



Town of New Castle Newsletter

A Monthly Update for Residents
December 2021

New Castle Parks Department Prepares Downtown for Christmas



Have you enjoyed the lights on Main Street this holiday season? They would be hard to miss. In addition, the tree in Burning Mountain Park is decorated and on December 3 served as the centerpiece for the tree-lighting ceremony and chili cook-off. All these downtown decorations are the work of the town's Parks Department which is never more apparent or more greatly appreciated than at this time of year. It's a good time to acknowledge those who spent nearly three weeks decorating for the holiday season.

Parks Department Manager, Charlie Moore observes, "We take great pride in our attention to detail. For example, we don't canvas wrap our trees, we wrap lights around individual branches and that takes a significant amount of time, but we want our residents to enjoy where they live and be proud of it as well." He hopes everyone will continue to enjoy all that they do.

Of course the holiday lights are only the most visible of the Parks Department contributions to the town. They also mow, weed and

maintain irrigation in all the town's parks. In the winter they join other Public Works employees to perform snow and ice control.

Unfortunately, the department also must continually respond to vandalism in the parks and trails. The vandalism has varied from spray paint graffiti to damaged porta-potties, even to sawed-off stairs on playground equipment. It's the prompt work of the staff that keeps this vandalism mostly out of sight. They are at work making repairs as soon as it is discovered, often finishing before most people head out for work. Public Works Director John Wenzel asks that anyone who sees something, please say something. Please call 970-984-2311 to report it.

When you are out and about and happen to see our Parks Department and Public Works guys, please honk and wave or just say thank you. They are the reason why New Castle is beautiful.

Town Council Election in April

April 5, 2022 will be Election Day in New Castle. This year voters will elect a mayor and three councilors. Mayor Art Riddle and Councilors Bruce Leland, Brandy Copeland and Scott Owens will complete their four-year terms in April.

Candidates must submit nomination petitions signed by at least fifteen residents. Petitions can be picked up at the Town Hall on Tuesday, January 4, 2022, and must be turned in by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, January 24, 2022.

For more information call 970-984-2311 ext. 101 or e-mail Election Official/Town Clerk Melody L Harrison, CMC, at mharrison@newcastlecolorado.org.

Snowman Building Contest

The theme for the 2022 snowman building contest is "Favorite Character." Residents and businesses are invited to create a snow character from a book, movie, television show or comic book.

There are three competition age groups:

- 0 - 10
- 11 - 18
- 19+

The contest dates are December 1 through January 30. If there is insufficient snow, the deadline may be extended to February 28. To enter, send a photo with your name, phone number, age category and email address, along with a description of your art to rfirth@newcastlecolorado.org. All entries will be posted on the Visit New Castle Facebook page a week before the deadline, and everyone will have the opportunity to vote for their favorite snow character.

Utility Rates for 2021

In 2019 the Town Council approved an annual 3% increase in utility rates in order to avoid imposing large increases every 4-5 years. Mountain Waste and Recycling has a right to request an increase of up to 5% to compensate for higher fuel prices.

These rates will enable the Town of New Castle to continue to meet residents' needs while providing a high level of quality and service. Effective January 1, 2022, the monthly base rates for utility services will be as follows:

Water Service: \$31.28

Sewer Service: \$56.57

Trash Service: \$33.21

(Senior discounts apply to qualified residents.)

A complete detailed listing of new water, sewer and trash rates, payable February 1, will be printed on the back of January utility bills and may be found on the Town's website: newcastlecolorado.org/documents/utility_rates.

Dog News: Leashes and Licenses

Recently the Town Council heard complaints about unleashed dogs and asked the Police Department to phase in a stricter enforcement of our leash laws. Dogs are required to be on leash at all times outdoors when not within a fenced area. Having dogs "under voice control" is no longer permitted.

Dogs will sometimes escape and get found far from home, They can be easily returned to their owners if they are wearing their town license tag. Dog license renewals are due on January 1, 2022. Proof of rabies vaccination and a photo are required for the licenses, along with a \$10 fee for each spayed or neutered dog. The application form is at www.newcastlecolorado.org, then click on departments and animal services.



New Castle Public Works begin installing the new back-alley fence, funded by a grant from FMLD.

16-Year-Old New Castle Resident Rising to the Top

Sarah Matthews is a 16-year-old BMX racer and lifetime New Castle resident. She and her family are the owners of a small woodworking business called Hand Crafted by Little Hands. They have been making beautiful cutting boards and handcrafted art pieces for the past thirteen years.

