



Town of New Castle Newsletter

A Monthly Update for Residents

May 2020

In For the Long Haul



Clearly there will be no moment when we can all run into the streets to celebrate victory over the deadly COVID-19 virus. While the strict stay-at-home regulations are being eased, recovery is still going to be a long, slow process. Federal, state and county regulations are

intended to help us ease into the slow return to business as sort-of-usual.

The early May re-opening of a limited number of businesses such as hair salons and dentists, comes with restrictions. Garfield County is requiring submission of a COVID-19 Protection Plan from businesses before opening. The Town staff is in communication with all the regulatory agencies, and will be able to answer questions about health and safety rules.

Even while some people get back to work, all of the safety measures—voluntary quarantining, social distancing, face masks, hand washing—are still in effect. Until there is a vaccine or a medicine, the virus will continue to spread. Vulnerable residents, including those over 65 and those with conditions like

diabetes and COPD, are in danger of serious illness and death. Those who aren't part of the vulnerable population are charged with following the health guidelines to in order to protect those who are.

This is not good news for anyone who is feeling the strain of a life interrupted—which is to say, everyone. Isolation is uncomfortable, and it gets harder and harder to stay even-tempered. Frequent suggestions to help cope include:

- Exercise every day.
- Do something you enjoy each day.
- Identify things to look forward to.
- Get outside to a porch or yard.
- Take a walk.
- Talk to someone.
- Thank someone.

During the past several weeks the Town of New Castle has been working to inform residents of the changing conditions. There is a banner on the Town's web page linking to the latest pandemic information. It is updated daily. The Town staff has worked to support all efforts which might lessen the impact of COVID-19 on our community. They are confident in their ability to continue this work and to minimize any impacts or interruptions in town services for our residents.

Stay well, Stay Strong, Stay Home

Making New Castle Count!

The U.S. Census Bureau has continued to collect census data online or by mail, in spite of the coronavirus pandemic. Instructions for completing the census were sent to every address in town, and the Bureau is able to track receipt of completed census forms.

So far New Castle residents have a 60.9% comple-

tion rate, which is the highest rate in the county. There are, however, many more households uncounted. Getting a complete count of residents is important for federal funding to our area as well as our representation in the state and national legislatures.

Even if you don't have your identification number from the Census Bureau's mailing, you can complete the census on line by going to the my2020census.gov website. Please do it now.

Garfield County Safer-at-Home Orders

Retail stores may open with a protection plan

Medical and dental practices may open under strict guidelines

Personal services such as salons and dog groomers may open under strict guidelines

Offices may open at 50% and with strict guidelines

Schools remain closed

Restaurants may open only for take-out and delivery

The use of masks in public remains highly recommended.

Groups of ten or more are still prohibited

COVID-19 Information and Updates

*Town of New Castle: www.newcastlecolorado.org

*Garfield County Public Health: www.garfield-county.com/public-health/novel-coronavirus/

*Colorado Public Health: <https://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/2019-novel-coronavirus>

*Center of Disease Control: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html

Electric Vehicle Sale

Garfield Clean Energy and CLEER are once again hosting the Western Slope Electric Vehicle Sales Event. **If you've been thinking about buying an electric vehicle, now's the time.** CLEER has negotiated with Mountain Chevrolet, Audi Glenwood Springs and Phil Long Honda in Glenwood Springs to offer substantial discounts. Bozarth Chevrolet-Buick, Red Rock Nissan and Grand West Kia in Grand Junction are also offering discounts **of up to \$11,000.** SunRabbit Clean Transport in Grand Junction is offering deals on pre-owned EVs.

Of course all of the showrooms are closed, but the dealers are offering phone and online sales along with remote, contactless delivery of sanitized vehicles. For more details, visit the sale website at www.garfieldcleanenergy.org/ev2020/.



Lakota Golf is Open but Limited

The Lakota Golf Course is open, but with new rules. Play is restricted to Garfield County residents only. Players must call ahead or book on-line. No walk-ons are allowed. The number of tee times per day will be limited, and players must not arrive more than 15-20 minutes early. There will be no golf cart or push cart rentals, and no food or beverages will be available. See Lakota's web page for a full explanation of the COVID-19 rules.



