



Town of New Castle Newsletter

A Monthly Update for Residents

November 2023

Annual Tree Lighting, Chili and Mac & Cheese competition December 1

On Friday, December 1, from 5:30 to 8:00 pm, the final town event of the year will fill Burning Mountain Park. The annual Chili Cook-off and Mac and Cheese competition will be combined with the Tree Lighting celebration. The Christmas season kick-off will also feature photos with Santa in the gazebo and music from the Elk Creek Elementary Choir. The town will provide everyone with free hot chocolate.

The Chili Cook-off and Mac & Cheese Competition are a big draw for this event. The first 350 people to buy their tickets to be tasters will receive ballots so they can vote for their favorites. Each taster will receive an official taster's cup, spoon and ballot. The cost to be a taster is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 10 and under. Beer tickets can be purchased separately for \$7 each.

Winners of the contests will be determined by anonymous judges for the "Judge's Champion" award, and by ballot votes for the "People's Choice" award. Besides the honor of being New Castle's top chef, the People's Choice winners in each category will get a \$100 prize, and the Judges' Champions will receive \$150.

Contestants must register at newcastleec.com and the registration fee is \$35.00. Contestants must bring at least three gallons of food in crockpots which hold a temperature of at least 140 degrees. Additional requirements are noted at newcastleec.com. Questions can be addressed to New Castle Recreation at 970-984-3352 or to Kelley at kcox@newcastlecolorado.org.

Tree Lighting Celebration Schedule:

- 5:30 pm – Ticket sales start, and competition begins at Burning Mountain Park.
- 6:00 pm – Tree Lighting and welcome address by Mayor Art Riddile.
- 6:15 pm – Elk Creek Elementary School Choir performance, led by Keith Bushman.
- 7:30 pm – Ticket sales end.
- 8:00 pm – Voting closes and winners are announced.



Lion's Club Community Dinner November 18

The New Castle Lions Club invites residents to a community dinner on November 18, beginning at 5:00 pm in the Community Center. The Lions will provide turkey, ham, dressing, potatoes and gravy. Guests are invited to bring a vegetable, salad or dessert if they are able (that's by no means a requirement—the dinner is free for everyone).

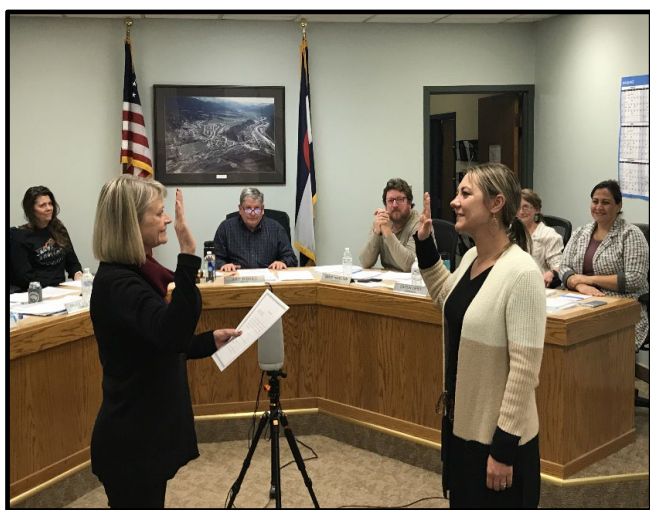
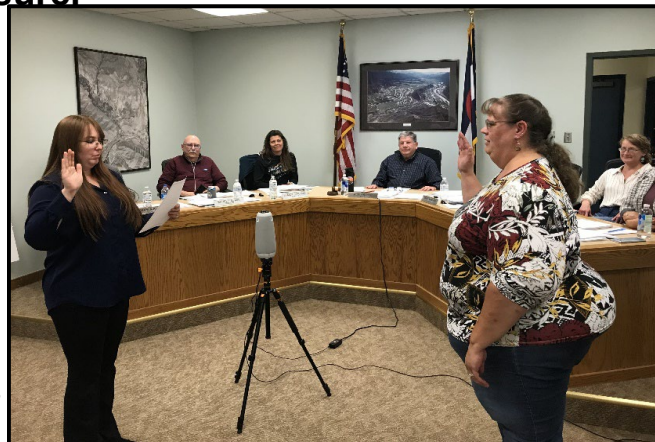


Besides serving the annual dinner, the Lions Club collects glasses for re-use, helps qualified residents pay for eye care, cleans a section of Rt. 6 east of town, rings bells for the Salvation Army and assists with town events. They meet on the second Monday of each month at 4:00 pm at the First Baptist Church. New members are always welcome: just come to a meeting or contact membership chair Bruce Leland at bruceleland@sopris.net.

