



Town of New Castle Newsletter

A Monthly Update for Residents

August 2020

Governor: “Wear the damn masks!”

As new cases of COVID-19 continue to increase in the state, Governor Polis has transitioned from cajoling to insisting to issuing a statewide mask order. Polis signed Executive Order 2020-138 on July 16, after the state reported a total of 38,155 confirmed cases of the disease. It is in effect at least until August 15.

The order requires everyone to wear a face mask covering the nose and mouth whenever in an indoor public place, and outdoors when with a group of people. Children ten years old and under, as well as people with a medical intolerance, are exempted. CNBC quoted the governor saying: “This is a responsible, bipartisan, common sense step to take. We have a choice in Colorado, either more mask wearing and more attention to social distancing, or more damage to our economy and loss of life.” Research shows that people who have no symptoms can spread COVID-19. Wearing a mask helps prevent moisture from infected lungs from being exhaled into the atmosphere. The virus is carried on the tiny

droplets, and without masks, those droplets can be inhaled by others.

Dr. Anthony Fauci is optimistic that we will eventually get back to normal, according to Fox News. Recovery will, however, depend on how well we practice preventative measures, he said. “Physical distancing is the most important, but practically when you’re living your life and trying to open up the country, you are going to come into contact with people. And for that reason, we know that masks are really important. And we should be using them. Everyone.” (Fauci is the head of the National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases.)

As of July 26, there were 43,789 known cases of COVID-19 in Colorado, with 620 cases in Garfield County. Nationwide, 32 states have mask orders, most put into place in response to burgeoning new cases, hospitalizations and deaths. KUSA (9News) posts daily updates online at 4 pm, and local information is posted on the New Castle web site www.newcastlecolorado.org.

Help Complete the Census

If the nationwide health crisis had not intervened, census workers would by now have started wrapping up the 2020 count of every resident of every household in every town, city, county and state.

Fortunately, this year the process of filing census information is easier than ever. The household count can be completed online, by mail or by phone. Anyone who has not completed the count can easily do so at my2020census.gov. If you have a paper questionnaire, you can complete it and mail it in. If you prefer, you have the option of completing the questionnaire by phone. To begin, call 844-330-2020.

Census data serves many important purposes. An accurate count of the number of residents in New Castle can be used to determine the amount of state

or federal funding we may be eligible for. It is also useful for businesses considering locating to New Castle.

Census data is also used for setting congressional representation. A significant change in population can change the number of representatives Colorado has in congress (and also the number of electoral votes). The Colorado legislature will use the census data to determine if re-districting is necessary.

The census is safe. By law, the Census Bureau cannot release any identifiable information about you, your home, or your business, even to law enforcement agencies.

EVERYONE
COUNTS Census 2020

Another summer of Fire Danger

When the humidity drops to single digits and strong winds sweep through town, we don't need to be told that fire danger is high!

Colorado River Fire Rescue has successfully squelched the frequent fires that have plagued our area this summer. But if any of them had not been discovered so quickly, or had burned in less accessible areas, the situation may have been very different.

On social media, residents protested the illegal fireworks which were heard around town on the evening of July 4th. A spark from a firecracker (or, for that matter, from a fire pit or a chain dragging from a truck) can be carried to a brush pile or a patch of dried weeds, and from there to a building.

New Castle's fire ban is in effect each 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.

- No sale, use or possession of any fireworks.
- 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.

Pyro's "Push It Up" Trail Run, August 15

Pyro's "Push It Up" Race will be run on August 15, starting at 8:30, on the Flat Tops. Runners can sign up for one of three races: 3.5K, 7.7K or 13K. All three races start at the parking lot on Buford Road, 16 miles northwest of New Castle. The trails are described as "rigorous" with roots, rocks and uneven terrain, all at an elevation of 9000 feet. You can also participate with a virtual run.

The race honors Capt. William "Pyro" DuBois, whose F16 plane crashed on December 1, 2014, while he was on duty in the Middle East. A statue in Grand River Park memorializes Capt. DuBois. All proceeds from the race go to the Pyro's Wings scholarship fund, which provides financial support to future fighter pilots. Sign up for the race at <http://pyroswings.com>.



