



Town of New Castle Newsletter

A Monthly Update for Residents

October 2021

Burning Mountain Memories

The Burning Mountain Festival roared back in September, after last year's cancellation. Burning Mountain Park was packed on Friday night to hear Whiskey Stomp, and there was an even larger crowd for Ralph Dinosaur on Saturday. The Saturday morning parade had 38 entries, more than ever before, with Olympian Alice McKennis as Grand Marshall. The crowd recognized Volunteer of the Year Ines Baquero, Business of the Year Hogback Pizza and Organization of the Year New Castle Lions. The volunteer awards were announced on Friday night by Volunteer New Castle.

There were more events than ever for kids, including a foam machine producing bubbles to slide around in. Down the street was a Strider bike race for the little guys, and of course it wouldn't be a festival without a pie eating contest for both kids and adults. Bigger kids got to chop wood and shop among the many vendors. The 2021 festival has set a very high bar for next year. The Town of New Castle thanks all the volunteers, sponsors, and everyone who participated in this year's event. Any resident who would like to propose an idea or help out in 2022, please contact the Recreation Department. (Photo Credits: West Canyon Nurseries, Charles Engelbert, Rochelle Firth.)



Town Council Votes to Support CRFR

Colorado River Fire Rescue, which serves New Castle along with Rifle, Silt, and portions of unincorporated Garfield County, is seeking a phased-in mill levy with ballot issue 6A on the November ballot. Issue 6A asks approval for a 3 mill levy in 2022, with an additional 2 mills in 2024 and 1.75 mills more in 2026. The 2022 impact will be approximately \$1.79 per month per \$100,000 of a home's value.

Like the library district and the school district, CRFR is an independent taxing entity. Along with the town, all receive a portion of the property taxes collected by the county. The taxes going to each entity are noted on the property tax bill mailed out each January.

On September 21, the Town Council approved Resolution TC2021-13 titled "A resolution of the New Castle Town Council supporting the Colorado River Fire Rescue district's ballot issue to be decided by the voters at the November 2, 2021 election." The resolution notes the value and importance of CRFR to the town and the positive impact that passage of ballot issue 6A will have on the health, safety and welfare of the Town and its residents.

Colorado election law prohibits CRFR from using department funds or personnel to advocate for the ballot issue, so that duty has been assumed by a citizens' committee called Fighting for our Community's Safety. Their web site is filled with information about ballot issue 6A and the specific needs of CRFR. It can be reached at <http://www.yescrfr.org>. The committee also has a Facebook page.

Resolution TC 2021-13 can be found at www.newcastlecolorado.org. Click on "Government/Town Council/Resolutions."



Thank a Sponsor

The town regularly solicits sponsorships for our major community events. Generous sponsors help fund the music, the advertising and other expenses, or they donate services. The sponsors for the 2021 Burning Mountain Festival were SGM Engineering, Goofballs, New Castle Liquors, KMTS, Grand River Health, Mountain Waste and Recycling, Hogback Pizza, Bobby Haywood, Alpine Bank and the New Castle Chamber of Commerce. Please patronize them if you can and be sure to thank them.

Annual Town Clean-up Days

Town clean-up days this year will be October 15 and 16 from 8 am to 3 pm at the Public Works yard at the west end of Main Street. The annual clean-up days give residents the opportunity to dispose of items too large or otherwise inappropriate for regular garbage pickup. The event is funded by the Town, so it will be limited to town residents only, with proof of residence (such as a utility bill) required. Commercial trash will not be accepted, and there is a limit of four tires per household. Due to more stringent state regulations, paint and other chemicals cannot be accepted this year. (Paint may be disposed, by appointment, at Sherman Williams in Glenwood Springs.)

Senior Luncheons at the River Center

The River Center is again offering the Senior Network luncheons Wednesdays from 12 - 1 pm. in their building on 4th St. The community is invited to attend, though the organizers ask that attendees RSVP no later than Tuesday morning by calling 984-4333. Most Wednesdays will feature a guest speaker.

Lunches this summer have been provided by Tapatios, 88 Grill, City Market deli, Hunt Brother's Pizza, 2 Coronas, Hogback Pizza, and Kathi & Betty Arthur.

Ambleside School Opens in New Castle

For the first time since 1973, on September 7, 2021, students entered classrooms in the school building on Main Street. The building had served the town as the New Castle School for over 60 years before closing. It had stood empty until it was purchased by Cleyo and Rosie Ferrin. After Rosie's death her heirs hired a local team to clean the building and grounds. Last spring it was rented to the Ambleside School at Skylark, and they went to work restoring it back to use as a school.