New Castle Appoints a New Town Clerk and Treasurer

On October 3, the Town Council filled two key positions within the town. Mindy Andis was appointed Town Clerk and Viktoriya Ehlers was appointed Town Treasurer. They fill the positions vacated by long-time Clerk Melody Harrison, and Treasurer Loni Burk. According to town's Charter, the positions of Town Administrator, Town Clerk, and Town Treasurer are appointed directly by the Council.

Mindy Andis is a well-known and respected presence in Town Hall, having served for many years as Deputy Clerk. In fact, Mindy holds the distinction of being the longest- serving member on the town staff. Her experience and familiarity with the workings of the town's administrative processes make her a valued asset to the community.



Viktoriya Ehlers, the newly appointed Town Treasurer, brings a wealth of experience to her role. She has served in the Finance Department for three years, learning to apply her knowledge of finance to the workings of local government, under the guidance of recently retired Treasurer, Loni Burk. She has been serving as assistant treasurer, with responsibility for training new staff members in the finance department.

The two new town officers were administered their oath of office during the Council meeting. Burk, the outgoing Treasurer, administered the oath of office to Ehlers, signifying the continuity of financial stewardship within the town. New Deputy Clerk Remi Bordelon was called upon to administer the oath to Andis. Both women had family members present to witness the swearing-in.

While congratulating Andis and Ehlers on their new positions, the Council noted its appreciation of the fact that two such experienced and skilled employees were ready to step into new roles. A small town must perform most of the same services as larger communities and can do so only with a dedicated staff. These appointments signal a commitment to the continuity and efficiency of the town's operations.

Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army

Once again this year the Lions club is ringing the bell for the Salvation Army in front of City Market. The annual campaign is scheduled for November 2 through December 24. Community volunteers are needed to make sure the kettle is available for donations for as many hours as possible.

There is a web site to schedule yourself for an hour of bellringing. Go to <https://signup.com/go/fsYRoXP>, or access the site from New Castle Colorado Lions on Facebook.

The Glenwood Springs Service Center for the Salvation Army has page on Facebook. There they announce that their purpose is to "Provide emergency assistance to people in need; rent eviction prevention; utility shutoff prevention." Funds collected in November and December are put to work all year long.



Burning Mountain Arts held their second exhibit in October with a successful turnout. Watch for news of their third show!

Remember that Daylight Savings ends this month. Before bed on Saturday, November 4, turn clocks and watches back an hour. Then enjoy a little extra sleep!



New Facebook Page for Enhanced Communication in New Castle

The town continues to add to its portfolio of communication platforms. In September, the town introduced an official Facebook page, *Town of New Castle, Colorado Government*, accompanying *Visit New Castle*, the *Chamber of Commerce* page, and other local-themed pages.

This Facebook page primarily focuses on town events and updates, fostering a sense of community. Most importantly, it serves as a platform for emergency notifications.

Additionally, New Castle has implemented the TextMyGov alert system. To subscribe, text "NEWCASTLE" to 91896. This system sends text message alerts only in the case of emergencies or other events requiring official notifications.

Ready Set Go! New Castle Evacuation Plan Available

While the beauty of our surroundings is what attracts many to live in western Colorado, it comes with a responsibility to be aware of risks. Like hurricanes on the east coast and tornadoes in the central states, wildfire is a reality that every family in western Colorado needs to be prepared for.

To provide useful emergency resources to New Castle residents, town staff (under the direction of Town Council) has been working with Colorado River Fire Rescue, the Sheriff's Department and the County Emergency Manager, 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 plan can be accessed from the top page of the town website (www.newcastlecolorado.org), and paper copies are available in Town Hall. All residents are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the plan, which outlines the governmental actions that take place in an emergency, and the actions that the town and residents can take before an emergency occurs. In addition, Colorado River Fire Rescue has print resources about wildfire safety, including Ready Set Go materials. Online, Cal Fire provides a plethora of resources at www.readyforwildfire.org.

As an additional fire safety measure, the Town Council and staff are considering the adoption of updated building codes designed to provide more fire resilient structures. The Wildland Urban Interface code contains information that may be useful for existing structures as well as new buildings. Live Wildfire Ready resources can be found at csfs.colostate.edu/live-wildfire-ready/.