Here are the highlights of the Recreation Department's August offerings. Visit <http://NewCastlerec.com> for a full listing and to register for any program.

Yoga in the Park on Saturdays from August 15 through September 26. Come to Alder Park and join instructor Rachel Keller for an hour of yoga from 8:30-9:30 in the morning. Be sure to bring a yoga mat or towel, and please register in advance. The fee is \$48 for the full six weeks, or \$10 for drop-in.

Family Yoga offers a chance to spend healthy and happy time with the family. Join instructor Rachel Keller at the Community Center on Mondays from 10 to 11 am. Just \$40 for the whole family.

Arts and Enrichment Programs this month include the Pre-School Play Group every Wednesday at 10 am (\$5) and the Kombucha/Chai Tea-making class at the Community Center on August 13 at 6 pm. The cost for the class is \$20.

Project kits: Be sure to sign up for the free project kits, delivered each Thursday.



New Castle

Chamber of Commerce

“Growing Business, Building Community”

Support Your Community - Use Local Vendors - Shop Locally

News from the Chamber

Like everyone else, the Town of New Castle, a Chamber member, has had to maneuver its way through our new Coronavirus world. Fortunately, they've found some innovative ways to do just that! In an effort to keep all its valued employees on board, the town has temporarily reassigned a couple of employees to different departments. Because of this, the Parks Department did not need to hire the seasonal employees they usually do. As a result, no employees have been laid off. Another thing the town has done during this difficult time is to award grants to storefront businesses that have been hit hard by COVID-19. The grants, partially sponsored by the New Castle Chamber, were awarded to eligible businesses that applied by submitting an account of their circumstances. Businesses were eligible to receive a one-time payment of up to \$2000.

On the fun side, you may have noticed the tables scattered around the downtown parks and on Vandeventer Avenue. That's to allow our local restaurants to provide outside seating for their patrons. In addition Town Council passed an ordinance allowing alcoholic beverages purchased at those restaurants to be consumed in those areas. Be sure to visit your favorite restaurants to enjoy a tasty meal and beverage in one of New Castle's beautiful parks. Aside from all that, the town is in the process of building a bulk water station adjacent to the Public Works and Police building. Water haulers will be able to purchase water here in town. Not only will this be a convenience for local haulers, but it also will also provide a new source of income for the town. The bulk water station is partially funded by an FMLD grant. Much of the work is being done by the Public Works Department. The New Castle Chamber is proud to count the Town of New Castle as one of our valued members.

Thursday Vendors on Main Street

This year's Community Market was cancelled, but the town is still providing some limited opportunities for our vendors. Each Thursday afternoon from 4:30 to 6:00, a vendor will be selling food-stuffs or other ware just outside the front entrance to the Community Center. Announcements of each week's vendor will be on the Facebook pages for New Castle Recreation and Visit New Castle.



Town's new bulk water station

New Castle's Climate and Environment Commission

On July 21 the Town Council voted to rebrand the Climate Action Advisory Commission as the Climate and Environment Commission. The name change reflects the actual function of the Commission. The Council also approved an update and revision of their strategic plan.

The plan proposes specific projects under four headings: providing educational programs and outreach; creating opportunities for individual and collective action; transitioning to a more renewable

and energy efficient future; planning for and mitigating climate change and environmental impacts.

The members of the Climate and Environment Commission are Denise Scheberle (chair), Jeanne Huyser, Ines Baquero, Myrna Candria, Jean Brown, Tom Elder and Bruce Leland (Council representative). Commissioners are appointed by the Town Council and serve two-year terms. Meetings are on the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 in Town Hall (unless virtually on Zoom.)

