



Town of New Castle Newsletter

A Monthly Update for Residents

June 2020

A Different Kind of Summer

A year ago, the June newsletter had several articles about events in town. There are very few events left to announce this year. Even as businesses and restaurants open, large gatherings of people are still forbidden, and everyone will still need to actively protect themselves and others.

New Castle Recreation has started virtual gaming leagues, which are proving popular. They are also continuing to offer on-line activities and do-it-at-home craft projects. Team sports will be reintroduced as soon as it is safe to do so.

The Police Department's Bike Rodeo has been cancelled, and the Hogback Hustle 5K race will be postponed to September 12. The popular Dirty Dog Dash, scheduled for July 18, will be rescheduled with

whatever changes are necessary to fit the current guidelines.

The New Castle Community Market will open as soon as the state approves gatherings over fifty. The July 4th Freedom Celebration at Apple Tree has been cancelled, as has the Ritter Plaza Music Series.

The Burning Mountain Festival is still on the calendar for September 11-13, but will be changed if current safety precautions fail to halt the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

A Moving Target: News about the COVID-19 regulations change almost daily. Click on the banner at the top of the Town's web site (www.newcastlecolorado.org) for the latest local updates.

Fire Season is already here

On May 22 a fire erupted a half mile east of I-70 exit 105 in New Castle. Ninety minutes later, a second fire broke out a little further west on 335 Road.

Another fire at Harvey Gap, along with two accidents on I-70, all within three hours, kept Colorado River Fire Rescue crews very busy.

We are experiencing a very dry spring, and New Castle's fire restrictions are in effect. No open fires. No tossed cigarettes. No dragging chains. No fireworks.



Town Council Supports Local Businesses

At its May 5 meeting, the New Castle Town Council approved an emergency grant program to support businesses impacted by the COVID-19 closures. Drawing from its Economic Development budget and other funds, along with a generous donation from the Chamber of Commerce, the Town was able to distribute \$22,500 among the sixteen grant applicants.

The Town Council and staff will continue to support our businesses while at the same time protecting public health.



Town Hall Safer Opening

Starting June 1, Town Hall will be open for limited business on an appointment basis. Appointments may be arranged by phone or email and will be available by request Monday 8 am to 5 pm, and Tuesday – Friday 10 am to 5 pm.

For everyone's safety, Town staff respectfully requests that visitors wear a face covering at all times while visiting Town Hall. Hand sanitizer will be available at the front desk; restrooms will remain closed at this time.

Call (970) 984-2311 to schedule an appointment with an individual staff member. Please schedule at least 24 hours in advance directly with the person you wish to meet with.

Appointments may be made for the following services:

Building & Planning – Town Planner - Paul Smith / Intern Abby Hutchinson – Ext. 108

Inspections - Building Department - Paul Smith / Intern Abby Hutchinson – Ext. 108

Cemetery - Deputy Town Clerk Mindy Andis – Ext. 105

Liquor Licensing - Town Clerk Melody Harrison – Ext. 101

Town Administrator - Dave Reynolds Ext. 100

Recreation - Director Hannah Bihr – Ext. 401

Public Works - Director John Wenzel – Ext. 200

The Police Department is open as usual. Face coverings are required if you're visiting the station. To contact the police department, please call (970) 984-2302.

If you need to pay your New Castle water utility bill, please call during regular business hours for the most efficient service. In-person appointments are typically not needed for simple payment of utility bills. Utility payments may be made using one of the following options:

- ◆ Call (970) 984-2311 during business hours and pay over the phone with your credit/debit card or checking account.
- ◆ Drop your payment in the drop box located to the right of the town hall door.
- ◆ Pay online at Xpress Bill Pay www.xpressbillpay.com



The Hogback Hustle 5K race through New Castle has been postponed. Originally scheduled for July 11, the race will now be run on Saturday, September 12. The race will take place before the Burning Mountain Festival parade.

In other race news, the entire Colorado River Valley Charity Race Series has been cancelled. These races use registration fees to support a variety of charities and non-profits. All

organizations that depend on funds raised by special events will be hurting this year. Please consider an extra contribution to your favorite charity this year.

Go to the New Castle Recreation web site at <https://newcastlerec.com> for an extensive menu of at-home projects and activities. Watch the web site too to learn about.



Did you know that.....

- ◆ The Lakota Grill and Bakery is open to the public in the Lakota Recreation Center.
- ◆ Dustin and John Harcourt are featured in a WestCo Expo video about fly fishing in and around New Castle. Check it out at <https://youtu.be/lknOiu-Mjkk>.
- ◆ The New Castle Branch Library, along with the other Garfield County Libraries, started restoring services on May 11. The library is open for 4 hours each weekday for users to check out books and other materials. Visit www.gcpld.org/covid-19 for updates.
- ◆ The Town received an FMLD grant to build a bulk water station near the Public Works building. This station will allow bulk water customers to easily purchase water from the Town.