Trick-or-Treat New Castle

For the third consecutive year, the town welcomed trick-or-treaters to Main Street and the New Castle Plaza. Local businesses offered treats and activities to children and adults alike. Main Street was adorned with intricate spider webs and witch hats, while the Town Hall lawn featured a haunted maze.

In addition, the event boasted a wide array of attractions: Halloween games, a photo booth, and a special feature in Burning Mountain Park, courtesy of the Western Slope Ghost Busters. The Ghost Busters earned the gratitude of the town for bravely safeguarding New Castle from the likes of Mr. Puff and Slimmer. Their efforts ensured a safe and enjoyable Halloween experience for everyone.

The town staff thanks the businesses that line Main Street and the plaza, all of whom consistently contribute to the vibrant spirit of the community. Their commitment integral to the success of community events. Finally, a big round of applause to the hundreds of costumed revelers who graced the town with their presence.

It's everyone's enthusiasm and creativity that continues to make New Castle's Halloween celebration a cherished new tradition. Look for photos on the *Visit New Castle* Facebook page.



Downtown New Castle boasting beautiful fall colors in October.

Council Highlights

- Received 2024 Draft Budget
- Received update from Garfield Clean Energy (GCE)
- Approved Resolution BZ 2023-1 – Variance for 221 E. Main St.
- Approved Ordinance TC2023-5 - an Ordinance of the New Castle Town Council Adopting 2020 Model Traffic Code (2nd reading)
- Approved Ordinance TC 2023-6 Sign Code (2nd reading)
- Approved Ordinance TC 2023-7 Wildland-Urban Interface Code (1st reading)
- Approved Liquor License Renewal for Kum & Go
- Appointed Town Clerk – Mindy Andis
- Appointed Town Treasurer – Viktoriya Ehlers
- Reviewed Nutrient Farms – County Land Use Application
- Approved Special Events Liquor License Application – P.E.O. Chapter AO (December 8, 2023)

YouthZone Serves New Castle

YouthZone is one of the local service agencies which receive financial support from the town. In September YouthZone officials reported to the Town Council about their service to our community. Thirty-six New Castle youth were served, impacting 177 family members. YouthZone estimates that 1080 service hours were provided to New Castle youth.

YouthZone provides assessment and advocacy to inspire healthy relationships between youth, families and communities. They are an alternative to placing young offenders in the legal system. Not all referrals, however, come from courts. Schools, law enforcement or parents can refer a potential client to YouthZone. The phone number for the Glenwood Springs Office is 970-945-9300, and the Rifle Office can be reached at 970-625-3141. An online referral form, as well as details about their services, can be found at www.youthzone.com.

Election Day November 7

Election Day is November 7. The mail ballot election has two statewide ballot questions to be considered. The Election Blue Book was mailed last month and contains detailed explanations of both measures, along with arguments pro and con. The Blue Book is also available at <https://leg.colorado.gov>, under the Initiatives tab.

There are also three seats on the Re-2 School Board up for election on November 7. The candidates' names are listed at www.garfieldre2.net (Our District tab). A video of the October 9 Candidates' Forum is available on Facebook: Garfield Re-2 School District.

While a lot of attention is already being paid to the 2024 election, these local and state elections are also important. Please vote.

From the Chamber

Please join us on the second Thursday of each month at the Community Center for Bingo. The next game will be on November 9, and the doors open at 6 pm.

This month the New Castle Chamber would like to introduce two of our newer members. Debra Cannon is a Broker Associate with Hummel Realty. She has two-years of experience as a realtor and specializes in first time home buyers. With a territory from Aspen to De Beque, Debra has her hands full. She tries to find the perfect house for her clients and helps them with selling their homes. Originally from Texas, Debra has been in the Valley for 15 years. In her spare time, she enjoys Colorado outdoor spaces with her husband, hiking, biking, rafting and skiing. Debra can be reached at 970-355-8990 or debra@hummelrealestate.com.

Since 2020, when she opened Mountain Whisk Bakery, Samantha Kulhas been satisfying her patrons' craving for sweets. Mountain Whisk offers cupcakes, cakes and cookies. She can work on any dessert the client needs and recently partnered with Hogback Pizza for a special sales event. Hailing from Texas, Samantha has lived in New Castle for 8 years with husband Mick and daughter, 1-year old Lavinia. Mountain Whisk Bakery can be reached at 970-376-4195 or mountainwhiskbakery@gmail.com.

