



Town of New Castle Newsletter

A Monthly Update for Residents

November 2021

No Act of Kindness is Too Small



believe we are in this together and wanted to let others know we appreciate them. Kindness begets kindness.”

“The gift of kindness may start as a small ripple that over time can turn into a tidal wave affecting the lives of many,” is what Brenda Murphy has been teaching her first-grade students this year.

“We have been learning about kindness during our first quarter of school. We began by discussing and showing kindness within our school community. We created a mosaic bulletin board of ‘Snippets of Kindness,’ showing how we show kindness to others and how others show kindness to us. We collected 648 random acts of kindness. We then took the kindness into our community of New Castle and wanted to thank members of our town community that contribute to making our place a wonderful place to live! We discussed various people within our community, and then decided to thank them by writing notes of gratitude for what they bring to our community. We wanted to show our appreciation for those that have helped us through our lockdown, keeping things as ‘normal’ as possible during these tough times. We

Town staff would like to thank these awesome students, teachers, and counselors at Elk Creek Elementary for their visit to Town Hall and for the beautiful cards. It was an honor to be appreciated by our future leaders.

Lions Club Turkey Dinner on November 20

The New Castle Lions Club will offer their annual Turkey Dinner to the community on Saturday, November 20, beginning at 5:00 pm. If guests are willing and able, they are invited to bring a side dish to share and/or a non-perishable food item for Lift-Up. As always, the dinner is free.

The Lions Club meets on the second Tuesday of each month, at 6:30 pm at First Baptist Church. Anyone interested in volunteering with the Lions is invited to attend. Besides serving the annual turkey dinner, the Lions collect used eye glasses for re-use, assist with the Valley View Health Fair, maintain a section of I-70, ring bells for the Salvation Army, and assist with town events.

Thank You Local Businesses and Residents

Town staff would like to thank the local businesses throughout the entire town that helped make the first ever New Castle Trick or Treat a huge success.

Every local business in town, as well as many Main Street residents, were gracious enough to hand out candy and provide special activities for kids and their families. This event would not have been possible without them. Thank you.

It looks like New Castle will have a new entry in its annual events schedule.

Council and Staff Preparing 2022 Budget

The 2022 budget process is well underway. Staff presented the original draft budget to the Council on September 21. Since then, Council has held in three budget work sessions and continues to share its vision with staff while at the same time maintaining a balanced, fiscally responsible budget.

In the General Fund, the largest revenue sources are sales tax, property tax, highway use tax, building permits and the tobacco tax. Anticipated increases in these revenue streams are being used to adjust staffing levels as the Town continues to grow, also to keep employee salaries and benefits competitive with surrounding jurisdictions and to provide reliable vehicles and safety equipment for the police force. Additional goals are improving and maintaining parks, streets and sidewalks, providing recreation programs, staying current with technology upgrades and cyber security protection, supporting local groups that help to improve the quality of life in New Castle and providing grant match funding for capital projects.

Finally, the town's unassigned cash reserves have been increased from \$1.2 million to \$1.7 million, as recommended by the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA). This represents approximately five months of expenses and ensures that the Town will be prepared for unexpected revenue interruptions or unforeseen excessive expenses.

In the Utility Fund, the Town remains committed to properly funding quality services while also increasing the reserve funds in anticipation of future infrastructure needs. Despite recent operational cost increases, the budget covers its expenditure estimates and reaches its reserve fund goals with only minimal rate increases to residents. The recent addition of the Bulk Water Station has added revenue opportunities for bulk water sales to consumers both inside and outside of our service area.

The Conservation Trust Fund receives funding from the Colorado Lottery program that must be used for new conservation sites or recreational purposes on any public site. Budgeted uses for these funds in 2022 include park equipment and enhancements.

The final draft of the 2022 budget will be presented to Council at a work session on November 16, 2021, and will be adopted at the December 7, 2021 Council meeting.

Ring the Bells for the Salvation Army

Beginning the day after Thanksgiving, the New Castle Lions will be ringing the bells in front of City Market as part of the Salvation Army's annual fund-raising appeal. All the funds raised are retained locally and go to support families with emergency needs.

