



Town of New Castle Newsletter

A Monthly Update for Residents

December 2018

The Holidays Come to Main Street

Thank you to the Public Works department, volunteers and local businesses who have created the seasonal atmosphere on Main Street. On November 30, at the annual Chili Cook-off, the tree in Burning Mountain Park was lit by Mayor Riddle, joining the streetside light display.

The Downtown Alliance arranged the decorations in Liberty Park. Local artist Bonnie Daniels created and donated the snowmen, trees, gingerbread man and penguin. She was assisted by Kevin Freed, Pat English, Carl Maulbetsch, Dudley Blaylock and Jared Steuber.



New Castle Mayors Meet

Last year Mayor Art Riddle and his wife Mari met the Lord Mayor of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England. In October they extended their good will travels to Neuberg (translated Newcastle) in Germany. Pictured are Neuberg mayor Bernard Gmehling, the Riddles and Gmehling's assistant, Walter Friemel. They are standing in front of Neuberg's city hall, which is named the Rathaus, or Rat House. It is rumored that the New Castle Town Council will consider renaming our Town Hall.

Join the Downtown Alliance

Several years ago a small group of volunteers gathered to plan and execute a clean-up of Main Street. They continued to meet and work on downtown improvements, including the creation of the Museum on the Streets historical markers, the development of Liberty Park and the introduction of Music in Ritter Plaza.

Previously referred to as "The Downtown Group," these volunteers have formally adopted the name "Downtown Alliance." They invite all residents and businesses interested in continuing the improvement of the downtown district to join.

The Downtown Alliance meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month, at 4:00, in the Town Hall Conference Room. Because the fourth Tuesday in December is Christmas Day, the next meeting will be on January 22. Mark your calendars now!



Utility Rates to Increase

The New Castle Town Council will adopt the budget for 2019 in December, covering both the General Fund and the Utility Fund. The General Fund is used for most Town expenses, such as the Police Department, street maintenance, parks, recreation, etc. It is funded by taxes and fees.

The Utility Fund is an enterprise, meaning that it functions as a business, operating the water and sewer systems and garbage collection. Like other businesses, it depends on payment for services, which are charged in the monthly utility bills.

The 2019 budget includes adjustments in the water, sewer and trash service base rates. The increases will assure that the utility fund can cover basic oper-

ations, future repairs and capital improvements.

The base rates for utility services will increase as follows:

Water service base rate increase: \$4.37

Sewer service base rate increase: \$7.89

Trash service base rate increase: \$ 3.35

There will still be a senior discount and a surcharge for out-of-town water clients. Full details of the increase will be in the January utility bill and on the Town website.

The rate increase will be effective January 1, and will appear on the February 1 bill.

Firework Display for New Year's Eve

There will be a fireworks display, viewable from downtown, on December 31 at 10 pm. It was too dry on Fourth of July, so we'll enjoy the fireworks as we welcome in the New Year.



Founders Day Lunch on February 9

Founders Day is New Castle's annual celebration of our 130-year-long history. Everyone is invited to the Community Center on Saturday, February 9, for lunch and a celebration of the early settlers who built New Castle. There will be more details in January newsletter.

Did you know that.....

- * The New Castle Lions Club, joined by other volunteers, is collecting for the Salvation Army at City Market.
- * 37,414 ballots were mailed out by Garfield County in the November election. 24,564 were returned, a 65.65% participation rate.
- * The New Castle Trails Winter Conference is scheduled for February 15.
- * New Castle Lions Club served 209 meals at the annual Thanksgiving dinner in November.
- * Business license applications are due January 1.



Kids Christmas Craft Club (Ages 7-12): Tuesdays, December 4– December 18, from 4:30 to 5:45 pm. Join Kelley each Tuesday to make fun holiday themed crafts.

Cost: \$35 for three classes or \$15 per class.

Finger Knitting Class (Ages 8 to Adult): Monday, December 10, 4:30 to 6 pm. Come learn how to finger-knit a beautiful plush scarf. Cost: \$15.00; must register online by Dec. 6.

Chile Rellenos Cooking Class: Friday, December 7, 6-8 pm at the Community Center. Cost: \$25.00/per person; \$40.00 per couple.

Women's Only Self Defense and Safety Workshop (ages 12 to adult): Saturday, December 15th from 9 am to noon. The class will cover situational awareness, verbal



de-escalation, basic ground defense and simple defense techniques. Offered by Checkmate Martial Arts West (www.checkmatewest.com).

Junior Titans Basketball Camp (Grades 3-8): January 2-4, 2019, from 10am to noon, at Coal Ridge High School. Learn the fundamentals of basketball from Coal Ridge coaches and players. Open to boys and girls. Cost \$40.

Nuggets Skills Challenge (Ages 7-14): Saturday, January 19 at Coal Ridge High School. This competition allows youngsters to showcase dribbling, passing, and shooting. Top scorers from each age group advance to a sectional competition. Free, but pre-registration required.

Hike with Hannah: Saturday, December 22 at 6:30 pm. Full moon trek along the Colorow Trail. Meet at the VIX Ranch Park trailhead at 6:30 p.m. Adults.





Dates to Put On Your 2019 Calendar

February 9 - Founders Day
February 15 - New Castle Trails
Winter Conference
July 20 - Dirty Hog Dash

**CHRISTMAS AT
RITTER PLAZA
MUSIC SERIES**

Free Photos w/ Santa Claus
Free Snacks and Hot Cocoa
Free Live Music by
"Amy Mathesius"

Alcoholic
Hot toddies &
Wine for purchase.

