



Town of New Castle Newsletter

A Monthly Update for Residents
September 2023

Editorial: Give a Honk

In the Town of New Castle, it is extremely rare to hear a car horn honk, but did you know that there are occasions when this big city bad habit may actually be okay?

Not that anyone wants to fill our town with honking horns, but from time to time when we come across hard working Town Park Crews who are out in the heat of the day keeping our parks in great condition, or Town Streets Crews who are making sure that our streets are in good repair, or Town Utility Crews who might be flushing hydrants or maintaining sewer and water lines, or a Police Officer directing traffic, it is ok to say thank you with a tap of the horn.

Honk, smile and wave to let town workers know that they are appreciated.



Pictured right: Parks Manager Ryan Barkman, with Wayne Edgeton, Jonathan Chaviran and Cody Hunstad.

51st Burning Mountain Festival

It keeps getting better every year. The 51st Burning Mountain Festival will fill Burning Mountain Park and spill over into downtown New Castle on Friday and Saturday, September 8 and 9. The park opens at 4:00 pm on Friday with food and craft vendors. Mitt Spicy & the Blues Bandits kick off the weekend's music at 5:00, followed by Whiskey Stomp at 7:30. At 7:00, between the bands, Volunteer New Castle will honor the 2023 Volunteers of the Year. The Beer Gazebo will be open from 5:00 to 9:30 pm.

Saturday festivities kick off at 7:30 am with the River Center's Fire-in-the-Hole 5K race. Food and craft vendors open for business at 9:00, as does the Car Show at the corner of Main Street and Kamm Avenue. 10:00 am is the start time for the parade down Main Street. Ross and Ramona Talbott will be the Grand Marshalls.

New Castle Colorado
1888-2023



The 2023 street paving projects were in full swing in August. Crews milled and paved on Current Dr, Penny Royal, E Capital, Rio Grande, Oak Ct, Mesquite Ct, Lupine Dr, Dragon Root, and Mallow Ct.

Afternoon events in Burning Mountain Park include a foam pit at 11:00, the Strider Race at 11:30, the Pie Eating Contest at 1:00 and the log splitting contest at 2:00. A tug-of-war and other games will be announced throughout the afternoon. On Saturday, the Beer Gazebo will be open from 2:30 -9:30 pm. Music starts at 3:00 with the Basement Brothers, then Dustin Elliott & the Broken Radio at 5:00 and A Band Called Alexis at 7:30.

The festival is able to continue to get better each year thanks to help from our sponsors, which include Alpine Bank, Adam Decker State Farm Insurance, Trailhead Chiropractic, New Castle Liquors, Pepsi and Hogback Pizza.

Employee Spotlight: Kevin Bustad, Parks Department

Kevin Bustad is New Castle's new Irrigation Technician and is no stranger to New Castle. Kevin has been a seasonal worker for the parks department for the last two years, but has worked off and on with the town for over eight years.

You may recognize Kevin as a local UPS holiday driver over the past couple of years. Or maybe you have seen him making snow and maintaining ski lifts at Sunlight Mountain Resort, something he has mastered in his 18 years on the job.

Either way, if you see Kevin out fixing water lines or helping the parks department maintain local parks, honk and wave.



Evacuation Plan for New Castle

Fires in Colorado and elsewhere, to say nothing of hurricanes, floods and tornados across the country, all raise concerns about our safety in the face of a disaster. To provide useful emergency resources to New Castle residents, town staff (under the direction of the Town Council) has been working with emergency managers in the area to develop a New Castle-specific written Emergency Evacuation Plan. This plan is designed to act as an informative guide before, during, and after emergency situations which may require the evacuation of all or part of the town.

The Council reviewed a draft of the plan in August, and minor editing work is now being finalized. The plan will inform residents of not only the governmental actions that take place in an emergency, but the actions that the town and residents can take before an emergency occurs. The Emergency Evacuation Plan will soon be available on the town's website. Watch the weekly town E-Newsletter and the Visit New Castle Facebook page for news of the plan's availability. In the meantime, help mitigate and prepare by removing flammables from yards, cutting out dead trees and branches and never lighting an outdoor fire.

Don't take it for Granted

In a recent report to the Town Council, Finance Director Loni Burk took a few minutes to recap some of the town's recent grant-supported projects. To make town resources stretch as far as possible, the Town Council and town staff often seek grant funding to assist in the completion of planned capital projects. With support from grant funding organizations such as the Garfield County Federal Mineral Leasing District, Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado, Colorado Department of Transportation, History Colorado, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Colorado Health Foundation, Great Outdoors Colorado, American Rescue Act Funds, Colorado Department of Local Affairs and others, the Town of New Castle has in recent years completed over \$2.1 million in projects. The town is currently managing over \$3.4 million in on-going work. Projects that have benefited from grant funding include upgrades to town water and wastewater systems, street paving and upgrades, bike trail paving, community kitchen remodel, EV charging station, bulk water sales terminal, crosswalk safety systems, community center upgrades, Police Department evidence facility and park renovation designs. While successfully obtaining grant funding can be highly competitive and not every grant applied for is funded, the town continues to identify grant opportunities and thanks our funding partners for their support of New Castle and other Colorado municipalities.

The Bears Are Back

We know they're out there, and they're hungry. Last year a series of four community meetings helped to educate residents about bear behavior and the right responses to that behavior. In short, the message was "Never provide bears with any potential food."