As in past years, the Lions need additional volunteers in order to reach the maximize number of potential donors. Past volunteers have all reported that it is an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

The collection times will be November 26 to December 24, 11 am to 8 pm each day. To sign up for an hour or more, go to <https://signup.com/go/pfTQbxY>. When it's time, the collection materials can be picked up and returned to the City Market Customer Service desk.



Cub Scout Annual Food Drive

The New Castle Cub Scout Pack 221 will once again collect food for Lift Up in November. Begun eleven years ago, the New Castle food drive is now the largest in the valley.

On Saturday, November 6, the scouts will visit over 2000 households to drop off donation bags. They will return on Saturday, November 13, to collect donations of non-perishable foods. The scouts request that residents place filled bags on the front porch, in a spot visible from the street, by 10:00 am. Donations may also be made at City Market.

Anyone who can help the scouts on November 6 or 13 are invited to contact John Harcourt at 970-984-0288

News from the River Center

This year's Angel Tree registration will take place in person on Saturday, November 6th at The River Center from 10:00-12:00 pm. Applicants will be asked to show evidence of their financial hardship and proof of school attendance in New Castle or Silt.

Donors can choose Angels (children's gift wishes) or Snowflakes (for monetary donations) at the New Castle Library, New Castle Coffee Company and Bighorn Toyota. All three locations will also collect gifts. In addition, Colorado Drifters Coffee Shop will have free photos with Santa on November 13, from 9:00 – 1:00, in exchange for a gift or cash donation.

Volunteer New Castle is another project of the River Center. This group supports and encourages volunteering in New Castle. Each year they honor a volunteer of the year, along with a business, and an organization of the year. Honorees are announced during the Burning Mountain Festival.

Finally, during this giving season, please consider supporting the River Center by going to rivercenternewcastle.org. You can also support them during upcoming Colorado Gives Day, which falls on Tuesday, December 7.

October Council Highlights

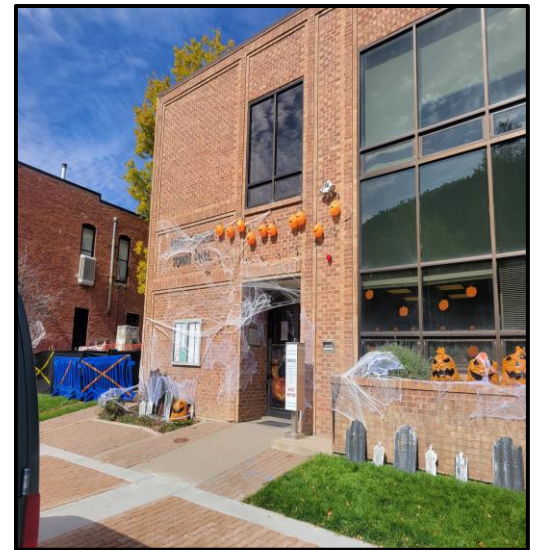
Received the 2022 Budget Proposal

Appointed Bronwyn Rittner as a Planning & Zoning Commission Alternate

Approved Ordinance TC 2021-7 – Repealing Ch. 10.16 of the New Castle Municipal Code Regarding Parking Spaces for Businesses

Approved Ordinance TC 2021-8 – Amending Ch. 12.24 of the Municipal Code Regarding the Definition of 'Resident' for Cemetery Plots

Approved Ordinance TC 2021-9 – Amending Ch. 204 of the Municipal Code Regarding Compensation of Town Officers



