



# Town of New Castle Newsletter

A Monthly Update for Residents  
April 2021

## Thank You, New Castle. Together We Have Come a Long Way!

Hats off to you New Castle. You have done an amazing job. A full year after wearing masks and staying at home became the new normal, the news about Covid-19 has started looking up. Vaccines are increasingly available. There are fewer hospitalizations and deaths both locally and state-wide. Garfield County has moved up to Level Blue (Caution) on the state Covid dial. Some summer events are being scheduled. Restaurants and other businesses are seeing much-needed relaxations of operational guidelines. Businesses are reporting excellent compliance with mandated COVID mask wearing and social distancing rules.

While the news continues to improve, the State Health Department still stresses the importance of not letting our guard down. They caution everyone to continue taking all precautions: continuing to wear masks, practicing physical distancing, washing hands frequently and limiting gatherings and get your vaccines when you are eligible.

"There is hope on the horizon, and soon vaccines will be widely available to anyone who wants one. We need everyone to continue to adhere to public health protocols until then, and until we know more about the level of immunity the vaccine provides and for how long," said Eric France, chief medical officer, CDPHE. "We have all the tools available to us to avoid a spring wave— a growing supply of vaccines, public health orders that allow us to operate more safely, and protocols that protect us every day— let's use them."

There is a difference between getting better and being better. Let's continue to work together and avoid the danger of being too confident too soon. After a full year of being careful, we can't allow our hard work to go to waste. Let's move to the finish line together!

Top hats are optional, but please continue to join Mayor Art Riddle and mask up while out in public.



## Check Your Mailboxes for Town Survey

The Town of New Castle will send a mailer this month with information about its budget and a short community survey. Survey responses will provide important feedback as the Town considers different options for its budget, including road maintenance and park projects. The Town Council and staff will use the information gathered—along with other public input—to prioritize ongoing investments and improvements for our community. Town staff reports that previous community surveys have received remarkably good responses, and they are looking for the same level of participation this month.

The survey can also be accessed by visiting <http://bit.ly/NewCastle2021> or en español at <http://bit.ly/NewCastle2021espanol>.

If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact Rochelle Firth, Assistant to the Town Administrator, at (970) 984-2311 Ext. 114 or by email at [rfirth@newcastlecolorado.org](mailto:rfirth@newcastlecolorado.org).



## First Place Winner for the 2nd Annual Snowman Contest

A few determined artists collected enough snow to create entries in the second annual snowman contest. On-line voting gave the prize to Parker, seen here with his snow doggie. Congratulations Parker!

## April is Child Abuse Prevention Month



River Bridge Regional Center will kick off April's National Child Abuse Prevention Month on April 3rd from 12 to 2 pm at the Garfield County Courthouse in Glenwood Springs. The non-profit will "plant" over 300 pinwheels on the courthouse lawn, one for each of the child victims that they provided services to in 2020.

Mayor Art Riddile will participate in the April 3 ceremony, which will include speeches from River Bridge Executive Director Blythe Chapman and others.

A pinwheel garden will also be planted outside Town Hall in New Castle for the month of April. Headquartered in Glenwood Springs, River Bridge provides a child-centered, multidisciplinary approach to the prevention, assessment, treatment and investigation of child abuse.

## Western Slope Drought Continues

While more snow will likely fall in April, New Castle is facing continuing drought. This past summer and fall were dry, which left the soil holding very little moisture. In the Flat Tops, the source of our water supply, much of the melting snowpack is going to be absorbed into the soil. We can expect less runoff into East Elk Creek.

Furthermore, Aspen Public Radio noted recently that some snow this winter, falling when temperatures were very low, held less moisture. That dry, fluffy snow was welcome for shovelers, but it added little moisture and didn't help improve drought conditions.

Even with some April snow, it's incumbent on us to prepare for another summer of drought. Look at the May newsletter for the first of several articles about wildfire prevention. This month the focus will be on water conservation.

Simply being conscious of the need to save water will lead to less wasteful practices. Here are a handful of water-saving tips:

- Wash only full loads of laundry
- Take showers instead of baths
- Take shorter showers
- Make sure sprinklers all hitting vegetation (not running into road)
- Don't overwater
- Only run dishwasher when full
- Repair leaks immediately
- Collect rainwater for use on plants (since 2016, Coloradans are allowed to use two rain barrels)
- Reuse water. Instead of letting clean water go down the drain, capture it for indoor and outdoor watering.

Observe the town's summer watering rules: water every other day before 10 am or after 6 pm. See more hints on the Town web site ([www.newcastlecolorado.org/utilities](http://www.newcastlecolorado.org/utilities)).



