



# Town of New Castle Newsletter

A Monthly Update for Residents

July 2020

## New Castle Police and SB 20-217

In the closing days of their 2020 session, the Colorado Legislature passed SB 20-217, titled Enhance Law Enforcement Integrity. The death of George Floyd and the responses around the country led to the approval of state-wide regulations for police departments. These regulations include mandated use of body cameras, more record-keeping requirements, and enhanced reporting to state authorities. The bill limits the acceptable use of force by all police officers during arrests and public demonstrations, removes immunity for local law enforcement officers and creates a duty for officers to intervene if they witness the use of excessive force by a fellow police officer.

The New Castle Police Department has practiced community policing for several years, building trust and amity between officers and residents. Additionally, the department has already purchased a sufficient number of body cameras. In these ways they are already ahead of the new regulations. The record-keeping requirements, however, will demand

much more officer time in the police station filling out forms and transferring camera files to a computer. The department clerk will need to conform to the additional reporting rules.

Police Chief Tony Pagni recently briefed the Town Council on the department's preparedness for SB 20-217. Job satisfaction among New Castle officers is high, but under the changing policies found in SB 20-217, towns like New Castle will need to work even harder to recruit and retain the finest officers available. Further, to compensate for time spent in the station writing reports and transferring camera files, an additional officer and clerk may be needed. Likely additional expenses include a new computer and software and additional technical and insurance support.

While the Town is hopeful that the state will provide some funds to help meet the new mandates, the Council recognizes the impending new expenses and will explore options within the 2021 budget.

### Give Blood at Home

The COVID-19 pandemic has slowed blood donations, due in part to social distancing requirements. The medical community has responded with procedures which assure that people can donate safely. New donations are needed urgently.

On Friday, July 31, St. Mary's Medical Center (Grand Junction) will bring its donor bus to New Castle. It will be parked in front of Town Hall from 11 am to 1 pm. Donors will need to sign up for an appointment time at [donor.stmarysbloodcenter.org/donor/schedules/](http://donor.stmarysbloodcenter.org/donor/schedules/). There will only be room for twenty donors, so early sign-up is important.

St. Mary's web site offers this encouragement:

"One in seven people entering the hospital will need blood. You can save the lives of up to three people each time you give blood. Blood donation costs you nothing but your time, and only takes an hour or less!"

### Burning Mountain Festival is Postponed

The 48<sup>th</sup> annual Burning Mountain Festival, scheduled for September 11-13 has been postponed to 2021. The Town Council reluctantly reached this decision in June, anticipating that the COVID-19 virus will still be spreading in our communities. The Burning Mountain Festival typically brings large crowds to Main Street for the Saturday parade and to Burning Mountain Park for music, contests and vendors.

Virus prevention measures include maintaining at least six feet from others and avoiding crowds of 10 or more. Those measures would be impossible to enforce, making the spread of COVID-19 highly likely at the festival.

## Protect Our Neighbors

The state has labeled the third phase of COVID-19 response as “Protect Our Neighbors.” Counties have additional autonomy to impose or relax rules and more activities, such as youth residential camps, can resume with restrictions. If, however, there is a new spike on COVID-19 cases, state can re-impose more restrictive measures.

This stage in re-opening the state is posited on the assumption that people will continue to voluntarily take protective measures. The “Stay at Home” and “Safer at Home” phases were intended to slow the number of COVID-19 cases so that hospitals and clinics did not become overwhelmed. If there is a resurgence of the disease which again taxes the ability of hospitals to cope, a return to stricter rules may be necessary.

The name “Protect Our Neighbors” was deliberately chosen in order to emphasize the purpose of the

voluntary protective measures. Wearing a mask in public, maintaining a distance of 6-10 feet from other people and avoiding crowds will keep others from getting infected by non-symptomatic carriers.

