

New Castle Recreation will be keeping the kids busy having fun at the New Castle Community Center for two days at the beginning of Spring Break. Days will be filled with cooking, crafting, outdoor play and indoor yoga. The dates and times are Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm both days. The cost is \$50 per child per day. Arts & Enrichment Coordinator Kelley Cox will oversee the two days of activities.

Candice Shaw of "Rooted in Nature Kids" will be in charge of morning activities in the kitchen. Candice is well-known as a STEM instructor and cooking teacher for many of the Kids' Kitchen after-school programs. When Candice isn't helping out at the New Castle Recreation Department, she is busy raising her two girls on their ranch and running her own day camps north of New Castle. Rooted in Nature Kids is an agricultural/farm-based day camp for kids which operates April thru September.

Local yoga instructor Rachel Keller will also join the Activity Days. Rachel has been involved with the New Castle Recreation Department for three years as an instructor for the "Mindfulness Yoga for Kids" programs. Rachel is also a mother of two and works as a mortgage loan officer at Fairway Independent Mortgage Corp.

While most activities will take place at the New Castle Community Center, there will also be some fresh-air time at one of the playgrounds within walking distance. Kids who take part in our Spring Break Activity days should bring their own sack lunch with a few extra snacks, plus a water bottle. March weather is unpredictable so kids should dress for indoors and also be prepared for chilly weather outdoors.

Space is limited, so please register early at [newcastlerec.com](http://newcastlerec.com). If you have any questions, give Kelley a call at 970-984-3352 or email [kcox@newcastlecolorado.org](mailto:kcox@newcastlecolorado.org).

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

### From the Chamber

Happy March from the Chamber! We are showcasing two of our members this month.

Owned and operated by Desi and Rose Starr and Andrew and Kerri Meador, Wild Coffee Roasters, formerly known as Mountain Mama Coffee, offers some of the best coffee in the area. They moved their business to the valley in 2015. They buy only high standard green coffee which is "roasted in love." Their beans can be found in local coffee shops across the valley, including New Castle Coffee Company, as well as locations as far away as South Lake Tahoe and Memphis. Wild Coffee Roasters also offers a subscription that delivers coffee to local individuals and businesses. In November of 2022, they joined with Misty's Coffee in Silt, which is now known as Wild Coffee. To sign up for a subscription, visit [wildcoff.co](http://wildcoff.co) (that's not a typo, there's no 'm' at that the end), or call Desi at (970) 987-6727.

"Covid was a blessing in disguise for us," says Aaron Schockley, who along with his wife Meagan owns The Rolling Fork Food Truck. "We opened in April 2020 and provided meals to go just when something like that was needed." The Shockleys are joined by Aaron's brother Jake, who holds the position of sous chef.

Rolling Fork is a food truck that provides locally sourced ingredients presented in a unique and delicious way. Their menu changes depending on what produce is available. Originally from Pennsylvania, the Schockleys came to the valley in 2017 with Aaron working as the Kitchen Manager at Glenwood Caverns and Adventure Park, while Meagan was a preschool teacher at Our School.

Rolling Fork is available to cater parties and events. They can be reached by phone at (970) 724-4917 or email at [rollingfork@gmail.com](mailto:rollingfork@gmail.com). Their website is [TheRollingForkTruck.com](http://TheRollingForkTruck.com) and they are on Facebook too.

Don't forget to come play bingo with the Chamber on the second Thursday of the month. The Chamber also conducts Business After Hours on the fourth Wednesday of the month.