



# Town of New Castle Newsletter

A Monthly Update for Residents

March 2022

## Statements from Candidates

### Art Riddile – Mayor

Art was born and raised in Wisconsin coming to Colorado in 1969 to attend the University of Denver. After spending 24 years in the Denver area, he was transferred to Aspen as a wine and liquor distributor. He has been a resident of New Castle since 1993.

Always passionate about his town, Art was elected to town council in 2006 where he served until becoming mayor in 2016. He was reelected to that office in 2018. He has served or is serving on several boards including First Baptist Church Trustees, Garfield County Energy Advisory Board, Intermountain Transportation Planning Region III, RFTA Destination 2040 Ballot Initiative 2018 Co-Chair and RFTA Board where he served 2 terms as Chairman.

Currently, Art is a substitute teacher at Elk Creek Elementary. He loves Soccer, something both his sons were active in, serving as a licensed referee for eight years.

Art has been married to Mari since 1987 and loved raising their two sons in New Castle. The oldest Graham, who also serves on council with his dad, is married to Alisha and has two daughters. Emmy (4 ½) and Brynn (2) are the light of his life. His younger son, Jeremiah has been teaching in China and is married to Ruby.

### A Dog Park for New Castle?

As New Castle grows, so does our dog population. This growth has been putting a greater demand on our parks system. As a result, many New Castle residents have expressed the desire to formalize the location and use of dog park facilities. The hope is to provide all park users, both dog owners and non-dog owners, with the best possible experience. The Town of New Castle is seeking public input to provide recommendations for the planning, design, and development of dog park facilities. Please join us at Town Hall on Wednesday, March 16 at 6:00 PM for our first meeting.

### Meet the Candidates March 3

Please join the New Castle Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, March 3 at 7:00 pm at the New Castle Community Center to meet the candidates for the upcoming election. Statements from the candidates can be found in this newsletter.

The April 5 New Castle election will be by mail ballot. Ballots will be mailed to voters the week of March 14. In addition to the council and mayor election, the ballot contains a question asking approval of an increase in the town's Lodging Tax.

### Caitlin Carey – Council Member

I have had the opportunity to serve in a variety of organizations over the years. All of these have been in a volunteer capacity, and done out of love and passion for the organization or those it surrounds. I believe if we are passionate about something, I should do what I can to support and steward that organization. I have been a committee chair as far back as my time in college, treasurer for an athletic organization, and involved in organizing and carrying out of events like marathons and road races. I love New Castle. I love the neighborhoods and sidewalks, that our children can safely explore our neighborhoods with their friends, and that we can walk pretty much anywhere. I love that our dentist is a mere 1.7 miles from our home and that our pediatrician is 2 miles from our home. I love our small town feel and our ability to embrace our community. I love that we are growing and people are discovering what a gem New Castle is. Because I love this town so much, I want to give back to it and to the people of New Castle.

### **Brooklyn Barkman – Council Member**

I am a long time local and proud to have deep roots in this valley! I graduated from GSHS and am a certified paralegal. I work primarily in criminal law and have experience in probate and transactional law. My husband and I moved to New Castle in 2014. We have two young boys and are so grateful to raise them in this beautiful town! We recently shifted career paths therefore no longer commute up valley. This allows us to be more active with the town and give back to our community! As a mother and wife, I will bring a family-centered perspective that promotes growth, business, and activity to the Council. My paralegal experience will be beneficial while navigating the role of Town Council Member. I can act objectively, patiently, and assertively, yet thoughtfully while keeping the community's best interests at the forefront of decisions. I believe my core values of family, faith, and freedom are heavily aligned with our community. I hope you will take the time to write me into the ballot! It would be an honor to strengthen bonds, reinforce these core values, and share my passion for our amazing town!

### **Bruce Leland – Council Member**

I grew up in upstate New York, then taught for thirty years in Western Illinois, and now live in the place where I really want to be. I've been proud to serve on the Town Council since 2006. During that time I've represented the Council on the Planning and Zoning, Historic Preservation, and Climate & Environment Commissions. I've also worked with Northwest Colorado Cultural Heritage Tourism, Garfield Clean Energy, the Downtown Group and others.

