



# Town of New Castle Newsletter

A Monthly Update for Residents  
February 2021

## Recycling in New Castle

The Climate and Environment Commission met recently with representatives of Mountain Waste and Recycling to learn about recycling efforts in the Town. Mike Hinkley and Doug Goldsmith noted that New Castle recycles 16% of its waste materials, ahead of the state's 15% average. They also cleared up a common misconception about the way they pick up recycling.

Normally the garbage headed to the landfill is picked up first. If the collectors see a recycle bin contaminated with garbage, they will add the contents to their truck. A second truck, which collects the contents of recycle bins, looks just like the regular garbage truck. These trucks can compact materials, letting them hold more, thus reducing the number of trips between New Castle and the sorting facility in Carbondale.



According to Mountain Waste, plastic water bottles are among the few recyclables which actually have monetary value. They can be used in the manufacture of t-shirts, sweaters, fleece jackets, even lining for sleeping bags. While the Town encourages everyone to use reusable bottles full of good-tasting New Castle water, all single-use plastic bottles need to be recycled.

On the other hand, plastic bags (like those from City Market) are not recyclable. They can clog the machine used to sort recyclables. Return plastic bags to the bin at City Market.

## February is New Castle History Month

In 2015, the Town Council proclaimed February to be New Castle History month, and ordered an annual celebration of our history each February. From 2015 through 2020, that celebration has been a community potluck lunch, featuring food that would have been familiar to earlier residents of New Castle. Historic presentations at these luncheons recognized the contributions of the Rippey, Jolley, Mattivi and Ganley families, and last year we heard from members of the Historical Society.

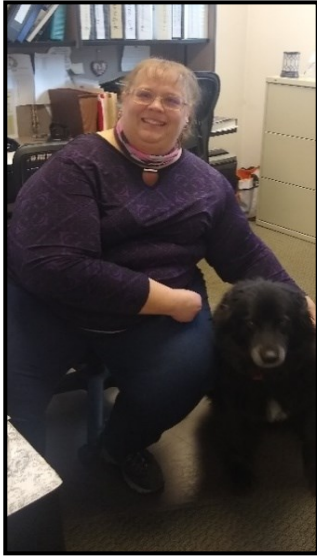
Covid-19 restrictions have, of course, required the cancellation of this year's luncheon. Instead, the Recreation Department has created a collage of historic photos and documents. Everyone is invited to come to the Community Center to view the collage, 9 am to 4 pm.

## Snowman Entries Due Feb. 28

January has been unusually snow-free. That's great for commuters. Unfortunately it's bad for the snow pack, with the upper Colorado River basin hovering around 70% of average. It's also bad for New Castle's second annual snowperson contest.

We can be pretty certain, however, that there will be snow in February. When that happens, please get right to work creating your contest entry. Complete rules for the contest are in the January newsletter, and can also be found on the Town's web site as a link from the home page.





## 20-year Anniversary Celebration

Mindy Andis, New Castle's Deputy Town Clerk, hits a milestone in her career this month. On February 26, 2021, Mindy will be celebrating her 20-year anniversary with the Town of New Castle. She is the longest-serving employee of the Town.

What started as a temporary three-month position has turned into 20 years. Recently Mindy reflected on her tenure with the town.

When asked about her first day, her response was, "I was scared to death! I had worked at the bank for so long and never in government. I was always curious to know what exactly the people in town hall did, and it was finally my chance to find out."

What has kept Mindy here for so long are the co-workers that she gets to be around every day. "The people are like family to me," she said. "We have each other's backs and we enjoy each other's company." This collegiality is evident to anyone walking into Town Hall and hearing laughter echoing throughout the building.

When asked what her all time favorite memory was, she replied with a laugh, "When Tom Baker was the Town Administrator, we 'tastefully' decorated his office with newspaper, streamers and Bengay! Unfortunately, our plan backfired on us and the entire upstairs was overpowered with the lovely scent of Bengay, and all windows and doors had to be opened."

In Mindy's 20 years, her greatest success was getting her Certified Municipal Clerk's Certificate. She started the process in 2016 and acquired it in 2019. This certification typically takes 4-5 years to get. She is now an internationally certified municipal clerk. Congratulations Mindy! We look forward to working with you for years to come.

## Restoring the Canyon

Last summer's fire in Glenwood Canyon will not soon be forgotten, and preparations are underway to begin the long and arduous process of restoration and mitigation. The Glenwood Canyon Restoration Alliance, a collaboration of local governments, non-profits and business partners is leading the effort. They invite financial support with donations to the Roaring Fork Outdoor volunteers, the National Forest Foundation or the Aspen Community Foundation.

There will be plenty of hands-on volunteer opportunities for trail rebuilding and landscape restoration in the Grizzly Creek, No Name and Hanging Lake drainages. The Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers will coordinate work days through the next few trail-building seasons. For more information and to sign up to help, please go to web site for the Glenwood Canyon Restoration Alliance ([www.gcrestorationalliance.org](http://www.gcrestorationalliance.org)) and the Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers ([www.rfov.org](http://www.rfov.org)).

## Did you know that.....

- The town's bulk water station is open, and is already seeing a steady stream of customers.
- The Town Council meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, at 7:00 on Zoom. Agendas and log in information are posted on the Friday preceding each meeting on the Town web site ([www.newcastlecolorado.org](http://www.newcastlecolorado.org)) and at the notice board at Town Hall.
- Town offices will be closed on February 15 for Presidents Day.
- The Garden Club has announced the winners of the holiday decorating competition: Marco and Virginia Hernandez, Milton Arroyo, Michael and Shirley Boyles, Grady and Suzanne Hazelton, Jenelle Cleveland and Paul Vega. Jeremy and Sonja Heiser, Karl and Ami Roggie, William and Nichole Parker.
- The Garfield County Libraries have eliminated fines for overdue books.

