



# Town of New Castle Newsletter

A Monthly Update for Residents

July 2021

## Fire Restrictions Are in Effect

New Castle bans all fireworks and outdoor burning from April 1 to November 1 each year. The exceptional drought this year makes those restrictions vitally important. In June most of Garfield County, including the New Castle area, was designated “exceptional drought,” the most severe classification.

New Castle code prohibits all fireworks, open fires, spark-producing engines, welding torches, explosive devices, and anything else that might produce a spark or flame. Tossing lit smoking materials from cars or tossing them on the ground is also prohibited. Another danger is a chain or other metal dragging from a vehicle. Sparks from dragging chains have been blamed for some recent wildfires.

In June Garfield County also applied fire restrictions. It is not safe to have a fire or to produce sparks anywhere in Western Colorado. Be safe and keep the rest of us safe.

## You Ask, We Answer

Written comments on the town’s recent survey raised several questions and prompted us to offer a regular column answering whatever we can. If you have a question you would like to see in a future column, please email Rochelle Firth at [rfirth@newcastlecolorado.org](mailto:rfirth@newcastlecolorado.org).

**Q.** Why doesn’t the Town install a roundabout instead of the traffic-snarling four-way stop?

**A.** Route 6 is a state highway, so the intersection at the north end of the bridge is under the control of CDOT. The Town has worked with CDOT and plans for a multi-million-dollar roundabout (along with improvements to the bridge and the I-70 on/off ramps) are complete. The project is shovel ready.

The roundabout project is high on the priority list for our CDOT district but has not yet been funded. The defeat of the recent state transportation tax proposal has pushed the timetable into the future.

A related question asked about repairing the potholes on the bridge. The answer again is that CDOT manages the bridge and nearby intersections. They will make repairs on their own schedule.

**Q.** Why isn’t the Lakota Recreation Center pool open the public like it used to be?

**A.** The Lakota Recreation Center was originally owned and operated by the Lakota Canyon Ranch owners. In December of 2017, the Center was sold to the Lakota HOA. The HOA, made up of all Lakota residents, decided to restrict access to the residents, whose dues maintain and bear responsibility for the pool.





The Town of New Castle wants to know what you love about living in this beautiful place. Send us a letter or a picture with a great description showing how you love where you live. Submit entries via email to [rirth@newcastlecolorado.org](mailto:rirth@newcastlecolorado.org). You can also mail them to: Town Hall Attn: Love Where You Live, PO Box 90 New Castle, CO 81647 or you may drop your entry off at Town Hall.

All entries will be entered into one of several prize drawings.

Responses may be featured in the newsletter or online. Submitting an entry gives the Town permission to use your words or pictures. The deadline to enter is August 1, 2021.

## What's Happening in Town?

The Public Works department will supervise two major projects this summer that were made possible with funding from grants. The Federal Mineral Lease District has approved funds for the replacement of fencing behind Main Street. The project not only fixes a lot of broken fencing, but also will improve the appearance of the town from the highway. Some owners of property that backs up to the railroad tracks and highway have already made improvements, and others may join in to help beautify the town's back yard.

A second project was just recently approved by the CDOT Main Street Revitalization Program. It will fund the replacement of the guard rail along County Road 335. The guard rail provides a barrier between the road and Talbott Trail and will greatly improve safety for both pedestrians and motorists.

## Did You Know That. . .

- July 2 marked the anniversary of the start of the Storm King Fire, which burned near town in July of 1994, killing 14 firefighters.
- The annual July 4<sup>th</sup> Freedom Celebration at Apple Tree was a production of the Talbott family. They have sold the Apple Tree Community and will no longer be hosting the celebration. The town is grateful to the Talbotts (and all their volunteer helpers) for all the years of music, food, games, fireworks and patriotic celebration.
- Earlier in 2021, Garfield Clean Energy sponsored Solarize Garfield County, offering reduced prices and significant rebates for solar panel installation. Twelve New Castle residents participated, tying with Carbondale for the most installations.
- Lift-Up will re-open its New Castle food pantry in the River Center on July 15.
- Covid-19: Cases are still being reported by Garfield County Public Health. Fortunately, 51% of the county is vaccinated. If you would like a vaccine, please contact the County Health Department. Stay safe and healthy!