I work on the Town Newsletter and the Visit New Castle Facebook page, write proclamations for the Council and assist with other writing and editing projects. My other current volunteer work includes Literacy Outreach's Spellebration fundraiser and the New Castle Lions Club.

The issues we face in the next four years include managing growth as new development proposals arrive, getting the I-70 roundabout finally constructed, upgrading Burning Mountain Park and Frank Breslin Park, budgeting for capital projects, supporting the town staff and developing additional trails and recreation opportunities. I will bring my experience and skills to these projects.

For more about me and my work for the Town, please visit my Elect Bruce Leland Facebook page.

### **Brandy Copeland – Council Member**

Brandy Copeland has lived in New Castle since 2012 and is a nature lover, avid hiker, and reader. She is a Specialty Underwriter at Philadelphia Insurance Company and has worked there for 21 years. Her daughter attends Coal Ridge High School and will be graduating this year.

Brandy started in local government when she joined the New Castle Planning and Zoning Commission in 2016. She was elected to Town Council in 2018 and is looking to serve the community for another term. Brandy thanks everyone for voting for her in 2018 and is asking for your support to keep serving in her community.

She has also served on the Historical Preservation Commission, Breslin Park Committee, the Dog Park Committee, and has been a volunteer for the LIFT-UP food distribution in the parking lot of New Hope church during the pandemic. She regularly volunteers at town events selling drink tickets or serving beer.

Brandy also hosted a booth at the Farmers Market before COVID-19, to ask for feedback, questions and concerns from her constituents, in order to keep checking the pulse of the community.

Brandy applauds the resiliency of New Castle residents in the last two years and believes that together as a community we will continue to achieve a better and stronger New Castle.



Elk Creek Elementary students tour the wastewater treatment plant



## Earth Day is Coming in April

Earth Day is Friday, April 22, and New Castle will extend the observance to the 23<sup>rd</sup>, making it Earth Weekend. There will be several activities over the two days, including highway and river clean-up and opportunities to learn about the Evergreen ZeroWaste composting service.

Any local groups or organizations planning Earth Day activities should notify Rochelle Firth ([rfirth@newcastlecolorado.org](mailto:rfirth@newcastlecolorado.org)) so that they can be added to the town's Earth Day activity list. That list will appear in the April newsletter.

## Compostable Collection for New Castle

The Town of New Castle's Climate and Environment Commission is proud to share a new opportunity for residents to reduce the amount of waste they send to the landfill, while also creating nutrient-rich soil. Locally-owned EverGreen ZeroWaste is ready to expand curbside compost collection services to New Castle homes and businesses.

With a weekly curbside collections program, participants are able to keep food waste, paper products and yard waste out of the landfill. This program is a convenient alternative for those who are unable to do their own backyard composting, and EverGreen ZeroWaste accepts a wide range of materials such as meat, pizza boxes and compostable dinnerware. Processing these natural items into soil has the additional benefit of eliminating methane creation in our landfills.

Subscribing households will receive a secure bucket or two for food collections. Yard waste and paper products can be set alongside these buckets in reusable bins or paper lawn bags at no additional charge. Weekly service by EverGreen ZeroWaste is \$18 per month, with discounts for paying quarterly (\$50), biannually (\$100) or annually (\$198.) For those wanting to incorporate finished compost into their lawns and gardens, EverGreen ZeroWaste offers compost give-backs to their customers on an annual basis.

Evergreen ZeroWaste will be in town for Earth Day weekend on April 23 to sign up new customers. To enroll now, visit [EverGreenZeroWaste.com](http://EverGreenZeroWaste.com) or call 970-930-7900.

## Covid-19 in New Castle

Dr. Jennifer Copeland of New Castle Family Practice reports that she is seeing a decline in Covid cases in New Castle, mirroring the county-wide statistics. Younger age groups have generally had milder symptoms, as have older patients who are fully vaccinated. Dr. Copeland recommends vaccination and booster shots even if individuals have recovered from Covid, and she suggests caution, including mask-wearing, in any crowded indoor events.

