



Town of New Castle Newsletter

A Monthly Update for Residents

October 2020

Balloting begins in October

Mail-in ballots for the November 3 election will be mailed to all active registered voters on October 9. You can register to vote, check your registration status, or update your information at Go Vote Colorado (govotecolorado.gov). Voters can also call the Garfield County Election Office at 970-384-3700, ext. 2, to confirm registration information.

In September all households received a postcard from the U.S. Postal Service with information that does not apply in Colorado. Voters do not need to request a mail ballot; it will be sent to all active registered voters. And according to the Colorado Secretary of State, ballots should be mailed by October 20, two weeks before Election Day. Timely mailing will assure your ballot is received in time.

Alternatively, voters can deposit ballots by hand to one of the several collection points in the county. In New Castle, a 24/7 secure ballot box will be found in front of Town Hall at 450 W. Main Street. There will be additional drop-off boxes outside the Garfield County Courthouse in Glenwood Springs, the County Administration Building in Rifle, and the town halls in Carbondale, Silt and Parachute. Ballots may also be brought to the east entrance of the County Courthouse during business hours.

Voter Service and Polling Centers will be established in the Glenwood Springs Community Center and South Hall at the Garfield County Fairgrounds. The centers will be open Oct. 19 – Nov. 3: Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 5 pm; Saturday, Oct. 31, 10 am to 2 pm; and Election Day, Nov. 3, 7 am – 7 pm.

New this year is the opportunity to receive notification when your ballot is received in the County Clerk's

office, when it is verified and accepted, and when it is counted. Sign up at <https://colorado.ballottrax.net/voter/>.

This year's ballot will be a long one. Please take the time to work through the entire ballot. Candidates will be elected to the offices of President and Vice President; Colorado Senator and House District 3 Representative; State Senator (senate district 8) and Representative (district 57); State Board of Education member; County Commissioners (two seats); and District Attorney. There are five judges seeking retention.

In addition there are four amendments to the Colorado Constitution and seven propositions on the ballot. Information about all the ballot measures will appear in the election blue book, which will be mailed to all registered voters early in October. Information about the ballot questions can also be found on the Secretary of State's web site (<https://www.sos.state.co.us/>) as well as on partisan web sites devoted to particular issues. It is important to pay attention to these resources, since the language used in some ballot issues can be confusing.

More information can be found on the Garfield County Clerk's site at <https://www.garfield-county.com/clerk-recorder/elections/>.



Register to vote at
govotecolorado.gov.
Mail your ballot by October 20
or take it to a drop box.

Town Support for local businesses

In May 2020, the Town Council authorized a one-time grant program to assist New Castle businesses that were threatened by the COVID-19 closures and restrictions. Eighteen businesses shared in the \$26,000 grant funds. Later in the summer, the Town learned it was eligible for CARES fund reimbursement. A portion of the CARES budget is designated to reimburse local, state and tribal governments.

Many of the Town's businesses had no customers and thus no income in the first weeks of the pandemic closure. Businesses receiving grants from the town reported using the funds to pay rents, mortgages and other bills.

At its September 15 meeting, the Council approved a second round of grants, recognizing that the re-opening of businesses is still restricted, and income is still reduced. The Town staff will contact eligible business owners to invite their participation.



Generation Wild: Join naturalist Jeff for Generation Wild activities on Fridays in October; all programs are at 10 am to noon. Please dress for the fall weather and bring a water bottle.

October 2: Fishing is Fun. As air temperatures drop, water temperatures follow. Join Jeff for a morning of fishing to see if we can capitalize on the fall bite, perhaps with some trout returning from the depths where they spent most of summer. We will have poles, lures, bait and can cater to different ability levels. Participants are welcome to bring their own equipment.

October 16: Nature Scavenger Hunt. We will break into small groups and take a lap around Lion's Pond where we will search for items on the list. We will then re-group and learn about the importance or role of each item on the list.

October 23: Nature Journaling - This activity is about more than drawing a pretty picture-it's about opening up our senses and observational skills. There is no wrong way to make a nature journal page! Non-artists should not be discouraged since we can use words, numbers, and other observations to make our page and Jeff certainly is not the most skilled artist.

October 30: Halloween Art Activities - Create a nature potion, which we will then use to make one wish. With the time remaining we will make leaf ghosts and other Halloween crafts.

Arts and Enrichment

Attention artists of all ages: At the New Castle Community Center, we are painting our old piano. We will transform it from a drab brown into a colorful funky musical piece of art. Contact Kelley at kcox@newcastlecolorado.org if you would like to be part of this project. We will sand, prime and paint on Friday, October 2nd, 11 am until whenever.

Sign up soon for October after-school STEAM classes at the New Castle Community Center on Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:00 to 5:30 pm (grades 1-5). Register soon for October at newcastlerec.com.

Sign up now for October Tuesday Morning Crafts for at-home learners at the Community Center, 9-10:30 am (grades 1-5). Register at newcastlerec.com.

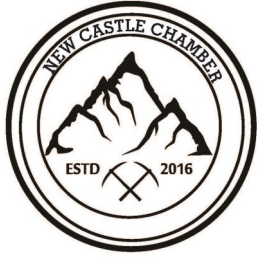
Community Drum Circles: Monday, October 5 – 6:30 pm at Ritter Plaza (New Castle Community Center if it is cold), and Monday, November 2 – 6:30 pm, at the Community Center.

COVID-19 News

- Governor Polis has extended the state-wide mask order through October 12. According to Polis, the use of masks is successfully slowing the spread of COVID-19. As October 12 approaches, watch for further news about the mask order.
- The Pumpkin Patch event at New Castle Gardens has grown in popularity each year. Unfortunately the Pumpkin Patch has been cancelled

this year due to the pandemic.