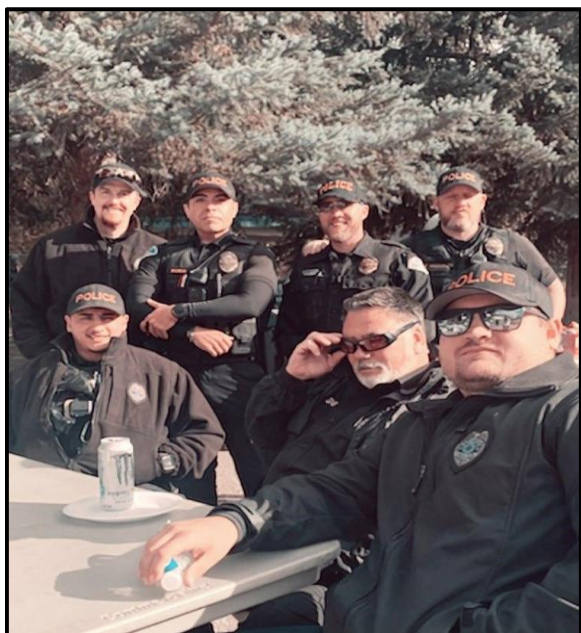
Town Hall ready for New Castle Trick or Treat.

Did You Know That

- * Town Hall will be closed November 11 for Veterans Day and November 25-26 for Thanksgiving.
- * Effective November 1, the New Castle Library will open at 10 am Monday through Saturday.
- * Dave Gray, Assistant Public Works Director, retired on September 30. Dave was a valued partner to Director John Wenzel in managing the large and essential Public Works Department.
- * Daylight savings ends on November 7. Be sure to set clocks back one hour.
- * Both Glenwood Springs and Rifle have hired trail builders to construct their new trails. In New Castle, most of the construction has been performed by volunteers.
- * Colorado River Fire Rescue will clear heavy brush and overgrowth on C Ave and on the Rollie Gordon Trail as a fire prevention measure.
- * The Chamber of Commerce and Katherine Senor Elementary School will both hold craft fairs on November 13.
- * For Covid-19 vaccine information: www.garfield-county.com/public-health/covid-19-vaccine.

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

Happy Thanksgiving!



The Police Department hosted BBQ with a Cop in October.

Welcome to November! At the Chamber we're excited about all our events this month. We hope you'll join us for all of them.

Chamber Bingo is finally here! It will be a monthly event held on the second Thursday of the month, with the inaugural night on November 11th at the Community Center. We'll begin selling game cards at 5:30 with Bingo starting at 6:30. Six-game cards will cost \$10. Participants in the Chamber's practice run all had a great time and will be back for the real thing. They hope you'll join them.

The next date to save is November 13 for the annual Holiday Craft Fair. The fair will be at the Community Center from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. There will be a wide selection of local crafters to choose from. We hope you'll join us to fill your holiday list and support our local crafters. At press time there were a few vendor spots left, so call the chamber immediately if you'd like to be a part of the show.

Finally, the monthly Business After Hours will be at Defiance Cyclery in downtown New Castle on November 16. If you are a Chamber member, want information on becoming a member or just want to know more about the awesome businesses in our community, please join us from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Watch for announcement of future monthly Business After Hours gatherings.

For more information on any of these events, please contact Mari Riddile at the Chamber, (970)984-2897.

New Castle Recreation

Visit newcastlerec.com for program details and registration information.

*Little Hoopers: A co-ed kindergarten through 2nd grade basketball program, November 6, 13 & 20, 10:00 am. \$40 per session.

*Boys 3rd-6th Grade Basketball: Register now for January 2022.

*Fun Fall Activity Days: Monday, Nov. 22 and/or Tuesday, Nov. 23, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the New Castle Community Center. Kindergarten through Fifth Grade. \$50 each day per child.

*STEAM Activities after School with Ms. Candice: Mondays in November, 4:00 to 5:30. \$18 per class or \$60 for all four classes. (Galaxy Jars, Fall Candles, Fall Centerpieces, Pumpkin Slime).

*Fancy Pies: Apple pie or apple-cranberry pie with a decorative crust. Wednesday November 24, 6:00 pm. \$24 per pie.

*Science Learning Pod with Ms. Candice: Thursdays in November, 2:00 to 3:30 pm and STEM/Craft Session with Ms. Candice: Thursdays in November, 4:00 to 5:30 pm. Grades one through five. \$15-18 per session.

- Election Day – November 2
- Daylight Savings Time Ends – November 7
- Veterans Day – November 11

Thanksgiving Day – November 25

Town Hall Closed – November 25 & 26