Look for articles by CEC members in future newsletters

Town Council Highlights for July 2020

- Resolution TC 2020-20: Supporting a Grant Application from CDOT for COVID Main Street Revitalization
- Ordinance TC 2020-3: Amending the Code Regarding Uses in the C-1 Zone District
- Approved Hogback Pizza Beer & Wine Liquor License Renewal
- Accepted the 2019 Audit
- Approved a name change for the Climate Action Advisory Commission to: Climate and Environment Commission
- Approved a revision of the 2007 Climate Action Plan
- Reviewed the P&Z Denial of Resolution PZ 2020-7 Regarding a Preliminary PUD Application for Filing 11 in Castle Valley Ranch



A Break in Tradition

The 2020 COVID-19 pandemic has led to countless changes for businesses, governments and events. Long-established traditions have experienced an unwelcome hiatus. Events which would attract large crowds in tight proximity were deemed too dangerous to public health.

In June the Town Council reluctantly agreed to postpone the 2020 Burning Mountain Festival until 2021. (Yes, we all know it's really a cancellation, but "postponed" sounded less dire.) As the county and the state tried to move toward re-opening, COVID-19 cases continued to increase. In mid-July Governor Polis issued his mandatory mask order. The Council's cancellation of the Festival now seems like exactly the right move.

Other 2020 cancellations include the Garfield County Fair, the New Castle Community Market, the Rides and Reggae Trails event and the Dirty Hog dash.

Life Line Screening in New Castle

Life Line screening, the leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will offering screenings at the New Castle Community Center on August 15 and August 17. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to blocked arteries (a leading cause of stroke); abdominal aortic aneurysms (which can lead to a ruptured aorta); hardening of the arteries in the legs (a strong predictor of heart disease); atrial fibrillation (closely tied to stroke risk); and bone density (used to assess the risk of osteoporosis).

Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. To register, call 1-888-653-6441 or visit <http://lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle>.

Protect and Serve

Police departments nationwide continue to be under close scrutiny, and in Colorado, local governments are anticipating the impacts of SB 20-217, which was passed into law in June. The new law mandates the use of body cameras, requires enhanced record-keeping and creates a duty by officers to intervene if they witness the use of excessive force by a fellow police officer.

These rules target problems which the New Castle PD has not faced. Recognizing that, local residents have been calling Town Hall to register their support of our police force. The Town Council also recognizes that Chief Tony Pagni has been highly successful in recruiting, hiring and training an excellent and highly effective cadre of peace officers.

Upcoming Events at Town Hall

- Town Council: August 4, 18 and September 1, 15.
- Planning & Zoning: 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month as needed.
- Historic Preservation Commission: 3rd Monday of the month as

needed.

Climate and Environment Commission: 3rd Thursday of the month as needed.

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



Updates and Enhancements to Coal Ridge Park

Coal Ridge Park (also known as Frank Breslin Park) was New Castle's very first town park. It lies along the south side of the Colorado River, and features a boat ramp and the Fire Mountain Disc Golf Course. This year the Town has the opportunity to bring our oldest park some updates and enhancements.

Thanks to the University Technical Assistance Program at the Colorado Center for Community Development, graduate students from the University of Colorado College of Architecture and Planning are developing plans for a redesign for the park. They will leave the Town in a good position to seek funding to perform the shovel-ready project. Funding for the planning stage is managed by the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA)

As a first step in the planning, the student consultants will be conducting a survey of residents to understand their priorities and wishes. The questionnaire asks responders about the uses they make of the park, how current amenities can be improved, and what new features they would like to see. It is very important for everyone who uses the park to share their ideas and experiences.

The questionnaire will be available online by the beginning of August. We value your opinion, please visit the Town of New Castle website and click on the Coal Ridge Park Survey tab (<https://newcastlecolorado.org>) to have your voice heard. If needed, Town staff will have paper copies available upon request. Call Town Hall at 984-2311 to request a paper copy of the survey.

Coal Ridge Park was developed in 1992, with volunteers, led by Mayor Frank Breslin, performed much of the labor. Breslin served as mayor from 1988 to 1994, and again from 1994 to 2006. He also served as a Town Councilor and Planning and Zoning Commissioner, and as a volunteer firefighter. Following Breslin's death in 2016, the Town Council voted to rename the park in his honor.



Make your voice heard: Complete the survey!

Visit: <https://bit.ly/coalridgeparksurvey>