## Town Council Highlights for March 2021

- Approved Ordinance TC 2021-1 - Adding Code Sections Pertaining to Elections
- Approved Resolution TC 2021-8 – Authorizing Participation in the Rural Jump Start Program
- Proclaimed April 30 to be Arbor Day
- Approved Hong's Garden Hotel & Restaurant Liquor License Renewal

### Did you know that.....

- Kim Rider, New Castle's Water Treatment Plant Operator, celebrated fourteen years with the Town in March.
- Beth Elswick has joined the Town Staff as assistant in the Finance and Planning Departments.
- Solarize Garfield County offers discounts and rebates on home or business solar installations through June 4. Visit <http://garfieldcleanenergy.org/solarize>.
- With funding from the Federal Mineral Lease District, windows in Town Hall are being replaced in order to save energy and provide better temperature control.
- The Community Market will return to Burning Mountain Park every Thursday starting July 15. Vendors can sign up with Hannah Bihr ([hbihr@newcastlecolorado.org](mailto:hbihr@newcastlecolorado.org)) or Kelley Cox ([kcox@newcastlecolorado.org](mailto:kcox@newcastlecolorado.org)) or 984-3352.

## Celebrate Arbor Day on April 30

In March, the Town Council proclaimed April 30 to be Arbor Day in the Town of New Castle, and urged residents to plant trees and to support efforts to protect trees and woodlands. Cub Scout troop 221 will hold an Arbor Day celebration at 1:00 on April 30. Parks Director Charlie Moore and the scouts will plant an Autumn Blaze Maple tree near the pond in Alder Park. Residents are encouraged to join the scouts to learn more about Arbor Day and the essential role trees play in reducing erosion, moderating temperatures, cleaning the air and providing wildlife habitat.



## Send Me to Soccer Camp Contest

Challenger International Soccer Camps return to New Castle June 14-18 at VIX Ranch Park. The staff of coaches from Europe, Brazil and the U.S. will teach a fun, technical, and tactical based curriculum. The program will include an app-based platform to help campers prepare, learn skills more quickly and continue skill development throughout the season.

Soccer enthusiasts from 3 to 12 years old are invited to compete for a scholarship worth up to \$234.

- Potential soccer campers or their parents can submit a brief (under 43 seconds) video: "Why do you want to go to Soccer Camp," or "Why does this three to twelve year-old deserves to attend Soccer Camp." Add what attending the camp would mean to you or your nominee.
- Submit entry videos to [hbihr@newcastlecolorado.org](mailto:hbihr@newcastlecolorado.org) by **April 9, 2021**. Use the subject line: "Send me to Soccer Camp" and in the message include the child's name, age, and parents' phone number and email.

Entry Videos will be reviewed the week of April 12th, and winners will be notified via email by Friday, April 16, 2021. The winner will receive a voucher/scholarship (up to \$234 value) from Challenger International Soccer Camp. Two Runners-Up will receive \$50.00 vouchers/scholarships to the camp from Wingnutz Bar and Grill.



This year Apple Tree will host its 3rd Annual County Road Clean-up on Earth

Day, Friday, April 23, from 10:00 am—noon.

Volunteers will meet at the ATP office at 9:30 am to be split into teams. Teams will walk County Road 335 from the bridge to the park at Apple Tree cleaning up trash. At noon, volunteers are invited to a BBQ at Apple Tree Park. To volunteer or donate supplies please call 984-2247.

All other residents are encouraged to join together to clean their neighborhoods on Earth Day.

## New Castle Garage Sale Day May 1



The Town Hall staff has announced a town-wide Garage Sale Day to take place on Saturday, May 1, starting at 8 am. The Town will advertise the event; the rest is up to sellers.

Please continue to use caution and protect yourselves and each other from COVID. Be safe and have fun.



The Three R's of more sustainable living are **Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle**. When you follow the Three R's, you help your community and the environment. It's easy to do and may save you money too. Here are some ideas: **Reduce** waste by only buying what you need and choosing products with less packaging. **Reuse** your water bottles and other plastic items instead of using them just once. When you cannot reduce your waste or reuse items, the best option is to recycle. **Recycle** properly by putting clean cans, bottles, cardboard, and other recyclable materials into the recycle bin.

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

The Chamber has some great news to share with you! New Castle is planning the return of outdoor activities beginning in July. Town Administrator, Dave Reynolds told us that the "Town staff is very excited to have the opportunity to provide the events and activities that help make New Castle such a great place to live and raise our families." He added, "While this year's events may have restrictions and precautions, we believe the value they add to our community is well worth the effort." One difference is that the Town of New Castle's Recreation Department will be organizing all events. Arts and Enrichment Director Kelley Cox shared that they are, "Having a blast getting the ball rolling on all the events." Here's the schedule of upcoming events:

May 31: Memorial Day Ceremony

July 10: Hogback Hustle

Jul. 15- Sept. 16th every Thursday except Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>: Community Market

July 17: Dirty Hog Dash

Aug. 7: Rides and Reggae

Sep. 10-11: Burning Mountain Festival

Dec. 3: Tree Lighting & Chili Cook-off

And more good news from the Chamber: Because of the economic stress COVID has caused our members, we are waiving dues for the year. That means if you are not already a member, you can join the Chamber for no cost in 2021. Simply call Mari Riddile 984-2897 to get your application.

### Upcoming Events at Town Hall

Town Council: April 6, 20

Municipal Court: April 12

Planning & Zoning: 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month

Climate and Environment Commission: 3rd Thursday of each month

Easter: April 4

Earth Day: April 22

Arbor Day: April 30