

Town of New Castle Newsletter

A Monthly Update for Residents

April 2020

**For the latest information on COVID-19 go to
www.newcastlecolorado.org**

New Castle in the Time of Social Distancing

Like the rest of the world, New Castle residents have had to face a new reality: The state is under a stay-at-home order; restaurants are closed for in-house dining; meetings have moved on-line; there are empty shelves at City Market; events we've looked forward to are cancelled; kids are wishing they could be back at school.

This time of forced isolation makes us aware of how important being with other people can be. We are having to find ways to stave off cabin fever: walking more; maybe even jogging; getting spring cleaning done early; sorting those boxes in the attic; re-reading a favorite book; cuddling a pet; checking in on neighbors; starting home improvement projects; talking to someone about how we feel. We need to do everything we can to exercise body, mind and spirit.

The news, whether on TV, in the newspaper or on an internet feed, is pretty uniformly distressing. We can't ignore the news—there is much that we need to know. But a steady barrage of bad news can contribute to the anxiety that we already feel from isolation and fear of the virus.

So: we need to remind ourselves daily to be kind to one another. We need to practice whatever stress-reducing exercises work for us. We need to be patient with ourselves and one another. We need to avoid the temptation to hoard more than we can use. And we need to hang on to the certainty that just as

in other crises, we will get through this.

Finally, we need to say thank you to our police officers, doctors, nurses, firefighters, pharmacists, grocery store employees, utility workers, trash collectors, town staff, truck drivers and everyone else who is helping in any way. And thank you too to everyone who is isolating in order to avoid inadvertently passing the virus to others.

Mental Health Resources

- * Mind Springs Health: 970-945-2583
- * Compass Counseling: 970-945-9841
- * New Awareness Counseling: 970-388-1903
- * Inner Reflections Psychotherapy:
970-620-7220
- * Next Breath Counseling: 970-620-0868

Regional Hotline for COVID-19

- * If you are concerned about exposure to COVID-19 symptoms, call the Aspen to Parachute COVID-19 Community Hotline: (970) 429-6186
- * Register for Garfield County Emergency Notification System: www.garco911.com

Council Declares a Public Health Emergency

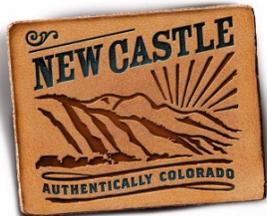
On March 17, ahead of the Governor's stay-at-home order, the New Castle Town Council approved a declaration of a Public Health Emergency and adopted an Infectious Disease Response Plan as a supplement to the Town's Emergency Response Plan.

Town Hall, the Community Center and the Public Works building are all closed to the public. Employees may be working in Town buildings or else from home in order to assure that all Town services are still provided. Residents need to call, rather than visiting Town staff in person. The main Town phone number is 984-2311. All other Town phone numbers can be found on the back page of this newsletter.

Recreation Department programs are on hold. Check [newcastlecolorado.org](http://newcastlecolorado.org/newcastlecolorado.org) regularly for news about restarting classes and activities.

The Town's parks, trails and open spaces are all open, though of course everyone must avoid congregating in groups. Playgrounds are closed per state order.

For current news and links to resources, click on the banner at the top of the Town Web site: www.newcastlecolorado.org.



Please log on to the Recreation Department's web site and/or Facebook page for up-to-date information about classes, team events, activities and special events. We will return to our regular schedule as

soon as we can be sure it's safe to do so. In the meantime: Get outside, everybody. Walk, jog, play with the kids. Now more than ever we need to exercise. [https://newcastlecolorado.org](https://newcastlecolorado.org/newcastlecolorado.org)

When is Open Space not Open Space?

When it's on developable private property.

New Castle residents enjoy many miles of hiking and biking trails throughout the Town. Many trails are in Town-owned parks and open spaces, and the Colorow network is on BLM land. Some popular trails, however, actually cross private property.

The network of trails in the fields between VIX Park and Lakota is popular for hiking, biking and dog-walking. That property, however, is not public open space; the Castle Valley Ranch master plan shows that it will eventually be developed. In the meantime, the owner of this property is willing to allow continued access to some of the trails.

In an effort to protect the property owner, while at the same time allowing access, the Town Council has approved an agreement which maps permitted hiking and biking trails. Continued use will depend on compliance with a few rules that insure protection of private property.

Some rules govern all New Castle trails: No motor vehicles of any type. Pet waste must be picked up. No camping. No fires. No altering the trail or building jumps along the trail.

Additional rules apply when crossing over private property: Trails across private property are open from dawn to dusk. Leaving the designated trail or creating new trails is prohibited. The land owner makes no representation or guarantee about the condition of the property or trails and accepts no liability for any person entering the property. Users of the trails do so at their own risk. All trails across private property are subject to future changes or closures.