The New Castle Recreation staff recognized very quickly that the shutdown of so many of our normal activities created the urgent need for innovative substitutes. Both kids and adults needed a break from their forced isolation.

Hannah, Colton, Kelley and Aimee have risen to the challenge and created a wide-ranging series of activities and events. Among them:

- Minute to Win it games on ZOOM give kids challenges like keeping three balloons in the air, flipping a spoon into a coffee mug or stacking golf balls.
- Weekly Challenges let kids win Hogback Pizza gift cards by submitting a winning challenge video.
- Team players can keep busy with weekly skill workouts, such as volleyball setting drills.
- Tai Chi students can still participate on ZOOM.
- Also on ZOOM, the Preschool Play Group can still meet.
- Kids can ZOOM for Yoga classes.
- The Recreation staff is delivering Craft Making Kits to kids at home.
- There's a Daily Lego Challenge.
- Kids can also participate in the Spring into Color Yard Art Contest.
- Undeterred by quarantine, the monthly Drum Circle meets on ZOOM.
- There is an on-line Rainbow Scavenger Hunt.
- Also on-line are Local Landmark jigsaw puzzles.
- Other kits for delivery include Indoor Camping Kits and May Day Garden Kits.
- The "Surviving and Thriving in New Castle" slide show will include community submitted images.
- The Recreation staff is planning for a baseball and softball season in the Valley Youth League. Please check their Facebook page.
- And speaking of Facebook, a sign of the department's success is the increase in Facebook engagements from 500 per week to 1,700 per week.

Did You Know That...

Debbie Guccini, assistant to the Town Treasurer, retired in April with the gratitude of the Town Council and staff. Viktoriya Ehlers has been hired as the new assistant to the treasurer.

“Growing Business, Building Community” Support Your Community - Use Local Vendors - Shop Locally

From the Chamber

“Neighbors Helping Neighbors” is the motto of the River Center, a member of the New Castle Chamber. Founded in 2010 by Lee Price to identify and meet needs in the community, the River Center is both a building and a faith-based non-profit charitable organization. Lee served as executive director for seven years before turning the reins over to current director, Heather Paulson. Several committees, each with specific programs, perform the work of the River Center.

Life Assistance helps those in need with housing, food, clothing, water and heating bills and other essential needs. The goal is to aid and then to teach, so that clients can help themselves.

Totes for Hope provides income-eligible elementary and middle schoolers with food. About 95 bags of nutritious food are distributed weekly.

Volunteer New Castle annually recognizes outstanding individual, business and organization volunteers.

Senior Lunch provides a weekly lunch where local seniors hear a speaker and share a lunch.

Meal Monkey distributes lunches to children in need at five different locations in Silt and New Castle each

Friday when school is not in session.

Community Garden has individual plots at both the River Center and Apple Tree locations where locals can plant vegetable gardens to supplement their diet nutritiously.

Angel Tree assures that children in need receive Christmas gifts. Presents are donated by generous members of the community, then organized and distributed by River Center volunteers.

In addition to Director Heather Paulson, the River Center is staffed by Assistant Director Liz Gabaurdi and Life Assistance Facilitator Claritza Marengo.

River Center programs are staffed by dedicated, hard-working volunteers, and there is always a need for more. If you would like to be one of those volunteers, or for more information about the River Center, call 970-984-4333, The building is closed during the Coronavirus quarantine, but calls are being forwarded to Liz Gabaurdi, who can help either in English or Spanish.

The New Castle Chamber is proud to have the River Center as a member.

Irrigation Rules

It's time to remind ourselves about the water restrictions which help us conserve this precious resource. The Town Council has approved two methods of conserving water: an escalating rate system and regulations governing outdoor irrigation.

The water rate structure is outlined on the back of every monthly utility bill. It allows usage of 12,000 gallons for a flat rate, then imposes rate increases for several levels of additional usage.

Watering restrictions apply to all users of the Town's treated water from May 1 through September 30. Addresses ending in odd numbers

may irrigate only on odd number calendar days, and addresses ending in even numbers may irrigate only on even number calendar days.

