



# Town of New Castle

# Newsletter

## A Monthly Update for Residents

## December 2023

### Ice Skating Rink Moves to Burning Mountain Park

For the past two years, residents have enjoyed skating in Frank Breslin Park on a rink created by the Parks Department. This year, supported by a grant from the Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado (AGNC), the ice rink will find a new home in Burning Mountain Park on Main Street. Construction will begin immediately after the Chili/Mac & Cheese/Tree Lighting event on December 1.

The viability of the ice rink is dependent on weather conditions. A good ice surface needs sustained sub-freezing temperatures. Skating during periods of soft ice will result in an uneven surface when it refreezes. When that happens, the town crew will need to re-flood the area and let it freeze again. In order to keep the ice in useable condition, signs will be prominently displayed whenever it is too warm to use the rink or when new ice is hardening.

New Castle Recreation is currently gathering used ice skates for a loaner program which will be operated on the honor system. Donations of ice skates in all sizes are welcomed at the New Castle Community Center. Further details about this lending initiative will be available on the Recreation web site ([newcastlecolorado.org](http://newcastlecolorado.org)) starting in mid-December.

Kelley Cox from New Castle Recreation points out that used skates are available for purchase on sites such as eBay. "It's a wise strategy to prepare in advance before the skating season commences," she advises.

### Frosty Fun Awaits: Snowman Building Contest Launches on January 1, 2024

It's time for artists and creators of all ages to get ready for the annual Snowman Building Contest. The competition kicks off on January 1 and continues through February 28. That gives everyone two months of frosty fun.

There are three separate contests for three age groups:

**Little Kids (Ages 0-10):** Let the youngest snow sculptors showcase their creativity.

**Big Kids (Ages 11-18):** Teens can demonstrate their artistic flair and let their imagination run wild.

**Adults (Ages 18 and Older):** Adults can prove that snowman-building isn't just for kids.

**Grand Prize:** This coveted award will be bestowed upon the snowman that captures the hearts and votes of the community for each age group.

How to participate:

1. From January 1st to February 28th, sculpt your snowman masterpiece.
2. Submit photos to [rfirth@newcastlecolorado.org](mailto:rfirth@newcastlecolorado.org)
3. Starting March 1, the community will have the chance to cast votes for their favorite snowmen in each age category. Voting will be on the town website: [www.newcastlecolorado.org](http://www.newcastlecolorado.org). (Only one vote per person, per category will be accepted.)
4. Winners will be announced in the e-newsletter email the second week of March.



### Evolving Communication Platforms in New Castle

For many years, the town newsletter has been a monthly publication bundled with the utility bill. However, shifts in communication practices have spurred the town to adapt to a new schedule.

Starting in 2024, the New Castle Newsletter is returning to a quarterly schedule, delivered in March, June, September, and December with utility bills. This shift allows for in-depth background and feature stories. For more immediate updates, including events and town projects, check the weekly email newsletter, Facebook pages (Visit New Castle, Town of New Castle Recreation, Town of New Castle, CO Government), and subscribe to TextMyGov. Sign up for the e-news on the town's website under the Our Town tab. TextMyGov's subscription link is at the bottom of the home page ([www.newcastlecolorado.org](http://www.newcastlecolorado.org)).

## 2023 New Castle Lions Club Red Kettle Campaign

The New Castle Lions Club is once again coordinating the Red Kettle Campaign at City Market this year. Volunteers are needed to ring the bell and collect donations for the Salvation Army. It's easy: pick up the kettle and return it to the Customer Service desk.

Bring your family, pets, music, costumes and have some fun while supporting those in need. Bellringing is scheduled from December 1 through December 31, 9:00 am to 7:00 pm, so there are lots of opportunities to volunteer. To sign up for one-hour shifts, go to <http://registertoring.com> or find the link on the New Castle Colorado Lions Facebook page.