Sarah has been BMX racing for fifteen months. She and her father have had the opportunity to travel all over the country, including competitions in the National series this summer. Sarah has already won four National races, two Colorado State Championships and the South-Central Regional Championship Gold Cup Series. Last summer she won the 2020 State Championship and finished third in the region. Sarah is currently ranked 7th in her National age group, and in the top one hundred overall in the country. Sarah competed in the Grand National Races in Oklahoma over Thanksgiving.

Sarah joins the growing number of area athletes who are bringing home honors to New Castle.



News from the River Center

- The River Center would appreciate your input about the community services they provide. Please take their survey by going to www.rivercenternewcastle.org.
- Angel Trees are available at Alpine Bank, Colorado Drifters, New Castle Coffee, and the New Castle Library. Gifts are due back Sunday, December 5. Toys and monetary donations are appreciated to help fill angels that are not otherwise filled. If you need to register your child for the Angel Tree or sign up to volunteer, please call 984-4333.
- Senior Luncheons are Wednesdays at 12:00 at the River Center, located on 4th Street.

Did You Know That

- For information and updates during a blackout, sign up for notification from Xcel at www.xcelenergy/notification_sign_up_form.
- Over 600 people were counted entering the library during the town's Trick-or-Treat New Castle event.
- Due to increasing danger from Covid-19, the Lions Club once again served their annual turkey dinner as a drive-through event, feeding over 150 people on November 20.
- Colorado Gives Day is December 7. Go to ww.coloradogives.com to get matching funds for local charities.

November Council Highlights

- Appointed Rich Parks to an alternate seat on the Planning & Zoning Commission
- Approved Grants to Area Non-Profit Organizations
- Approved Resolution TC 2021-15 Adopting a Directory of Fees and Charges
- Approved Liquor License renewals for Tapatios, 2 Coronas and Kum & Go
- Approved Special Event Liquor Licenses for Ambleside School's Fundraiser Dinner and the Town Chili Cook-Off

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

From the Chamber

Happy Christmas from the New Castle Chamber! The Chamber apologizes for canceling our first bingo night that was scheduled in November and are sorry for any inconvenience that may have caused. Our new launch night for bingo will be December 9 at the New Castle Community Center. Ticket sales will begin at 5:30 and the first game will start at 6:00. Game cards are 6 for \$10.00 and you may purchase as many as you wish. We hope to see you there.

We'd like to introduce you to our newest member, Love Your Dog, owned and operated by Jane Tobler. Jane is a CCTA Certified Dog Trainer as well as a Certified Tellington TTouch Practitioner for companion animals. She uses these methods as a foundation in working with animals. Jane came to New Castle from the Eagle Valley and has settled in Castle Valley Ranch. She enjoys walks and hikes with her dogs and volunteering time with shelter dogs. To say Jane loves dogs would be an understatement. Throughout her life she has enjoyed training her dogs as well as those of her friends, then in 2007 she decided to study canine behavior and training professionally. Because of Jane's years working with dogs and her professional study, she can offer custom management and training plans as well as basic manners and obedience. Jane has loved and learned valuable information from each dog who's shared her house. Information about all the Love Your Dog services, go to loveyourdogllc.com or contact Jane at 970-668-0143 or by email at jane@loveyourdogllc.com.

New Castle Recreation

It's beginning to smell a lot like Christmas in the New Castle Community Center Kitchen this month. We have three opportunities for holiday bakers to join us.

On Friday, December 10 at 10:00 am, New Castle Recreation will host a Cookie Decorating Competition. Each contestant will have 45 minutes to decorate three shaped cookies. Judges will pick winners from four age categories: Ages 5 and under, 6 to 8, 9 to 11 and 12 and older.

On Monday, December 20, we will be decorating cookies again, just for the fun of it!

Children of all ages are invited to come decorate six shaped cookies using as much icing and sprinkles as they wish! And we will do all the clean up afterwards. This activity always fills up quickly so register soon.

If cookies aren't your thing, maybe you would like to come make a fancy, decorative Cranberry-Cherry Pie on Thursday, December 23 at 10:00 am. Bring your own pie dish, and we'll all work together to create our culinary masterpieces. You can bake your pie at home the next day, or on Christmas Eve. Space is limited, so register soon.

More information, registration, and fees can be found at newcastlerec.com for all these activities and more.



- Tree Lighting and Chili Cook-off – December 3
- Town Council – December 7 & 21
- Municipal Court – December 13
- CEC – December 16
- HPC – December 20
- Town Hall Closed – December 23, 24, 30 & 31
- Christmas Day – December 25
- New Year's Eve – December 31