## Local Covid-19 News

After a brief placement to the red Covid classification by the state, Garfield County is currently under orange restrictions. Those restrictions allow our local businesses to operate in a limited capacity. The Town has been able to use CARE funds to provide some monetary support to our businesses, but what they really need is patronage from our residents.

Whenever possible, please purchase goods and services from New Castle businesses.

The following restaurants are open for business.

2 Coronas - 984-0351: Dine In and Take Out

88 Grill - 984-0828: Dine In, Take Out & Curbside Pickup

EAT Bistro & Drinks - 984-7330: Take Out

Grove's Black Dog Saloon - 984-0999: Dine In, Take Out & Curbside Pickup

Hogback Pizza - 984-3435: Take Out

Hong's Garden - 984-3298: Take Out

Lazy Bear Café - 984-2327: Dine In & Take Out

McDonald's - 984-3332: Drive-through

Tapatios Family Restaurant - 984-0711: Dine In & Take Out

## Free Covid-19 testing in New Castle

Mobile Covid-19 testing stations are being provided by Curative at sites around the country. Western Colorado is fortunate to have five such testing sites, including one in New Castle. Curative collects samples for testing (by appointment only) every Sunday from 9 am to 3 pm at Elk Creek Elementary School. There are 350 appointment times available each Sunday.

The website <https://curative.com> provides information about the company and the procedure for testing. It is also the site to use to make an appointment for a test. Curative will bill insurance companies or the federal government, so there is no cost to patients.

## Covid-19 vaccines

Information about Covid-19 vaccines, much like other information about the disease, changes week by week (and sometimes day by day).

Here's what we know for sure: There are two FDA-approved vaccines in production, and a third is being field-tested. People in the Colorado's 1A category include doctors, nurses, nursing home residents and employees and others providing high-risk essential services. These people are getting their vaccines through their places of employment.

Residents who are 70 years old or older are also a high priority for vaccination. Currently in Garfield County, Valley View Hospital and Grand River Health have the responsibility for vaccinating seniors. The hospitals began a waiting list, but put it on hiatus when vaccine deliveries were much smaller than anticipated. At press time, both sites were taking new appointments as they receive vaccines. For information about the availability of appointment times, please check the Facebook pages or web sites of the hospitals. Other information is available from Garfield County Health and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

Valley View Hospital: <https://www.vvh.com/covid-19-updates/covid-19-vaccine/>

Valley View Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/VVpeoplecare>

Grand River Health <https://grandriverhealth.org>

Grand River Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GrandRiverHealth>

Garfield Public Health: <https://www.garfield-county.com/public-health/covid-19-vaccine/>

## Town Council Highlights for February 2020

- Approved Resolution TC 2021-1 Designating Posting Places
- Approved Resolution TC 2021-2 Waiving of Bonds for Employees
- Approved Resolution TC 2021-3 Authorizing Signers on Bank Accounts
- Approved Resolution TC 2021-4 Approving an MOU with Garfield County Senior Programs
- Approved Resolution TC 2021-5 Adopting a Directory of Fees and Charges
- Approved Spirit Liquors Retail Liquor Store License Renewal
- Appointed Ruth Fletcher to a Seat on the Historic Preservation Commission
- Approved a Third Amendment to the Mountain Waste & Recycling Contract

## New Castle

### Chamber of Commerce

**“Growing Business, Building Community”**

**Support Your Community - Use Local**

**Vendors - Shop Locally**

### Chamber Waives Dues for 2021

There couldn't be a better time to join the New Castle Chamber of Commerce. Recognizing the toll the Covid-19 restrictions have put on our members, the Chamber is waiving dues for 2021. While this benefits our membership, it also allows a great opportunity for prospective members to 'try us out' at no cost. Simply pick up a membership application, fill it out and return it to us. Forms are available at the Chamber office. Please call Mari Riddile at 970-984-2897 or 970-948-0061 to arrange a time to pick up an application.

### It's Time for Licenses

All business and contractor licenses are renewable at the beginning of January. Anyone who has not yet renewed their license should do so as soon as possible. Dog licenses also need to be renewed. License applications are available on the town web site ([www.newcastlecolorado.org](http://www.newcastlecolorado.org)) under the Forms and Permits link.

### Changes in Utility Rates

The utilities bill included with this newsletter reflects the 3% annual rate adjustment which was effective with the new year. In 2018 the Town Council was faced with imposing a significant fee increase to help meet the increased cost of producing clean water and processing waste. At that time they decided to introduce an automatic 3% annual increase, hoping to avoid large jumps in the future.

A handout with the new rates, along with other useful information, was included in the January bill/newsletter mailing. The handout is also available on the web. Go to the Town site at [www.newcastlecolorado.org](http://www.newcastlecolorado.org). Click on Departments, then Utilities. Under the Important Utility Forms heading, click on Utility Rates, then again on Utility Rates.

### Upcoming Events at Town Hall

- Town Hall will be Closed February 15, Presidents Day
- Municipal Court February 8
- Town Council: February 2, 16

- Planning & Zoning: 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month as needed.
- Climate Action Advisory Commission: 3rd Wednesday of the month as needed.