



# Town of New Castle Newsletter

January 2022

## Record Crowd for Chili and Lights

Unseasonably warm weather helped attract a record crowd to the Chili Cook-off and Tree-lighting Ceremony on December 4<sup>th</sup>. Ten chilies were entered in the contest, and the winners were:

First Place: DJ Olmstead of Native American Crane Service

Second Place: Colorado Drifters Coffee & Fly Shop

Third Place: Michael Traficano, of New Castle Coffee

Mayor Art Riddile presided at the tree-lighting ceremony and the Coal Ridge High School Choir performed seasonal music. Santa held court in the Gazebo, and Samantha Gates Photography recorded visits, courtesy of Embryn at Keller Williams – Colorado West Realty.

A new feature this year was the participation of downtown businesses. Many stayed open in the evening, and they reported plenty of visitors. The Chili Cook-Off was the final 2021 event for the Recreation Department. They would like to thank everyone who entered chili in the contest, the staff members who helped, the Coal Ridge choir and especially everyone who attended and created the festive mood to start the holiday season.



1<sup>st</sup> Place: DJ Olmstead of Native American Crane Service



2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Colorado Drifters Fly & Coffee Shop



3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Michael Traficano of New Castle Coffee

## January is License Time

All license renewals with the Town of New Castle are due in January. Anyone who has not yet renewed licenses should do so by the end of the month.

Dog licenses are required for all dogs living in town limits. Wearing their tags lets dogs carry their proof of vaccination with them, as well as a unique number get them get home if they wander. The license fee for a spayed or neutered dog is \$10, and photos of the dogs and rabies certificates are required.

Business and contractor licenses are also due. All businesses physically located in town, as well as those doing business in New Castle, should renew in January. The cost for a business license is \$25. Applicants need to provide proof of liability and workers compensation insurance plus any required state licenses (such as master electrician, master plumber, registered/certified manufactured home installer, etc).

All license forms can be found on the Town web site ([www.newcastlecolorado.org](http://www.newcastlecolorado.org)). Click on Forms and Permits at the bottom of the screen.

## A Back Fence for New Castle

The Federal Mineral Lease District approved 2021 grant funding for construction of a fence between the railroad tracks and the south alley. For years residents have noticed that the view of New Castle from I-70 doesn't show off the town to advantage. The new fence provides a neater and more inviting approach to the town.

Readers of Visit New Castle posted praise for the project:

Fence looks great and is noticeable from the interstate as well!

A great addition to the downtown and was a surprise to see it this week! It will cut some of that train noise too!

Love it!! Thank you!

Great job. Really needed. Thanks

The public Works department helped make the grant money go further by performing much of the construction in house.



## Lions Place Eyeglass Collection Boxes

Thanks to a discretionary grant from the Board of Council Commissioners, the New Castle Lions have purchased and placed three outdoor eyeglass collection boxes. Hearing aids can also be recycled. The boxes are located in front of the library, outside Edward Jones in New Castle Plaza and at the Silt Medical Clinic.

Once collected, the lenses are analyzed, sorted and placed in inventory. Then the Lions make them available for distribution to optical missions around the world. The Lions Club International has made eyesight its central mission since 1925. Besides recycling eyeglasses, the New Castle Lions provide eligible applicants with financial support for eye exams and conduct exams in elementary schools. Anyone interested in helping the Lions with their vision projects or any of the other ways they serve the community can attend a meeting on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30, at First Baptist Church.

## Déjà Vu All Over Again

After two years of living with Covid-19, the much anticipated "new normal" has been delayed again. The latest variant spreads far more easily than previous versions, making it more important than ever to take all precautions. Getting vaccinated is still the most important step to take, including the booster shot.

The CDC continues to recommend wearing masks in public indoor settings, regardless of vaccination status.

Hand washing also helps prevent the spread of all viruses.

## Founders Day is February 4

A 2013 proclamation from the Town Council designates February as New Castle History month and orders an annual Founders Day celebration in that month.

This year's Founders Day will be February 5<sup>th</sup>, hosted by the Recreation Department. It will feature the old New Castle schoolhouse, now returned to its original purpose as the Ambleside School. Attendees will be able to tour the school, learn its history and see first-hand the many new improvements. The tours will be followed by the traditional potluck dinner in the Community Center.