## Community Market begins July 15

After starting the Community Market in 2009 and managing it every year since, Noreen Nolen has retired and turned the market over the town Recreation Department. She is continuing as an advisor and has helped by booking all the musical performers.

After a Covid-cancelled year in 2020, the Market re-opens on Thursday, July 15 from 4:30 to 7:00 in Burning Mountain Park.



The music line-up for July is:

July 15: Colorado Curry Band

July 22: Queen Bees

July 29: Smuggler Mountain Boys & beer and wine sampling sponsored by Spirits of New Castle.

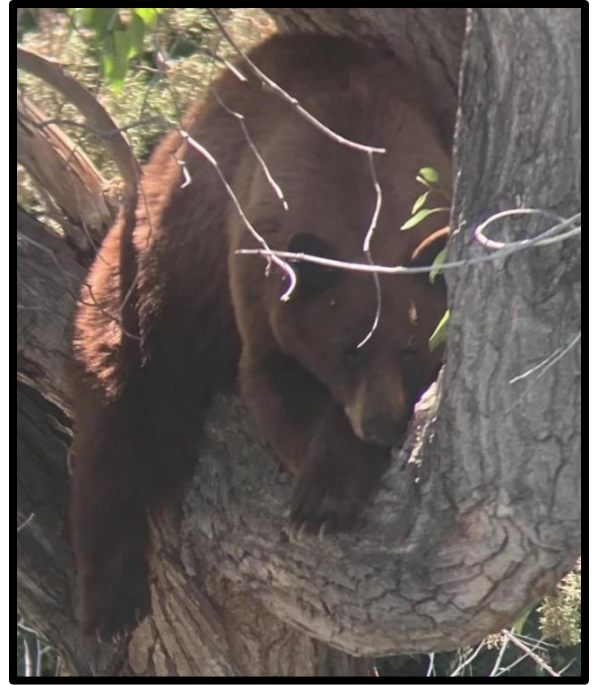
## Bear Sightings in Town

The New Castle Police Department provided this photo of a treed bear in early June. She was sighted near Shibui Apartments with her three cubs. Subsequently more residents reported sightings, including several at the other side of town, near 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Elk Creek. A large make bear was also reported.

Bears in residential areas are an increasing problem throughout our region. They do not normally attack humans, though this mother bear is going to protect her cubs. Dogs and cats, however, may be at risk, and children should be warned to avoid getting near a cute bear cub.

Frequent contact with humans and pets may lead to a bear being euthanized, so for the sake of the bears, everything that attracts them into town must be removed. Use bear-proof trash cans or else keep trash cans safely inside a closed garage until the morning of collection day. And as much as we might want to attract birds to our yards, bird seed is also attractive to bears. Take down bird feeders whenever there are bears in town. Pet food and anything else that might be tempting bear food also needs to be kept inside.

Please report bear sightings to Colorado Parks and Wildlife at (970) 947-2920. The New Castle Police Department does not handle routine sightings but may be contacted in an emergency.



### Time to Get Dirty!

Another major summer event is back after the Covid break. The Dirty Hog Dash will be run in VIX Ranch Park on July 17 from 9:00 to 12 noon. The course features a variety of hurdles and hazards for runners, including a balance beam, a climbing wall, a slip'n'slide and, of course, the mud pit!

The Dash is open to all kids, 4-14. This year ages will be mixed so that family members or groups of friends can run together if they wish. The cost is \$25 (\$35 on event day) and registration is on the Recreation Department page: [newcastlerec.com](http://newcastlerec.com). All proceeds benefit New Castle Recreation and Parks.