## Did You Know That. . .

- Ana Gaytan has been appointed Branch Manager for the New Castle Library.
- Journey Home Animal Care Shelter will host the annual Spayghetti and No Balls fundraiser on Saturday, March 12, 4:30 - 7:30 PM at the Rifle Elks Lodge.
- A Book Swap will be held in the Community Center on Saturday, March 12, from 10 am to 3 pm. Please bring books you no longer need and pick up some new-to-you good reads.
- The Wrap and Roll Deli, located on Ritter Plaza, expects to open in March.



Proclamation honoring former Mayor and Town Manager Steve Rippy

## Council Highlights

Appointed Tom Fuller to an Alternate Seat on the Historic Preservation Commission.

Approved Resolution TC 2022-6 – Submitting to the Qualified Electors of the Town of New Castle at the April 5, 2022 Regular Election a Ballot Issue Concerning the Increase of the Lodging Tax from 2.5% to 5%.

Approved Resolution TC 2022-7 – Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Garfield County Clerk and Recorder for Election Services.

Approved Resolution Tc 2022-8 – Approving an FMLD Mini Grant Application for Town Hall Flooring.

Approved Resolution TC 2022-9 – Approving an FMLD Traditional Grant Application for Repair and Replacement of Solid Surface Trails Throughout Town.

Approved Ordinance TC 2022-2 – Amending Chapter 1.20 of the Municipal Code to Comply with HB19-1148 Regarding General Penalties.

Approved Ordinance TC 2022-3 – Amending Chapter 15.44 of the Municipal Code concerning the Historic Survey Cycle.

## Recreation Department

When creativity, giving, community, business and art all come together, it can look like this.

On March 11, local youth will gather at the Community Center to create “Sunshine Art” under the direction of New Castle’s Arts and Enrichment Coordinator Kelley Cox. The workshop is free, thanks to a partnership between the Recreation Department and Kevin Hansen of the New Castle Coffee Company.

The Sunshine Art project, which is already fully enrolled, will give young artists the opportunity to have their art pieces publicly displayed for sale at the coffee shop, located in the New Castle Plaza. Each piece will sell for \$100, with 75% going to the artist and 25% to the New Castle Recreation youth art programs to fund another free art class in the near future.

Sunshine Art will be on exhibit at New Castle Coffee from March 15 through April 15. Everyone is encouraged to stop by to enjoy (and possibly purchase) the art. For information about future art programs, contact New Castle Recreation by email at [kcox@newcastlecolorado.org](mailto:kcox@newcastlecolorado.org) or phone 970-984-3352

Watch [newcastlerec.com](http://newcastlerec.com) for news of future projects and activities

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

### From the Chamber

One of the Chamber’s new members is Ambleside School, located in the transformed school building on Main Street. Starting in 2014, Ambleside School Rocky Mountains leased the basement of Mountainview Church in Glenwood Springs for their 16 students. By the time they opened their doors in New Castle last fall, their enrollment was 54 students and they employed 7 full and 4 part-time teachers. The Ambleside curriculum is based on the teachings and research of 19th century British educator Charlotte Mason. Her teachings centered around belief that children are people. She said, “Education is an atmosphere. Discipline is a life habit.” Ambleside is a Christian school where God is intertwined in every part of the school. They strive to create an atmosphere of thoughtfulness where students are attentive to the task at hand. Students do not compete against each other; their only competition is with themselves. Ambleside partners with Ambleside Schools International which includes 25 schools and provides education and evaluation. Parental participation is an integral part of an Ambleside education where there is a zero-tolerance policy for disrespect.

Currently, the school offers education for Pre-Kindergarten through 8th grade and hopes to expand to include high school beginning in 2025. Principal Jesseca Toovey is a Rifle High School graduate who attended Riverside Middle School here in New Castle. Toovey, her husband and children reside in Silt. She says Ambleside is happy to be in New Castle where the town has been welcoming and supportive. Ambleside currently is in open enrollment for the 2022/2023 school year. They will be expanding their staff to include more teachers too. To learn more about Ambleside education, go to [www.amblesideschoolrockymountains.org](http://www.amblesideschoolrockymountains.org).