



Town of New Castle Newsletter

A Monthly Update for Residents

October 2023

Trick or Treat New Castle

Trick-or-Treat New Castle returns for its third year, bigger and better than ever. It will all take place on Friday, October 27, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. The event gives the whole family, young and old, a chance to dress up in their Halloween best and enjoy an afternoon of candy and free activities.

The fun will begin at Alpine Bank and the New Castle Plaza at 3:00 pm, then continue in downtown Main Street and Burning Mountain Park until 5:00 pm. Local businesses will be handing out candy and providing free activities. Look for a haunted house, a maze to navigate, a photo booth and hayrides on Main Street. As plans develop, updates will be provided in the town's weekly e-newsletter, available at newcastlecolorado.org/about/webform/sign-town-e-newsletter.

Trick-or-Treat New Castle is intended to be an addition to the Halloween season, not a replacement. Everyone is encouraged to enjoy traditional trick-or-treating with their families on October 31.

Spirit Walk is Back October 21

Every time the ghosts from New Castle history have appeared in Highland Cemetery to talk about their lives in the town, there has been a sell-out crowd of spectators. The Chamber of Commerce plans to bring back the Spirit Walk once again on Saturday, October 21, from 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm at Highland Cemetery.

Residents are invited to come learn about New Castle's history and its famous and infamous former residents on this guided, twilight walk through Highland Cemetery. Tour guides will lead small groups through the cemetery with flashlights to visit actors portraying the spirits. The actors will tell the stories of their lives in New Castle.

Warm beverages and baked goods will be available.

Watch the Chamber's Facebook page as well as Visit New Castle and the weekly e-newsletter about purchasing tickets for the event, or you can purchase your \$10 ticket at the gate. Please dress appropriately for the cool fall night.

(An event like the Spirit Walk depends on a lot of volunteers. The Chamber invites anyone who can help to call their office at 970-984-2897).



New Castle's Annual Clean-Up Days October 6 and 7

New Castle Public Works will host the annual town Clean-Up Days on Friday, October 6, and Saturday, October 7 from 8:00 am until 3:00 pm at the Public Works yard, located at 801 W Main Street, across from Elk Creek Elementary School. This event is for residents within town boundaries, and proof of residency will be required (Driver's License, other ID, a utility bill or other mail).

Most items too large for trash cans can be disposed of during Clean-Up Days, including electronics, oil, batteries, empty refrigerators, yard brush, appliances and furniture. There is a limit of 4 tires per household. Paint, stains and chemicals cannot be accepted.

The Public Works crew asks that everyone exercise patience. There is a small number of staff working at the event, and there may be a wait at the Public Works yard.

Volunteers of the Year

Each year the River Center's Volunteer New Castle Committee recognizes a business, an organization and an individual for their outstanding contributions to the town. The recognition ceremony occurs on Friday night of the Burning Mountain Festival.

The Volunteer Organization of the Year for 2023 is the New Castle Dog Park committee. They were honored for identifying a need, developing a plan, generating enthusiasm, raising money and seeing the project through to completion. The Dog Park opened in August in VIX Ranch Park, and it has been greatly appreciated by local dogs and their owners.

The Volunteer Business of the year is Colorado Drifters. The downtown Coffee and Fly Shop was recognized for the events they bring to Main Street, such as the monthly Bike Cruise and Trivia Nights, their donations to local causes and the way their staff pitches in wherever needed. Noted in particular was Drifter's "Pay It Forward" board, where patrons can name a recipient for a paid-up item.

Kevin Hansen is the 2023 Volunteer of the Year. The owner of the New Castle Coffee Company is active in the Chamber of Commerce and the local beekeeper's organization. He has participated in the Climate and Environment Commission's Earth Day celebrations and serves as a Scoutmaster for the local Cub Scouts. It's hard to imagine a town event that Kevin isn't present for.

The honorees all appeared in the Burning Mountain Parade on Saturday morning of the festival.



Blood Drive Coming to New Castle



Vitalant is bringing the blood drive back to New Castle on Friday, October 13. The blood mobile will be parked in front of Town Hall from 11:00 am until 2:30 pm. If you would like to donate you can make your appointment to give blood by scanning the QR Code provided or visit their website at donors.vitalant.org.

Mountain Waste & Recycling Sends Reminders for Trash Days

Here are a few guidelines to make sure your containers are emptied on their scheduled service day.

- Place containers curbside by 7:00 am.
- Containers should sit between the road and sidewalk, not impeding auto or pedestrian traffic.
- Leave 3 feet of clearance around each container.
- Recycling containers are for recyclables only; they will not be emptied if they contain trash.
- During the winter make sure the containers are placed in an accessible location free of snow and ice.
- Download the Mountain Waste & Recycling app for service day reminders and holiday schedules.

Interstate 70 Intersection News

CDOT came to town in mid-September to repave the bridges that cross the railroad tracks, the highway and the river. They also repaved the eastbound on-ramp. For two days, traffic flow was interrupted, giving motorists a foretaste of closures they will face when roundabout construction finally begins next year.

Still on the books for this year is infrastructure work from Xcel and others which must precede roundabout construction.

If you have not done so already, sign up for text message notifications for the most up-to-date information from the Town of New Castle. These messages are sent only when necessary and you can opt out at any time. Simply text New Castle to 91978 and reply yes when prompted.