**Update:** The end of June saw frightening spikes in several states, and in Garfield County there were over 80 new cases in the last two weeks of June. Garfield County Health has adopted the motto “More Masks, More Distance, More Business.” In a recent *Post Independent* article, Garfield County Health Director Yvonne Long said “In order for our businesses and our economy to continue operating under current conditions, we are relying on everyone, adults and their children alike, to take personal responsibility so that we can move forward and enter into the next phase.”

Protect your neighbors. Wear a mask. Keep your distance. Avoid crowds. Prevent another shutdown.



July is Parks and Recreation Month, and New Castle Recreation will offer activities each day for the whole month. Go to <https://newcastlerec.com> for the calendar, and keep up to date at Town of New Castle Recreation on Facebook. For more about national Parks and Recreation Month, go to <https://www.nrpa.org/events/july/>.

**Hike Club for Kids:** Beginning Monday, June 29, NCR will offer a Monday morning hike on New Castle trails. Hikers will meet with Recreation Director Hannah Bihr at the designated trailhead at 9 am. The hikes will take approximately two hours. This free program is open to all ages, and parents are encouraged to join in. Kids must register online at [newcastlerec.com](https://newcastlerec.com). FREE!

### Short season of T-Ball and Coach Pitch ball:

Mondays from 5 to 7 pm, July 6-July 27. NC Rec offers skill and scrimmage sessions at VIX field for t-ball (5 and 6 year old) and coach pitch (7 and 8 year old). Players are asked to bring their own equipment: baseball gloves, bats, helmets. Cost \$15.



**E-Sports program:** Mario Kart, Madden 20, Rocket League and more. Go to the Recreation Department page and click on Mission Control.

**Wood Beach Flag:** Tuesday, July 7, 2 pm or Monday, July 13 at the Community Center. Kits will be available for at-home delivery on July 16. Cost \$14.

**Expression Boards:** Friday, July 10, 10 am-noon. Create your own Expression Board (or two), using our seemingly-endless collection of supplies, ages 10 and older. Cost is \$14.

### Playtime for Tots: (ages 5 and younger) is back

Preschool Playtime for Tots is every Wednesday in July, August and September at 10am, we will gather at the New Castle Community Center. Limited to 12 children. Guardians stay and help supervise. On special occasions we will also feature live bunnies for Reading with Rabbits. Please register for the 45 minutes sessions. Cost \$5 (\$7 drop-in fee).



**Children's Yoga and Mindfulness:** Thursdays July 9, 16, 23 & 30. **Ages 6-11** from 9-10am. **Ages 4-5**, with an adult, from 10-10:30am. These summer classes create a supportive and non-competitive community for kids. Led by Children's Mind-Based Yoga teacher Cece Romanyshyn to explore yoga through stories, learn yoga poses and practice mindfulness skills. Students have fun getting strong, balanced and flexible in mind and body. Cost \$25 for all four classes.



# New Castle Chamber of Commerce

“Growing Business, Building Community”

Support Your Community - Use Local Vendors - Shop Locally

## From the Chamber

The Coronavirus has affected us all in one way or another. This month the Chamber is featuring An Exquisite Design Florist, which faced the challenge of being a “nonessential” business during these difficult times.

Dawn Ellis has owned and operated An Exquisite Design in New Castle for close to seven years. The floral shop, located downtown at 303 West Main, Unit A, is a mainstay in our community. Keeping her business open has required a lot of sacrifice and creativity. When Governor Polis announced the shut down in March, Ellis closed her doors and laid off her employees.

At the end of two weeks, after investigating the restrictions, she opened back up, operating the business by herself. Two weeks later, with Easter fast approaching, she brought her employee Rose Starr back on board and the two have been working together since. Business has kept up; in fact Easter 2020 was the best Ellis has seen in years. “I found we are an essential business,” says Ellis. She adds that her customers aren’t able to see their loved ones at holidays, graduations, weddings etc. and want them to know they still care.