On September 2 the school held a back-to-school night and ice cream social to introduce students to their new building. Classes had been meeting in the basement of Mountain View Church in Glenwood Springs while school officials searched for a suitable building. It was after two years of searching that they had the opportunity to occupy a building that had been built as a school. The school, the Town and countless volunteers worked hard to make that happen.

Currently the school has five classrooms, along with a beautifully paneled entrance, an administrative office, a conference room and an art/music room. The school may rent and remodel additional rooms as enrollment demands.

After the back-to-school night, Head of School Jesseca Toovey wrote for Facebook: "It was such an amazing feeling to open the doors and let everyone in the building. Thank you to the town of New Castle for welcoming us into the community. We love New Castle!"

Did You Know That...

BBQ with a Cop will be held on Sunday, October 10 from 2:00 – 5:00 pm at Burning Mountain Park. Everyone is welcome.

In October the Climate and Environment Commission will release two videos about fire awareness. Art Riddile, Ed Mooney and Orrin Moon are featured. The videos will be available on the Town website (look in News) and on the Visit New Castle Facebook page.

The Romero Group will host a community meeting about a development proposal in Lakota Canyon Ranch on October 21, at 5:30 pm, in the Golf Clubhouse.

The River Center is collecting children's coats and winter gear at their facility on 4th Street.

Symphony in the Valley will perform "From Stage to Screen" on Saturday, October 16, at 7:00 pm at New Hope Church. Tickets can be purchased at www.sitv.org.

Trick or Treat New Castle

Of Friday, October 29, from 3:00 to 5:00, local businesses and the town will join forces to present Trick or Treat New Castle. Parents and their children are invited to start at Alpine Bank and the New Castle Plaza at 3:00 for trick-or-treating. At 3:30 the action moves to Main Street for trick-or-treating and other activities for both kids and adults. To get details and updates each week in October, subscribe to the weekly email news at www.newcastlecolorado.org/community.



New Castle Chamber of Commerce “Growing Businesses, Building Community”

The Chamber of Commerce is very excited about the Spirit Walk on October 14. The event will be held at New Castle’s Highland Cemetery just before Halloween—but it’s definitely not a scary night. Actors will portray some of the historic figures from New Castle’s past who are buried in Highland Cemetery.

The characters will stand at their grave sites and share facts about their lives. Groups of approximately ten people will be escorted by guides from grave to grave. Groups waiting for their turn will be able to gather around a fire pit to hear Joe McNeal share stories of New Castle and its people. At the end of the event, warm cider and homemade cookies will be served.

The Spirit Walk will be held on October 14th from 6:30-9:00. Tickets can be purchased at the Chamber Office, Edward Jones Financial or Town Hall. The cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children aged 5-15 and children under 5 are free. Profits from the Spirit Walk will go to the Historical Society (which maintains the museum) and to the Chamber. Please call Mari Riddle at the Chamber Office with any questions: (970)984-2897.

On another note, anyone who’d like to be invited to the Chamber’s Business After Hours event on October 5th (It’s going to be a good one), please reach out to Mari with a phone call or an email to the Chamber at newcastlecochamber@gmail.com.



The foam pit. Photo credit: Charles Engelbert

September Council Highlights

Accepted the 2020 Audit

Approved Ordinance TC 2021-3 – concerning alcoholic beverages

Approved Ordinance TC 2021-5 – concerning tobacco products

Appointed Julie Martinez to an open seat on the planning and zoning commission

Read a proclamation honoring the Coal Ridge Girls Track Team

Approved a Resolution TC 2021-13 – Supporting the Colorado River Fire Rescue District’s Ballot Issue to be Decided by the Voters at the November 2, 2021, Election

New Castle Recreation

After organizing and managing the Burning Mountain Festival, the Recreation Department is plunging right back to work with a full line-up of October activities. Visit newcastlerec.com for the whole schedule.

After School Activities at Kathryn Senor Elementary, 4:00 to 5:30 pm daily.

Mondays – Cooking, \$75 for October and \$75 for November.

Tuesdays - Garden/Environment Club, \$75 for October and \$75 for November

Wednesdays- Coding, \$75 for October and \$60 for November

Thursdays - American Sign Language, \$75 for October and \$60 for November

No after school programs during Thanksgiving Break

After-school programs are for grades 1 through 5 only, and students do not have to attend KSE to register. There is a class minimum of five students, and there will be no drop-ins and no refunds. Please register at newcastlerec.com. The deadline for November is October 22.

Yoga Flow: Saturdays, October 16 through November 20, 9 am. The cost is \$55 for the 6-week session, \$ 10 for drop-in.

Girls Basketball: Programs for grades 3 & 4 and grades 5 & 6, October 11 to December 10; The cost is \$75 or \$85 after October 4. Everyone must attend the evaluation night on October 11 from 6:30-7:30 pm.