From the Garden Club

The New Castle Garden Club welcomes new members and invites everyone who loves to garden to join them and become part of this active group.

The Garden Club takes on the “deadheading” of the hanging baskets on Main Street during the summer months. They also help the River Center with their community garden on 4th Street, and they plant and maintain flowers in Liberty Park. They have also participated in the Burning Mountain Festival parade. A particularly satisfying project was the proposal of the cosmos flower as the New Castle town flower. The cosmos is a long-lasting, colorful flower which thrives in our area. The club presented their proposal to the Town Council, which declared it to be the Official Town Flower.

The club also holds educational meetings (usually with a potluck meal) and enjoys field trips, such as to the Lavender Festival in Palisade or to the Betty Ford Garden in Vail. They have also visited the Highwater farm in Silt, where young adults learn how to grow food and prepare it for guests. (highwayfarm.org).

Gardeners and prospective gardeners are invited to email Mary Gervais at m2gervais@yahoo.com for more information. Meetings are held from April to October on the first Tuesday of each month and are held at one of the members’ homes so all can tour their gardens.

Council Highlights

- Work Session to review draft of the 2024 Budget
- YouthZone Presentation
- Approved Resolution TC2023-10 – MOU with Wildfire Collaborative
- Approved Ordinance TC2023-03 Amending Sections 15.080.020 and 15.10.020 of the New Castle Municipal Code Regarding Building Permit Valuation Calculations (2nd reading)
- Approved Ordinance TC2023-4 Repealing 17.84.060 of the New Castle Municipal Code
- Revised Water Meter Reading schedule
- Historic Preservation Commission Update
- Considered Ordinance TC2023-5 - an Ordinance of the New Castle Town Council Adopting 2020 Model Traffic Code (1st reading)
- Considered Sign Code
- Discussion: Wildland-Urban Interface Code

Evacuation Plan to be Published in October

As announced in the September newsletter, an Emergency Evacuation Plan for New Castle has been in preparation and is now complete.

Town staff has worked tirelessly over the last year to build the plan with the assistance of Garfield County Emergency Management and in collaboration with Colorado River Fire Rescue. The Evacuation Plan will be published on the town website (www.newcastlecolorado.org) and copies will be available mid-October in Town Hall.

All residents are urged to familiarize themselves with the plan and understand the steps to be taken in an emergency to better help not only themselves, but emergency personnel in the event of an evacuation.

Water Meter Reading Reminder

The August newsletter contained an article about a proposed change in the town’s meter-reading schedule. With the new schedule, October’s meter reading will be the last until April. Everyone will be billed the minimal base rate during the intervening months. Any overages will be billed in the spring, when meter reading resumes.

Under the new schedule, meters will be read in April, May, July, September, & October. The June and August bills will be estimated, with corrections made the following month if needed. The new schedule will allow the Public Works staff more time for other projects.

New Castle Flag Available

In June the Town Council adopted the New Castle Town Flag which was designed by Ed Mooney. Mooney displayed the flag in the Burning Mountain

Festival parade and soon it will be displayed at Town Hall. Mooney has ordered several flags which he is offering to residents for sale. Mooney can be reached at Edwardmooney@live.com or 970.718.2804.





Another Burning Mountain Festival in the Record Books

The 51st Burning Mountain Festival filled Downtown New Castle with food, music, vendors, cars and contests. Here are a few photos to tempt everyone to mark calendars now for the 52nd Festival, September 6 and 7, 2024.



Girls Youth Basketball League Returns This Fall

The New Castle Recreation Department is delighted to announce the much-anticipated Girls Youth Basketball League for Fall 2023 in New Castle.

This season the Rec Department will offer two distinct age divisions: 3rd/4th grade and 5th/6th grade. Taking place from October 9th to December 16th, the youth basketball program offers an invaluable opportunity for young athletes to refine their skills, cultivate teamwork, and forge enduring friendships on the court. The scheduling of practice days and times will be coordinated by coaches depending on gym availability and assuring a convenient and productive season for all participants. Registration is available at the Recreation Department's website, www.newcastle.org. The fee for early registrants is \$75 per player. After October 2, the cost is \$85.

Also this fall the Adult Coed Volleyball League makes a comeback every Thursday evening at Riverside Middle School. The 6v6 competition will be between 7:00 and 9:00 pm, from October 18 to December 7. Team registration, with a maximum of 8 players per team, is \$300. Registration is on the Recreation Department's website, and the deadline is October 12. Please call 970-984-3352 with questions.

From the Recreation Department

For the sixth year, New Castle Recreation will be offering their Fun Fall Activity Days on the first two days of Re-2's Thanksgiving break. The directors and instructors at the New Castle Community Center will keep the kids busy from 9 am to 4 pm with exciting activities such as cooking, crafting, yoga, games and park play. Director Kelley Cox will oversee the fun along with New Castle Rec's new coordinator Ariana Cornejo and guest instructors, including Candice Shaw of Rooted in Nature and Rachel Keller.

Space is limited these two days so early registration at newcastle.org is recommended. The fee for each day is \$50 per child.

Each child must bring a sack lunch, two snacks, water bottle and clothes for both indoor and outdoor play.

Thank you for attending the Town of New Castle's summer events. We look forward to seeing you for our fall and winter activities:

Trick-or-Treat New Castle – Oct. 27

Holiday Tree Lighting and Chili & Mac & Cheese Cookoff – Dec. 1

Snowman Building Contest – Dec. 1