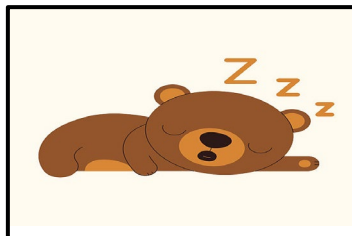


Mayor Art Riddile, Mayor Pro Tem Grady Hazelton and Councilor Bruce Leland at the Trick-or-Treat New Castle Celebration.

## Bear With Us

New Castle didn't have as many bear visitors during the fall pre-hibernation season this year, but that doesn't mean they aren't around. All the bear-aware precautions that were explained last year are still in effect:

- Keep garbage cans in garages or in secured enclosures until the morning of pickup.
- Bird feeders need to be taken down.
- All pet food should be kept indoors.
- Watch and listen for bears as you enter and exit your home.
- If there is a bear nearby move slowly away; if necessary yell and make loud noises to scare it off.



## Did You Know That . . .

- All Business and Contractor Licenses should be renewed in December. Renewals are payable by January 1. The license application form is available on the Town website ([www.newcastlecolorado.org](http://www.newcastlecolorado.org)) under the Forms & Permits tab.
- Leaving a porch light on will help Post Office workers find your house when they are delivering packages after dark. Make sure the numbers are readily visible from the street.
- Everyone is urged to become familiar with the New Castle Emergency Evacuation Plan. It can be found on the town website ([newcastlecolorado.org](http://newcastlecolorado.org)). Click on the Our Town tab, and then look under Public Safety.
- A big thank you to the Public Works staff who decorated Main Street and Burning Mountain Park for the holidays.

## Council Highlights

- Discussed budget during a work session
- Discussed R-2 Castle Valley Ranch multi-family sketch plan application
- Adopted the WUI Code
- Discussed the Energy Code
- Awarded outgoing grants round 2
- Thanked Climate and Environment Commission Chair Denise Scheberle
- Introduced new Police officers Jessica Schaffer and Lieutenant Stewart Curry
- Discussed possible food truck location

## Bad Art Night Returns on January 13

Mark your calendars for the always popular Bad Art Night at the Community Center on January 13. This event offers adults the opportunity to unleash their creativity with a diverse array of art supplies, found objects, glue, glitter, and whatever Imaginative materials Arts and Events Coordinator Kelley Cox can assemble for patrons to create with. Given its popularity, early registration is recommended at [newcastlecolorado.org](http://newcastlecolorado.org) to secure your spot for this night of liberating creativity.



## Reflecting on a Productive Year

As 2023 comes to an end, it's time to highlight some milestones for the town. Many of the year's accomplishments have been bigger and better public events: the most successful Burning Mountain Festival ever, the biggest Rides and Reggae, and the always crowded Community Market. Other accomplishments have been less obvious and it's time to acknowledge a dozen of them here:

- 1. Establishing Connectivity with TextMyGov:** One of the year's notable achievements was the implementation of TextMyGov, a platform that greatly improves how the town can communicate with residents. TextMyGov ensures that residents receive timely information about emergencies as well as information about upcoming events.
- 2. Uniting in a Snapshot:** Residents gathered on Main Street on a sunny day in May for an all-town photo from a drone.
- 3. Displaying Our Identity:** New Castle unveiled a new town flag, created by resident Dr. Edward Mooney. The flag reflects the hogback and the river in a design that also echoes the state flag.
- 4. Tail-Wagging in the dog park:** Spearheaded by a group of residents and constructed under the supervision of Public Works, the new dog park fills an important need. Located in V-I-X Ranch Park, it provides space for dogs to run, play and socialize, bringing joy to both pets and their owners.
- 5. Ice Skating Downtown:** Previously incarnated in Frank Breslin Park, the town ice rink is moving downtown to Burning Mountain Park, providing space for families and friends to play this winter.
- 6. Prioritizing Safety with the Emergency Evacuation Plan:** Safety took center stage as New Castle implemented a comprehensive Emergency Evacuation Plan. This initiative ensures that residents are well-prepared and protected in the face of unforeseen events. It can be found at Town Hall.
- 7. Celebrating Earth Day:** For April's Earth Day observance, residents made a positive impact by cleaning streets, open spaces and neighborhoods, demonstrating their environmental stewardship. At City Market the Climate and Environment Commission hosted several businesses and agencies, attracting a steady stream of residents.
- 8. Smoothing the Rides:** Castle Valley Ranch roads saw a significant upgrade as the Public Works crew repaired and re-paved several streets, continuing their schedule of annual upgrades.
- 9. Preparing for Emergencies:** In addition to preparing the Evacuation Plan, town staff continued their extensive Incident Command System (ICS) training. The town prioritizes this training to assure that the staff is well-prepared to handle emergencies and maintain community safety.
- 10. Providing for Kids:** Programs from New Castle Recreation, the New Castle Branch Library, the local schools and other support agencies meant that local kids had no reason to be bored. The town's activities for kids were noteworthy enough to be cited in an article in the *New Castles of the World Newsletter*.
- 11. Conserving Our Water:** The town moves water for irrigation through the Red Rocks Ditch. With grant funding, the Public Works department installed hundreds of feet of pipe in the ditch, which will prevent the loss of water to evaporation.
- 12. Creating New Trails:** Thanks to an agreement with the Talbott Family and countless hours of volunteer labor, the town has expanded its already extensive train system to the Burning Mountain hogback.