Watering is further limited to a maximum of four hours on the allotted day, between midnight and 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. to midnight. No watering is allowed on any day between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. These restrictions apply only to the irrigation of lawns, trees, shrubs and other vegetation planted in the ground.

An exemption permit is available, allowing the watering of newly installed landscaping, lawns and trees. This exemption allows a customer to water during the no-use period and is valid for 30 days.

Cancellations and Postponements

Here are some of the events which have been cancelled, postponed or moved on-line. Please check before heading out to make sure an event is happening.

Library face-to-face events

New Castle Recreation face-to-face events and team sports

Spellebration

Strawberry Days

BBQ With a Cop

Re-2 face-to-face events

Chamber Bingo

Cinco de Mayo

Town Council Highlights for April 2020

- * Resolution TC 2020-11 – Declaring a Public Health Emergency
- * Resolution TC 2020-12 – Approving an MOU with UC Denver Technical Assistance Program
- * Resolution TC 2020-13 – Approving a Conditional Use Permit for Property Located in the Industrial Zone District
- * Resolution TC 2020-14 – Approving an MOU with Garfield County Municipalities for Municipal Services
- * Resolution TC 2020-15 – Amending Res. 2005-4 Regarding Site Plan Approval the Lakota Recreation Center
- * Resolution TC 2020-16 – Supporting Mining Regulation in Garfield County
- * Resolution TC 2020-17 – Approving an IGA with Garfield County for Mosquito Control
- * Approved a Hotel & Restaurant Liquor License Renewal for Hong’s Garden
- * Swore in Council Members Grady Hazelton, Graham Riddle and Crystal Mariscal
- * Appointed Beth Sass, Alison Bourquin and Brian Westerlind to Seats on the Planning & Zoning Commission
- * Appointed Tom Elder to a Seat on the Climate Action Advisory Commission
- * Appointed Amanda Maurer, P.C. as municipal Judge
- * Appointed Grady Hazelton as Mayor Pro Tem

Mmmm-mmmm Good

While we’re thinking about water, it’s a good time to point out the excellence of New Castle’s drinking water. Our water originates in the Flat Tops and flows down East Elk Creek to the diversion point which sends it to the water treatment plant.

The water is as close to pure spring water as one can find in a populated area. There is no wastewater or industrial waste entering the water and new filters in the treatment plant let the Town deliver water that’s exceptionally clean and also good tasting. The Town’s Climate Action Advisory Commission wants everyone to consider reducing waste by drinking good town water rather than commercially bottled water.

Fire Restrictions in Effect

Each year, as fire season progresses, many area towns impose a succession of stages of fire restrictions. New Castle, in contrast, recognizes that every year brings fire danger. To avoid confusion about what is allowed or not, the Town has adopted a policy which restricts fire and fireworks every year from April 1 to November 1.

- No open burning fire or fires of any type including fire pits and fire rings. Charcoal grills may be used only in developed areas (such as a yard or patio).
- No sale, use or possession of any fireworks (including sparklers and snakes).
- No operation of any combustion engines without an approved spark arrester (muffler) properly installed. The user must have a chemical pressurized fire extinguisher and shovel readily available. The use of any spark-producing tool is also prohibited
- No welding or operating acetylene torches with an open flame, except in cleared areas at least 20 feet in diameter. A chemical pressurized fire extinguisher must be readily available.
- No use of explosive devices, including, but not limited to, model rockets, blasting caps, exploding targets, fireworks and flare guns.

No throwing tossing or dropping from a vehicle any smoking material, lighted match or any other material or device which might start a fire. All smoking materials and matches must be carefully extinguished.

In addition, residents are asked to clean up any flammable materials stored outside, such as brush piles, fireplace wood, flammable rubbish and dead trees.

Did You Know That...

All Dogs and Cats Wellness West Clinic has opened at 6420 County Road 335, Unit A, phone number 984-7076.



Upcoming Events at Town Hall

Town Council— May 5, 19 and June 2, 16.

Planning & Zoning-2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month as needed.

Historic Preservation Commission-3rd Monday of the month as needed.

Climate Action Advisory Commission-3rd Wednesday of the month as needed.

Parks, Open Space, Trails and Recreation-1st Wednesday of the month as needed.

Town Hall will be closed May 25 for observance of Memorial Day