Even so the situation has put a strain on the brick and mortar business. Prior to COVID19, An Exquisite Design’s business was up 50% from 2019 and Ellis had anticipated that boom to continue. Instead she is seeing a 20-25% drop. Add to that the

fact that there were no proms or graduations. Perhaps the biggest blow is yet to come. Last year An Exquisite Design did the flowers for 30 weddings. This year she expects 10. Still Ellis perseveres.

While she has only opened up the front room of her delightful shop, they are open Monday from 9-2 Tuesday-Thursday from 9-4, Saturday, by appointment only for weddings. The shop follows the guidelines for businesses, including distancing, masks and sanitizer. One to always find the silver lining, Ellis isn’t complaining. She welcomes the extra time off to spend with her family.

An Exquisite Design will be happy to help you with all your floral needs. They can be reached by phone at (970) 984-2181 or on their website at [www.aflowerforyou.com](http://www.aflowerforyou.com) Please remember that now more than ever is an important time to shop local!



## New Castle’s Community Market Opens July 9

New Castle is happy to announce the New Castle Community Market will be open Thursdays from 4:30 to 7:30 pm, featuring produce, food vendors, and music. The Community Market committee is following Colorado Farmers Market Association guidelines. If anyone is interested in being a vendor, contact Victoria Serna 989-8702.

This year’s Music lineup:

- July 9—Colorado Curry
- July 16—John Noel
- July 23—Dwight Ferrin

July 30—Stone Kitchen (wine sampling)

August 6—Oran Mor

August 13—Jill Cohen

August 20—Smuggler Mountain Boys (wine sampling)

August 27—Guilty Pleasure

September 3—Valle Musico

September 10—Chris Banks

September 17—Zin Zin Band (beer sampling)



## Town Council Highlights for

### June 2020

- Approved a COVID-19 Temporary Modification of the Liquor License for Black Dog Saloon
- Approved a Recreational Trails Agreement with CTS Investments
- Approved a Recreational Trails Agreement with CVR Investors
- Approved Business Assistance Grants for VRBOs
- Ordinance TC 2020-7 – Amending the Application Process for Subdivision and PUD Sketch Plan Applications
- Resolution TC 2020-18 – Adopting a Directory of Fees and Charges
- Resolution TC 2020-19 – Approving a Collaboration Agreement with GarCo and County Municipalities
- Approved a Hotel & Restaurant Liquor License Renewal for EAT Bistro & Drinks



### Why Don't We Do It in the Road?

The Town has closed S. 5<sup>th</sup> Street for patrons of our Main Street restaurants to dine outside. Burning Mountain Park, Ritter Plaza and the Town Hall pocket parks are also available to dining.



Sisters visiting from out of town enjoying Outdoor Dining

## Cancellations and Openings

Events which will bring crowds of people into close proximity have been cancelled, and those opening will do so with restrictions to keep everyone safe. Please obey whatever safety requests are made.

### Cancellations:

- Rides & Reggae
- Garfield County Fair and Rodeo (in-person events cancelled)
- Dirty Hog Dash
- Hogback Hustle Race
- Burning Mountain Festival

### Openings:

- Community Market, Thursdays, 4:30-7:30 pm
- Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers trail building
- Garfield County Public Library-please see website for hours
- Playgrounds (with social distancing)
- Lions Club Yard Sale
- Town Hall is open on a appointment basis.

### Lions Club Yard Sale

The New Castle Lions Club will entertain bargain hunters on Saturday, July 25, from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm. All the Lions Club members will be bringing treasures and promise something for everyone. The sale will be at 402 Jaime Lane. Masks are requested.

The Lions Club collects and re-distributes used glasses, performs vision screenings for New Castle students, funds vision tests and glasses for people in need, serves over 300 at the Community Thanksgiving dinner, cleans two miles of I-70, staffs the Valley View Health Fair, rings bells for the Salvation Army, provides a college scholarship to a local students and collects food for Lift-up.



### Upcoming Events at Town Hall

Town Council: July 7, 21 and August 4, 18.

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 Thursday of the month as needed.

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

Town Hall will be closed July 3 for Independence Day observance.