As 2024 approaches, the town staff and council are already at work planning projects, activities and celebrations for the year ahead.





## Renew Dog Licenses in December

Dog license renewals are due on January 1 and should be obtained during December. Proof of rabies vaccination and a photo are required for a license, along with a \$10 fee for each spayed or neutered dog. The application form is at [www.newcastlecolorado.org](http://www.newcastlecolorado.org) under Departments & Services, Animal Services.

In addition to the licensing requirement, please remember that all dogs must be leashed on sidewalks, trails and parks. The town provides an enclosed Dog Park in V-I-X Ranch Park, where dogs can play unleashed.

## A Year-Round Commitment to Community Giving!

The holiday season in November and December provides many opportunities for acts of generosity. Already this season the Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts have collected food for Lift-Up. They distributed fliers to over 2600 homes and returned a week later to collect donations. The 30-foot box truck at City Market was filled four feet deep with donated food. Long-time Scout leader John Harcourt estimates that the total food collected over the past 14 years exceeds 110,000 pounds.

New Castle thrives on giving back throughout the entire year. Several groups help to organize and channel a variety of charitable and service activities. Anyone eager to contribute and enhance the quality of life in New Castle is invited to explore any of these organizations:

Lions Club	Garden Club	River Center
New Castle Trails	Historical Society	Chamber of Commerce
Cub Scouts	Girl Scouts	Community Market
Lift-up	Library Volunteers	Kathryn Senior Elementary
Elk Creek Elementary	Riverside Middle School	Election Judges
Burning Mountain Festival	Local Churches	Literacy Outreach

## From the Chamber

Vicki Lee Green Realty is the featured Chamber member this month. Vicki Lee Green (the person, not the company) founded the agency in Glenwood Springs with partner Bette Martin. Current owner Michelle James began working at Vicki Lee Green in 1993. Her partner Tanya Green Nieslanik joined the business in 1999. They assumed ownership of the business following the death of Green in 2004. With a prominent location at 930 Grand Avenue in downtown Glenwood Springs, Vicki Lee Green Realty specializes in residential, ranch, commercial and open land real estate. They have nine full-time employees. Besides doing business, Vicki Lee Green is a big part of the community, sponsoring the annual Childhood Cancer Run where \$50,000 has been raised in the past two years. They also sponsor the Strawberry Shortcut, with the proceeds going to Special Olympics, and also the Special Olympics themselves. Vicki Lee Green Realty is also active in 4H. Speaking about her business, James says, "We never take your business or trust lightly." Vicki Lee Realty can be reached at 970-945-1010.

- ❖ Town offices will close at 12:00 pm on Friday, December 22 for Christmas and Friday, December 29 for New Years.
- ❖ Town offices will be closed on Monday, December 25 for Christmas and Monday, January 1 on New Years Day.