



Town of New Castle Newsletter

A Monthly Update for Residents
June 2023

Memorial Day from a Gold Star Mom's Perspective

By Donna DuBois

Nine years ago, I was just like everybody else eagerly anticipating Memorial Day... a three-day weekend, the unofficial beginning of summer, barbecues, camping, beaches, furniture and car sales galore!

But then December 1, 2014 changed my life forever when my son, Will "Pyro" DuBois, died in Jordan fighting for our freedom. At that time I didn't even know what a Gold Star family member was. I learned about it when we traveled to South Carolina that horrible day to be with his widow. During our layover in Dallas, we visited the USO to make a donation as was our custom. When we shared our reason for travel with the woman at the desk, she informed us that the USO was for our use since we were now Gold Star parents.

So now we belong to a club nobody wants to be in. Memorial Day is no longer the carefree holiday it once was. Now we not only remember our loss, but the countless men and women who have lost their lives serving our country. This holiday is not to honor our current military men and women. That should be an everyday occurrence but especially on Veteran's Day.

Our family honors Will by hiking to Pyro's Point (as we call it) on the Flat Tops, and then gathering with friends at the Pyro Memorial Statue at Grand River Park in New Castle. We were incredibly humbled and appreciative when the town offered to build the statue. Not only is it a beautiful tribute where we can feel close to Will, but it's become a place where his fellow pilots can show their admiration and respect by flying low and fast!

So enjoy the sound of freedom we occasionally are blessed with and savor those barbecues, campouts, and sales, but stop and take a minute or two on Memorial Day to remember those we've lost fighting for those freedoms.



Intersection Improvements are Coming!

CDOT has prioritized the Route 6 and Castle Valley Boulevard intersection project and expects to begin utility work in 2023. The redesigned intersection will include a traffic roundabout, designed to better move traffic through the area.

As with all large road projects, the improvements may cause temporary inconveniences. CDOT engineers and traffic specialists are developing plans to minimize traffic impacts. The town will provide updates via this newsletter and Text My Gov (please sign up for Text My Gov by texting New Castle to 91896). Work on the intersection that begins this summer will continue into next year for completion.

Thank you CDOT for recognizing the need for this intersection improvement and making it a priority. They are also in the process of designing other Exit 105 improvements, which they will share with the town as they move forward in the years to come.

Dog Park Grand Opening

Last year a group of residents began meeting with Parks Director Charlie Moore and Public Works Director John Wenzel to make plans for a dog park and begin fund-raising. The Town Council recognized the need for the park and agreed to provide additional funding.

Construction of the park began in April and will finish in June. A formal grand opening ceremony and doggy party will be announced in the town's weekly email newsletter, the Visit New Castle Facebook page and the town's website.

Second Annual Fourth of July Parade



The second annual non-motorized Independence Day Parade will set off at 11 am on Tuesday, July 4, at the Elk Creek Elementary School grounds. Kids and adults are all invited to bring decorated bikes, scooters, little red wagons, strollers and any other non-motorized conveyances. Walkers are welcome too, as are securely leashed and crowd-friendly pets.

Colorado Snow will be selling hot dogs, nachos, shaved ice and ice cream, or participants can bring their own picnic lunch. The event is free, but in order to keep track of everyone, online parade registration is required at newcastle.com.

New Castle Recreation Department Head Hannah Bihr Says Farewell

Hannah Bihr, Recreation Director for the town of New Castle for the past 14 years, will be venturing on to new adventures in June.

Hannah led the town's events such as the Dirty Hog Dash, the Burning Mountain Festival, Community Market and the Chili Cook-Off. Her contributions have been significant, and she will be missed dearly.

"Before I leave, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, the community of New Castle! Thank you for the chance to grow as a professional in the world of local government. Thank you for trusting me to serve New Castle. I have greatly enjoyed my time with the town and have also appreciated the small-town vibe. Most of all, thank you to my colleagues! You all are simply the best people to work with!

Thank you, residents, for the continued belief in New Castle Recreation and for supporting our programs, activities, and special events. I will greatly miss the town of New Castle! I look forward to seeing the town continue to flourish and provide amazing services to residents."

Hannah has accepted a director's position at the Fruita Community Center and will be moving there soon with her family. Residents and staff will all miss her and wish her the best.

Town Clerk Melody Byram to Retire

After twelve years in her post, Town Clerk Melody Byram will retire at the end of June. Coming to New Castle from the Clerk's office in Silt, Byram (along with her assistants) has been the primary contact of the town with residents.

The Town Clerk is responsible for Town Council meeting agendas, packets and minutes; organizing and archiving all town documents; liquor licensing and enforcement; election oversight and management; commission and court oversight; utility billing; open records requests; and special projects for the Council and staff. In her annual reviews, Town Councilors have consistently praised Clerk Byram for her exceptional performance of all these tasks.



Clerk Byram distinguished herself by taking advantage of educational opportunities. She is certified by the International Clerks Association, earning her title of Certified Municipal Clerk. She has served on several committees state-wide.

Locally Byram has gone above and beyond by assisting in the Burning Mountain Festival beer tent, representing the town on the County Senior Programs Committee and heading up the town's Spellebration team for three years.

Town Manager Dave Reynolds said of Byram: "She has served her community with a desire to make a meaningful difference in the town that she calls her home. Melody will be missed by her peers and by the community as she transitions on to the next chapter of her life. We sincerely wish Melody nothing but happiness as she looks forward to retirement."