## Enter the Snowman Contest

The annual snowman contest continues through January. Submissions must be received by January 30. The theme for the contest is "Favorite Character." Contestants can get inspiration for their creations from movies, television or novels. Email your photos to [rfirth@newcastlecolorado.org](mailto:rfirth@newcastlecolorado.org).

## Help the CEC in 2022

The Climate and Environment Commission is looking for residents who would like to put their interest in environmental issues into action in the company of other volunteers. The commissioners are hoping that several working groups will undertake projects supporting recycling, composting, fire prevention, pollinator gardens, energy efficiency, pollution control, residential solar information or any other climate or environmental project.

In 2021 the Climate and Environment Commission (formerly the Climate Action Advisory Commission) distributed fire prevention and residential solar information, began planting pollinator-friendly plants in Alder Park and helped with Garfield Clean Energy's Solarwise campaign. Commissioners hope that volunteers can help them expand the scope of their work. To volunteer or get more information, please write to [cec@newcastlecolorado.org](mailto:cec@newcastlecolorado.org), including your contact information and areas of interest.

## Did You Know That

- On December 15 the Rifle Animal Shelter, now known as the Journey Home Animal Care Center, welcomed the public to its new facility at 1500 Prefontaine Avenue in Rifle.
- The utility rates for 2022 are printed on the back of utility bills. The new rates took effect in January, billed in February.
- The Lions Club once again rang the bell for the Salvation Army in front of City Market, assisted by a number of the friends of the Lions.
- The New Castle Library will be hosting the St Mary's Blood Drive on Friday, January 7 from 11:00 – 1:00 in front of the library. Sign up at [www.stmarysbloodcenter.org](http://www.stmarysbloodcenter.org).
- The town's website is currently undergoing a facelift and re-organization of information. There may be some downtime soon as these updates are made. The downtimes will not be long, so please be patient.

## December Council Highlights

Approved Resolution TC 2021-16 – Approving the 2022 Budget

Approved Ordinance TC 2021-10 – Approving Alternate Seats for the Historic Preservation Commission

Approved New Castle Liquors Retail Liquor Store and Tastings Permit Liquor License Renewal

Approved Grove's Black Dog Saloon Hotel & Restaurant Liquor License Renewal

Approved Stop N Save Fermented Malt Beverage Liquor License Renewal

Approved Resolution TC 2021-16 – Approving an Application from Hogback Pizza, LLC for a Hotel & Restaurant Liquor license

Approved Ordinance TC 2021-12 – Amending Chapter 9.28 of the Municipal Code Regarding Private Party Alcohol Permits

Approved Lazy Bear Restaurant Hotel & Restaurant Liquor License Renewal

## Cheer Team Four-peat

On December 10, 2021, the Coal Ridge High School Co-Ed Cheer Team won the 2A-3A championship for the fourth year in a row. It was their fifth overall championship. This year they also achieved another goal, earning the highest score among all the competition categories with a score of 87.6. Alyssa Thurmon has coached the team through all 5 victories (and the second-place win in 2017).

The Town Council will recognize the Cheer Team's win in an upcoming Council meeting.



## NOTICE OF ELECTION FOR THE TOWN OF NEW CASTLE

### CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Town of New Castle will hold a regular municipal election on April 5, 2022, to fill the positions of Mayor and three councilors for four-year terms. Mayor Art Riddile and Councilors Bruce Leland, Brandy Copeland and Scott Owens are completing their terms this year.

To appear on the ballot, candidates must submit a nomination petition with the signatures of fifteen registered voters. Petitions can be picked up at the Clerk's office in Town Hall on Tuesday, January 4 and must be turned in by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, January 24, 2022. The Clerk will also provide an election handbook for candidates.

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

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

Happy New Year from the New Castle Chamber. As we enter a (hopefully better) new year, the Chamber wants to thank all our members, many of whom have been threatened by the Covid-19 virus. We'd also like to thank the residents of our wonderful community of New Castle for shopping locally during December. We encourage all of you to continue to shop and dine locally.

Don't forget our monthly bingo game. The first one in December was a big success and a great time was had by all. Even first-time players caught on quickly and enjoyed themselves. Bingo Night is always the third Thursday of the month at the Community Center. Doors open at 6:00 and games start at 6:30. Looking forward to seeing you on January 20th!

Cheers to 2022!

Happy New Year from New Castle Recreation