You don't have to have kids to enjoy watching the fun. Everyone is welcome! Get prepped by enjoying the Dirty Hog video from 2018 at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iwNjp7KHfDE>

## Bike Rodeo

The New Castle Police Department held their annual Bike Rodeo on Saturday, June 5. This year the event was included as part of the Garfield Clean Energy's "Bike There Garfield County" promotion and the state's Colorado Bike Month.

Approximately 120 kids attended the event. The Glenwood Springs Kiwanis Club once again provide free bike helmets for kids who needed them.

*Photo by Kelley Cox*



## New Castle Recreation

New Castle Recreation is excited to offer several youth camps in July. Registration for all camps is available at [newcastlerec.com](http://newcastlerec.com).

**Art Camps:** Three three-day art camps will each focus on a different artistic medium and process. The camps are conducted by Inky Hands Studio, a traveling art studio owned and operated by Lynne Cassidy. The camps are for grades 3 through 6. The fee is \$78 for three days.

**Cardboard Challenge -- July 12, 13 and 14, 1 to 4 pm.** Use your imagination to build something awesome out of cardboard and recycled materials. Games, robots, spaceships, a tree house... it's your choice. (Note: participants will be taught how to safely use hot glue and small utility knives to cut and glue cardboard.)

**Paint, Print & Collage -- July 19, 20 and 21, 1 to 4 pm.** Make whimsical mixed media art projects using paint, printmaking and collage techniques.

**Sew, Dye & Weave – July 26, 27 and 28, 1 to 4 pm.** Learn simple hand sewing, weaving and batik techniques to create colorful textile project: cute felt monsters, sock creatures, batiks, woven wall hangings.

**Sports Camps:** Elevate Youth Basketball is a 3-day camp conducted by local coach Hunter Gerber. This camp is for girls and boys, grades 3 through 8. The camp will be held at Coal Ridge High School, July 7, 8 and 9 from 9 am to noon. The cost is \$50 per player for all three days. The camp is for grades 3 through 6.

## Town Council Highlights for June 2021

- Received updates from Recreation and Clerk's Office
- Received Update from Colorado River Fire Rescue
- Approved a Hotel & Restaurant Liquor License Renewal application for 88 Grill
- Approved a Hotel & Restaurant Liquor License Renewal application for EAT Bistro
- Approved an Optional Premises Liquor License Renewal Application from RG Lakota Golf Ops

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

The New Castle Chamber is excited about the new businesses popping up around town. This month we would like to introduce you to Western Slope Pilates, owned and operated by Sara Slifko. Sara was raised in Pueblo and continued her education at Western Colorado University. While in college she was introduced to Mat Pilates, and after graduation discovered Machine Pilates. She decided to pursue her desire to own her own business and knew that her passion for Pilates gave her a clear direction.

Sara was trained by BASI – Basic Arts Science International. She completed their program including 500 hours of instruction, self-practice teaching hours and observation. "Western Slope Pilates brings their clientele a collective feeling of health and wellness," says Sara. She adds that her favorite thing about Pilates is that it is a "feel good workout that you can take with you. It emphasizes mental health and functional movement while working to achieve personal fitness."

Located at 820 Castle Valley Blvd., Suite 102E, near City Market, Western Slope Pilates offers group (four), duet (two) and private lessons, on either mat or equipment. Classes are also offered on-line. Satisfied customer Gwen Coker says that "Western Slope Pilate opened just in the nick of time for this community's need. It gives me a head-to-toe workout in one hour. It improves my posture, strength and coordination." Western Slope Pilates can be reached at (719) 320-4940."

## Did You Know That...Part 2

- Registration is now open for the Car and Bike Show for Burning Mountain Festival. Contact [rfirth@newcastlecolorado.org](mailto:rfirth@newcastlecolorado.org) for more information.
- The Hogback Hustle will take runners through town on July 10. Runners will leave City Market at 8:30 and run the length of Castle Valley Boulevard, then to Main Street and Burning Mountain Park.
- The Rides and Reggae Festival will return on August 7 in Burning Mountain Park.
- Dialing your air conditioner up one degree will still keep you comfortable and also reduce strain on the electrical grid.