The trails covered by this agreement will be marked. Please help maintain our trail systems for future enjoyment by doing your part as a responsible trail user.



New Castle Chamber of Commerce

“Growing Business, Building Community”

Support Your Community - Use Local Vendors - Shop Locally

Greetings from the New Castle Chamber. In the last newsletter we told you how excited we were about holding our first Bingo Night on March 26th. With the current pandemic we've had to postpone those plans. Our hope is to be able to hold the first monthly Bingo Night on Thursday, April 23rd, but of course those plans will be contingent on the circumstances at that time and will have to be reevaluated closer to that date.

In other news, the Chamber held a ribbon cutting on February 29th for the 88 Grille (formerly Elk Creek Mining Company) in conjunction with their grand opening celebration. Owners John and Cori Weber and Nicole Moore continue to bring you the quality food and service you've grown accustomed to, but now in a '80's style dining concept. The menu offers some old favorites as well as delicious new choices. Be sure to stop in for some take-out during this time.



The Chamber is so proud of New Castle vendors who have stepped up to support our community and each other during this challenging time. From restaurants offering to-go meals and groceries that sometimes can't be found at City Market, to our local Florist putting buckets of flowers out free for the community to take to brighten their environments, to take and make craft projects delivered curbside – the list goes on and on. One of our liquor stores is even holding a weekly contest asking for pictures of residents patronizing our various businesses. None of this is surprising to those of us who call New Castle home. We've always known this is a special place to live.

During this time of suggested social distancing, the Chamber office will be closed. Please call Administrator, Mari Riddle at 970-948-0061 with any questions or help you may need. And please, please – follow the suggested guidelines and be safe!



Temporary sales tax holiday for tobacco and nicotine products

On January 1, the voter-approved local tax on cigarettes and tobacco products took effect. The ballot language had asked approval to raise \$65,000 in 2020.

The collection of this tax in January and February made it evident that it would raise considerably more than the \$65,000 which had been authorized. If the town had continued to collect this tax, it would have needed to find a way to refund or credit excess amounts back to taxpayers, which would be very difficult.

Accordingly, in March the Town Council approved a temporary sales tax holiday on the collection of the new cigarette and tobacco tax. The Town has notified retailers and is working with them to make this temporary adjustment. The Town has also requested that the vendors continue monthly tracking and reporting related to the sale of these items during sales tax holiday.

Beginning in 2021 and in future years, under the approved ballot question, the Town will be able to retain all the revenue from this tax. As approved, these funds will be used to support community health, wellness and youth programs.

Town Council Highlights for March 2020

- * Resolution Tc 2020-10 – Approving a conditional use permit for property in the R-1 zone district
- * Approved special event liquor licenses for Rides & Reggae

Councilors Crystal Mariscal, Graham Riddle and Grady Hazelton will take the oath of office at the April 21 Council Meeting.

It's Time to Fill out the Census Form

April 1 is the official census day. That means it's the date on which the population data is measured. The Census form wants to know how many people lived in your house/apartment on that day. A person who moved out in March, or a baby born on April 2 are not counted.

April is also the month in which the U.S. Census Bureau wants to receive responses. If you do not respond, a census worker will follow up in person.

The mailing that was sent to all households in March has a Census ID number that you will need to enter on the census form. That number will also appear on any reminder mailings you receive. If you lost the mailing, or if you did not receive it, you can still get your Census ID number. Go to the website at my2020census.gov. Below the login button, there is a link labeled "If you do not have a Census ID, click here."



Support Local Restaurants	
* 2 Coronas: 984-0351, carry-out and delivery	* Hong's Garden: 984-3298 carry-out
* 88 Grill: 984-0828, carry-out and delivery	* Lazy Bear: 984-2327 carry-out
* EAT Bistro & Drinks: 984-7330 carry-out	* McDonald's: 984-3332 drive-thru
* Hogback Pizza: 984-3435 carry-out	* Subway: 984-3361 carry-out
	Groves' Black Dog Saloon has temporary closed

Help Wanted

While everyone is at home, think of a theme for this year's Burning Mountain Festival, September 11 & 12, 2020. Email it to Debbie Nichols at dnichols@newcastlecolorado.org.



Town Phone Numbers:

Town Hall 984-2311
Fax: 984-2716
Town email: info@newcastlecolorado.org
Website: www.newcastlecolorado.org

Police Non-emergency: 984-2302
Building Department: 984-2311
Public Works Department: 984-0669
Recreation Department: 984-3352
Police, Fire, after hours water/sewer emergency: 911

Upcoming Events at Town Hall

Town Council— April 7, 21 and May 5, 19.
Planning & Zoning-7 pm, 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month as needed.
Historic Preservation Commission-6:30 p.m. on the 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.