- In mid-September a case of COVID-19 led to the quarantine of sixty students and several teachers at Riverside Middle School in New Castle. Parents *must* monitor their children for symptoms and resist sending them to school if they are not feeling well. If asked to quarantine, it is important to strictly follow the instructions and be patient as the school tries to protect the interests of all students.



New Castle Chamber of Commerce

“Growing Business, Building Community”

Support Your Community - Use Local Vendors - Shop Locally

Regular readers know that each month the Chamber of Commerce recognizes a different member. This month we'd like to introduce you to New Castle's Pepsi Beverage Company.

The Pepsi warehouse is located on the far east side of town, across from the New Castle Plaza. They are a wholesale business; they don't sell to the public, but when you have a Pepsi, Mountain Dew or any other Pepsi product at 88 Grill, Lakota Grill or other local restaurant, they purchased it from Pepsi Beverage Company.

Just because you can't personally purchase from Pepsi's warehouse doesn't mean you haven't experienced their generosity. Among the groups that Pepsi donates to are Food Bank of the Rockies, the Cub Scouts, Youth Zone, the River Center and all the local schools. They're one of the first to donate their products to a worthy cause.



Main Street Beautification

At their September 1 meeting the Town Council recognized four businesses for their beautification projects, all of which enhance Main Street. The Chamber of Commerce presented the awards. Pictured: Chamber President Siobhan Milholm, Cori and John Webber (88 Grill and Ore House), Diane and Dustin Chapin (Hogback Pizza), Adam and Emily Sampley (LulaMay's Air BnB), Ann Andzel (EAT Bistro), and Mari Riddile, Chamber Secretary and Administrator

Pepsi's warehouse opened in New Castle in 1991. They have many long-term employees including Dave Pugh, who has been with Pepsi for 29 years, Kyle Harrison with 26 years and Siobahn Millholm with 26 years.

Three years ago, the River Center and the Town of New Castle named Pepsi the Volunteer Business of the Year. It's obvious why the Chamber is proud to have the Pepsi Beverage Company as one of our members. We give a big thank you to Pepsi for all they do for our community!



Halloween Challenges

Halloween is supposed to be scary, with plenty of ghosts and monsters; in other words fun scary.

In 2020 the scares are not fun. Any time people are in close contact with others not in their immediate household, there is danger of the COVID-19 virus spreading. Unfortunately close contact is common on Halloween, as kids walk through town in groups, enter houses to have their costumes admired, and then take treats from neighbors and strangers.

The Denver Post reported in mid-September that the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, while not having Halloween-specific guidelines, points to its standing guidelines for holidays and celebrations. Coloradans should wear masks; gather in groups of 10 people or fewer, preferably outside; stay six feet apart from others; avoid risky activities that could lead to exposure; and follow all COVID-19 guidelines.

If guidelines for Halloween are to be issued, it will be closer to the end of October. Watch for news on television, in print or on social media. If there are regulations which affect New Castle, they will be published on the Town web site: www.newcastlecolorado.org.

Town Council Highlights for September 2020

- ◆ Resolution TC 2020-27 – Designating a Communal Outdoor Dining area on 5th Street.
- ◆ Resolution TC 2020-28 – Approving a Conditional Use Permit for a Quilting Studio in the C-1 Zone District.
- ◆ Ordinance TC 2020-6 – Amending the Municipal Code Regarding Preliminary/Final Plans for PUD and Subdivision Development Applications.
- ◆ Proclamation Supporting Library Card Sign-Up Month.
- ◆ With the Chamber of Commerce recognized four downtown businesses.
- ◆ Approved a COVID Temporary Modification of Liquor Premises for 88 Grill.
- ◆ Extended a Temporary Hotel & Restaurant Liquor License for Lakota Grill.
- ◆ Approved a Hotel & Restaurant Liquor License Renewal for 2 Coronas.



Annual Town Clean-up Days

Town clean-up days this year will be October 16 and 17 from 8 am to 3 pm at the Public Works yard at the west end of Main Street. The annual Clean-up day gives residents the opportunity to dispose of items too large or otherwise inappropriate for regular garbage disposal. The event is funded by the Town, so it will be limited to town residents only, with proof of residence (such as a utility bill) required. Commercial trash will not be accepted, and there is a limit of four tires per household. All paint and chemicals must have original labels.



Did you know that.....

- * Daylight Savings ends at 2:00 am on October 31. Remember to turn clocks back one hour.
- * Kids in kindergarten to 5th grade are encouraged to join New Castle Cub Scout Pack 221. For more information contact John Harcourt at bigfishdaddy@hotmail.com or call him at 970-984-0288
- * Tapatio's Mexican restaurant has opened in New Castle Plaza. They are in the space that formerly housed the New Castle Diner.
- * The Climate and Environment Commissioners attended the September 17 community market to distribute information about fire prevention and disaster response. They were joined by Orin Moon from Colorado River Fire Rescue and Greg Bak, from the Glenwood Springs Fire Department. Copies of the materials they distributed are now available at the library.
- * Town Councilor Crystal Mariscal was nominated for the annual Garfield County Humanitarian Award.
- * Health professionals are urging everyone to get a flu shot this year. Flu can be almost as dangerous as COVID-19, with very similar symptoms, and with the COVID bug still unchecked, this is a bad year to get sick with a preventable disease. Shots are available at the City Market pharmacy and in physicians' offices. On October 23, Garfield County Health will give the vaccine in Ritter Plaza from 12 to 2 pm.
- * The Garfield County Library Board of Trustees has a vacancy for a trustee from New Castle to fill the remainder of the term (through 2022). Please volunteer! For details, go to <https://www.gcpld.org/about-us/board-of-trustees>.

Upcoming Events at Town Hall

Town Council: October 3, 20 and November 3, 17.

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.