Not providing food means keeping all garbage and compost material in the garage or other securely enclosed space until collection day. It also means removing fallen fruit from the ground. In addition, remove bird feeders, keep pet food inside, clean grills and store them securely, keep vehicles locked and never leave food in a car.

Furthermore, keep dogs leashed. Off leash dogs are the cause of many bad bear encounters (and it's the law in New Castle!) If you're concerned about a bear, contact Colorado Parks and Wildlife or New Castle PD.

What to Do? What to Do?

The Burning Mountain Festival is, for many residents, the main event of the year in New Castle. Others know that major community events continue throughout the year, attracting both residents and visitors. To date, 2023 has been an exceptional event year with Rides & Reggae, Dirty Hog Dash, July 4th Non-Motorized Parade, annual Fishing Derby, Founders Day, Snowman contests, Bike Rodeo and more. New Castle staff, volunteers, and event coordinators have provided a wide array of enjoyable entertainment so far this year, and there remains much more to come.



First up is the 51st Burning Mountain Festival on September 8 and 9 in Burning Mountain Park and Downtown. A preview of Festival appears in the article on page one. This signature New Castle event is not to be missed!



On September 23rd beginning at 2:00 p.m. the New Castle Police Department will again serve up delicious burgers and hot dogs at this year's annual BBQ with Cop event. Everyone is invited to stop by the gazebo area in Burning Mountain Park to see what officers are cooking up and to get to know the men and women who serve and protect our town.



Friday October 27th may not be Halloween night, but it promises to be full of ghosts, goblins, and hauntingly good fun as the town joins with local business owners along Main Street and in New Castle Plaza to kick off the Halloween season. From 3:00 p.m. to about 5:30 p.m. the sidewalks of downtown and the businesses in the Plaza will welcome kids and adults as they test drive their Halloween costumes in preparation for town wide Trick or Treating on Halloween night. In the past, Trick or Treat New Castle events have seen hundreds of spooky creatures, many business sponsored games, a haunted maze, a hayride, and much more.

Finally, no year would be complete without the annual Lion's Club Thanksgiving Dinner, this year on November 18, and the Town's Holiday Tree Lighting and Chili Mac & Cheese Cook-off on December 1. These events will all be previewed in the future newsletters.

The town is thrilled to offer its residents these amazing events throughout the year and appreciate all who attend.

To find out more about more about the town's events, visit

www.newcastlecolorado.org/todo/page/events as well as www.newcastlerec.com.



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

Council Highlights

- Work Session to review of the Emergency Evacuation Plan.
- Accepted the 2022 Audit.
- Approved Ordinance TC 2023-03 Amending Sections 15.080.020 and 15.10.020 of the New Castle Municipal Code Regarding Building Permit Valuation Calculations (1st reading).
- Approved Resolution TC 2023-08 - Supporting the Application for a Mini Grant from the Garfield County Federal Mineral Lease District for Emergency Road Signage, Message Boards & Safety Barricades.
- Approved Resolution TC 2023-09 - Supporting the Application for a Traditional Grant from the Garfield County Federal Mineral Lease District for the Raw Water Irrigation Expansion.

Kids' Market Returns

The Kids' Market returns on Thursday, September 21, from 5:00 to 6:30 pm in Burning Mountain Park.

Kids 17 and under can apply for a space at the Kids Market on the New Castle Recreation web site (newcastlerec.com).

From the Chamber of Commerce:

The New Castle Chamber is pleased to feature two local businesses this month.

Bay Equity Home Loans is located at 1319 Grand Avenue in Glenwood Springs. Kristi Picore owns the business along with her sales manager husband Mike. Mike says, "The housing and mortgage markets are constantly changing. We can help you navigate the many options to find the right loan to fit your family, your needs and your financial circumstance. The lending professionals at Bay Equity Home Loans are dedicated to helping you with all your home mortgages." While the business is in Glenwood, Mike explains that many of the brokers live in New Castle.

Kristi grew up in Palisade, while Mike came from college in South Dakota in 1999. The couple are youth football and basketball coaches in Glenwood and have three children.

Bay Equity can be reached at 970-309-2911 or by email at kpcore@bayeg.com. They also have a website: www.bayequityhomeloans.com/glenwood-springs/.

New Castle's newest business is Fioré Salon, located in the New Castle Plaza. Owner and operator Kelly Gabossi-Ehlers moved her salon from Carbondale to New Castle and has brought twenty years of experience in the beauty business with her. "My goal is to bring a beautiful and inviting experience to the people of New Castle," says Gabossi-Ehlers. Fioré Salon, a Kevin Murphy shop, offers a wide variety of products including hair, facials, waxing and manicures and pedicures. You can find plenty of gift items at Fioré including earrings, candles and small perfumes.

Kelly, her husband Wes and two daughters love the atmosphere of New Castle and are happy to call it their home. They enjoy hiking, rafting and doing activities as family.

Fioré Salon hosted a Chamber Business After Hours in August where all services were featured, and guests were able to meet and greet the staff. All the services that Kelly offers can be scheduled at kesalom.ke@gmail.com or 970-618-9724.



The New Castle Chamber had a booth at every Thursday night Community Market in Burning Mountain Park this summer, providing information about the services the Chamber offers. Those who missed the opportunity to talk to Chamber members at the Market can contact them 970-984-2897 or email newcastlecochamber@gmail.com.

Please join the New Castle Chamber for the Spirit Walk on Saturday, October 21st at Highland Cemetery. If you are interested in volunteering as a character for the event or help in other ways, please contact the chamber. All are welcome to attend. Stay tuned for ticket information.