New Castle

Chamber of Commerce

“Growing Business, Building Community”

Support Your Community - Use Local Vendors - Shop Locally

From the Chamber:

The New Castle Chamber of Commerce is proud of how well New Castle is weathering the COVID-19 storm, and especially wants to compliment our members on the great job they're doing. Things seem to change weekly and never more so than last week, when Gov. Polis announced the lifting of more restrictions. We'd like to let you know how some of our members will be providing you service. Please note that this information is accurate as of press time, and while we've tried to provide you with correct information, some details may have changed.

2 Coronas, offering a wide selection of delicious Mexican food and specialty cocktails, will be open at 50% of capacity while social distancing. Hours are Tuesday through Thursday from 4 pm -9 pm and Friday through Sunday from 11 am -10 pm. They will be offering their take-out menu at the same times. We're sure you'll enjoy the food and ambiance at New Castle's authentic Mexican restaurant.

88 Grill (formerly Elk Creek Mining Company) will be open from 11 am—10 pm Monday through Saturday and Sunday from 9 am-10 pm. Take-out will be available at the same times. They will be practicing social distancing and operating at 50% capacity while wearing face masks. The wide selection at 88 Grill ensures a perfect meal for everyone.

An Exquisite Design invites you to stop by their beautiful shop where they will be happy to assist you at 50% capacity while practicing social distancing. You can also reach them at www.aflowerforyou.com. AED offers same day delivery from Rifle to Glenwood on orders received by 12 noon. This is the valley's premier award-winning florist. We're so lucky to have them in New Castle.

Hogback Pizza, widely known for their awesome pies, will continue to operate as a take-out only restaurant until the state allows them to open at 100% capacity with no restrictions. We hope that will be soon so that the people from New Castle and beyond can enjoy their pizza while relaxing on Hogback's unique patio.

Speckled Feather Mercantile is both a crafters' paradise and a wonderful gift shop. Their hours are 9 am to 2 pm on Monday, and 9 am to 4 pm Tuesday through Friday. They will be operating at 50% capacity while practicing social distancing, and their employees will be wearing face masks. We're excited to announce that in addition to in-store shopping, Speckled Feather is working towards making the store on-line friendly.

Please make a point to patronize these businesses and spend your money where you live. There has truly never been a more important time to stay home, shop small and shop local!

88 Grill receives MindWise Kindness award

New Castle's MindWise Institute, along with partner Soak-N-Wet Sprinklers, has established the Mindwise Kindness Award to recognize individuals and businesses in and around New Castle that demonstrate kindness and compassion for others.

The 88 Grill (formerly Elk Creek Mining Company) was the inaugural recipient of the award.

The award letter notes, in part, “Your innovative ways of supporting your community during the pandemic have been outstanding. By offering to buy groceries for community members through your restaurant supply chain when the local grocery store shelves were empty, you made a difference for a lot of people.” The letter also notes the restaurant's meal delivery, gift card offerings, and personable customer service.

The MindWise Institute and Soak-N-Wet Sprinklers are owned by Mary and Lonnie Bowles, respectively. They invite community input at www.MindWiseInstitute.com/kindness.

Town Council Highlights for May 2020

- ◆ Held Virtual Council Meetings on May 5 and 19:
- ◆ Approved a revocable license agreement with 88 Grill for use of the public ROW
- ◆ Approved a Professional Services Agreement with Cadfish, LLC
- ◆ Authorized 2 council members to attend Developer Meeting
- ◆ Approved Ordinance TC-2020-5 – Amending Ch. 9.28 and 12.20 of the New Castle Municipal Code
- ◆ Approved a Business Assistance Grant Program
- ◆ Approved a Modification of the H&R Liquor License for 88 Grill for Sidewalk Seating on Town ROW
- ◆ Approved Business Assistant Grants to Town Businesses
- ◆ Signed a Lease Agreement for the Kamm Property
- ◆ Approved a H&R Liquor License Renewal for 88 Grill



This year the annual flag rising ceremony on Memorial Day was closed to the public due to the state regulations on large gatherings. The Local Boy Scout Troop held the ceremony to honor our service members that gave their all.



Coal Ridge High School 2020 Graduating Seniors parade

Photo by Kyle Mills

Safer at Home in June

On May 23, Garfield County officials learned that the state had approved their request to open some venues ahead of the state re-opening. That state re-opening process began just a few days later. There are conditions: Restaurants, places of worship, fitness centers and gyms may reopen with a maximum of 50% capacity, and physical distancing may be required. In order to open, each venue must file a Garfield County Business Social Distancing form with the County Public Health Department.

These limited re-openings do not, of course, mean that the danger of COVID-19 is gone. Rather, the restrictions and conditions for re-opening are intended to further spread of the virus. Anyone in the high risk categories must continue to self-isolate, and others must maintain social distancing. Masks and hand washing are still encouraged.

There are still multiple COVID-19 diagnoses, hospitalizations and deaths, and even with restrictions in place, we will see tourists in Garfield County. And even healthy people can carry the virus to more vulnerable family members and friends. Stay in as much as possible. Avoid crowds. Wear masks. If we're careless about our safety, a second wave of the virus could bring a second shutdown.

Upcoming Events at Town Hall

Town Council— June 2, 16 and July 7, 21.

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.