From the New Castle Garden Club: All About Tonics

No chemicals are needed to perk up your lawn. Instead use this tonic: 1 can of beer, 1 can of regular cola, 1 cup apple juice, 1 cup lemon scented dishwashing liquid (not anti-bacterial), 1 cup ammonia and 1 cup of all-purpose plant food. Mix in a bucket and every three weeks spray 1 quart at a time using a hose-end sprayer. If you leave grass clippings on the lawn, omit the plant food. If your soil is compacting, try 1 cup dishwashing liquid, 1 cup beer and warm water to fill a 20-gallon sprayer and douse once a month.

For healthy geraniums, sprinkle the soil with 1 tablespoon of Epsom salt, then, in a watering can, mix 1 cup of beer, 4 tablespoons of instant tea granules, 2 teaspoons of baby shampoo and 1 gallon of water.

When transplanting perennials, mix 1 can of beer, 4 tablespoons of instant tea, 2 tablespoons of dishwashing liquid and 2 gallons of warm water. Soak the newly divided perennials in this tonic for about 10 minutes before planting and they will take off like

gangbusters.

There are many more helpful tonics made from your kitchen with sugar, molasses, tea... and avoiding expensive chemical treatments. Mother Earth will thank you!

Did You Know That. . .

- New Castle Police Department Bike Rodeo will be held at Riverside Middle School on Saturday, June 3 from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm.
- The Annual Lions Club Yard Sale will be Saturday, June 3, from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- Thursday June 8th is the date for the next Chamber Bingo Night at the Community Center. Doors open at 6:00 pm.
- Josh Ellis has passed his Class B Certification for the Town's water and wastewater treatment plants.
- The town has several positions to fill: seasonal parks workers; staff accountant, irrigation technician, Streets Maintenance Technician and Police Officers. See the town website for application information.
- Town of New Castle Blood Drive will be held in front of Town Hall on Friday, June 30 from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm.
- The New Castle Community Market is set to kick off on July 15th at Burning Mountain Park.
- The Roaring Fork Polo Club will present the Devereux Polo Cup match on June 11 from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm. For information visit <http://stoutranch.com/polo.html>.



New Castle Museum Gets Much Needed Updates

New heaters and LED lights have been installed in the town museum on 4th Street, thanks to the work of Lex Lively from Lively Electric. Councilor Brandy Copeland, who serves as the Council representative on the Historic Preservation Commission, has become deeply involved in museum projects.

Besides the lighting/heating project, she has been working with Joe and Loraine McNeal to get the museum re-organized. In particular, Copeland and the McNeals are cataloging all the paper items in the museum and archiving them digitally.

The New Castle Museum is open on Wednesday from 1:00 – 4:00 pm. Additional hours can be added if more volunteers can be recruited. Potential volunteers should call Joe or Lorraine McNeal at 970-984-2142 or email: newcastlehistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

The Devereux Polo Cup Match on June 11 will benefit the New Castle Museum.



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

Chamber of Commerce Block Party June 23



The New Castle Chamber will host the first ever community block party/chamber showcase on Sunday, June 23. The block party will include fun for everyone in the family, including music by Dustin Elliot and the Broken Radio (that's Dustin Chapin from Chamber member Hogback Pizza). Food, beer and wine will be available for purchase.

Chamber members will be there with information about their respective businesses and the services they offer. The Chamber is bringing this evening of fun and entertainment to New Castle as a way of showing their appreciation for the support they receive from the community. Of course, it's also an opportunity for members to reach out to residents who might not yet know about them.

The party will be held at Burning Mountain Park from 5:00-9:00 pm on June 23rd. Chamber board members Cori Webber (970-309-8830) and Ami Schibi (970-319-0343) are coordinating the event. They are available to answer questions and look forward to greeting everyone in the park on the 23rd.

Featured Chamber Members for June:

Lauren Milholm has been a hair stylist in our valley since 2008. The owner of Reazlin Hair (It's named after her daughters, Reagan and Aizlin) works in the Maven Made Salon at 386 West Main Street in New Castle. Maven Made is a perfect location for Lauren; she says it "Has a good vibe for me. It's my style and everyone there gets along." She works Tuesday – Friday and by appointment on Saturdays. When she's not at the salon she may be on the golf course or spending time with her girls. Lauren can make appointments on her cell at 970-274-3289 or at the shop (970-983-3625).

Timberscape Tree and Turf has been owned and operated by Lee and Jessica Brandt since 2019. "We specialize in plant healthcare," says Jessica when describing their business. "We are pesticide and fertilizer applicators for trees and turf and also spray for noxious weeds."

Both are well qualified in their field: Lee is an ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) arborist and Jessica is a Colorado Master Gardener and a member of the Colorado Weed Management Association. Both are licensed by the Colorado Department of Agriculture.

Timberscape services clients from Rifle to Aspen. Both long-time valley residents, they live in Rifle with their children, Wyatt and Maddie. Contact Timberscape Tree and Turf at (970) 625-8111 or by email at jessica@timberscape.net for all tree and turf needs.

National Pollinator Week June 19-25

National Pollinator Week is an annual event celebrated each June in support of pollinator health. It's a time to celebrate bees, butterflies and other insects, and to learn how to protect them. Both bee colonies and butterflies have been stressed in recent years and they need our help. Information, resources and toolkits are available at www.pollinator.org/pollinator-week.

The Climate and Environment Commission distributed pollinator-friendly flower seeds at Earth Day in April, and they encourage everyone to plant flowers in June wherever they can. The CEC with the Garden Club will maintain pollinator gardens in Liberty Park and Rollie Gordon Park and will place informational signage in town planters this summer.

Mayor Art Riddile will read a proclamation recognizing Pollinator Week on June 6, and the New Castle Bee Club plans activities for Pollinator Week. Look for information in the weekly email newsletter and the Visit New Castle Facebook page.