December 14th
When: 6:00-8:00pm
**Where: Downtown New Castle
Ritter Plaza**

PosterMyWall.com

Last Ritter Plaza Music of 2018

The final Ritter Plaza Music event of the year will be on Friday, December 14, from 6:00-8:00 pm. The featured performer will be Amy Mathesius. Santa Claus will be there for photos, and there will be free snacks and hot cocoa, along with adult beverages for purchase.

New Castle

Chamber of Commerce

"Growing Business, Building Community"

**Support Your Community - Use Local Vendors
Shop Locally**

If you were lucky enough to have your child's picture taken with Santa on Friday, December 1st at the annual Tree Lighting/Chili Cook-Off, you have two of our newest Chamber members, Alisha Riddile and Emily Hodge, to thank. They sponsored the Pictures with Santa.

Alisha Riddile, with Roaring Fork Sotheby's International Realty, separates herself from the pack with her unique experience in Human Resources. Becoming interested in all aspects of real estate when she and husband Graham bought their first home in 2014, she began studying through the Colorado Real Estate School. Helped by her background and education in Marketing and Communications, Riddile is passionate about working with people and finds great satisfaction in counseling her clients on what can be the largest purchase of their lives. She uses past experience and education in Marketing and Communications to support her clients by accurately discerning their needs and finding financially responsible investments. Riddile specializes in helping everyone from first time homebuyers to experienced investors at every price point. Alisha can be reached at 970-444-2BUY or alsha.riddile@sir.com.

Emily Hodge is the owner of Simply Blessings Photography. She specializes in taking pictures of newborns, children and families. She strives to take natural photos, steering away from posed pictures when possible. Hodge's interest in photography was spurred on when her four year old daughter was born and she wanted better, more professional photographs of her. Her unique talent spread by word of mouth to friends and friends of friends and Simply Blessings Photography was born. Four months ago her business expanded to the point that she opened a studio at 240 W. Main in New Castle. Hodge earned first place in the photography category of the People's Choice Awards in 2018. You can reach Simply Blessings Photography at 970-366-7809 or simplyblessingphotography@gmail.com

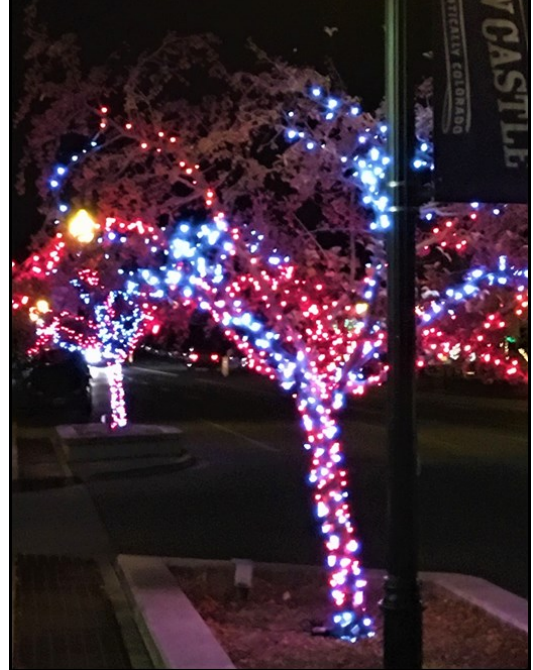
Holiday Lighting Contest

The New Castle Garden Club encourages residents to go all out for the holidays. Members will tour the town on December 20 and 21 in order to select prize winning light displays. There will be prizes for each of the three major areas of town—Old Town, Castle Valley and Lakota. No entry form required—just turn on your lights!



Town Council Highlights for November 2018

- * Resolution TC 2018-23, Approving a Conditional Use Permit for an Accessory Dwelling Unit
- * Resolution TC 2018-24, Approving a Directory of Fees and Charges
- * Approved Grants to Outside Agencies
- * Ordinance 2018 E-2, Approving an Increase in Water & Sewer Rates
- * Heard a presentation from Garfield Clean Energy
- * Heard an update from Dr. Lauren Roper on the MAD Bike Race (Cyclocross)
- * Approved Renewal of Grove's Black Dog Saloon Hotel & Restaurant Liquor License
- * Approved Renewal of Feather Petroleum (Stop N Save) 3.2% Off Premises Beer Liquor License
- * Resolution TC 2018-25 – Approving Signers on Bank Accounts



Trees on Main street lit up for the holidays

The Benefits of Volunteering

With the new year just around the corner, it's time to resolve to give back to the Town. We have many great volunteer opportunities in New Castle.

Do you know what volunteering does for you? Our current large cadre of volunteers report their feelings of satisfaction from helping and the joy of working with others. And there's more: Volunteering can help save resources; it can provide professional experience; it strengthens the community; it offers

learning opportunities; it encourages civic responsibility. And it looks great on job applications!

Volunteers can build the trails they will use with New Castle Trails; they can help those in need with the River Center; they can use their green thumbs with the Garden Club; they can help improve the town with the Downtown Alliance and the Lions Club; they can preserve our history with the Historical Society; they can provide business support with the Chamber of Commerce. They can make a difference everywhere.

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—December 4, 18 and January 15
Planning & Zoning-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.

Town Hall will be closed on December 25 for Christmas day. Town Hall will be closing at 12 noon on December 24 and December 31 and be closed on January 1 for New Year's day.