



TOWN OF NEW CASTLE

Newsletter

A QUARTERLY UPDATE FOR CITIZENS

December 2012

www.newcastlecolorado.org

Town Administrator takes the helm

On Tuesday, August 14th, the New Castle Town Council appointed Tom Baker as the Town Administrator. Baker assumed his new position on September 14th, and has been a familiar figure in Town Hall and around New Castle ever since.

Baker brings a wealth of civic experience with him to New Castle. Most recently he has been a consultant to several local initiatives, including Garfield Clean Energy, CLEER, Aspen Valley Land Trust, and West Slope Compressed Natural Gas Collaborative. Prior to that he served as a Town Manager for two area communities: Carbondale from 2004-2011 and Basalt from 1998-2004. He has been working in the Garfield/Pitkin area since 1984.

Baker's approach with both towns and community groups is to work toward community-based solutions to challenging public policy projects and issues. He believes in gathering ideas and proposals from citizens and analyzing economic, environmental, social and physical factors in order to achieve community consensus. Baker explained: "My management



*New Town Administrator,
Tom Baker*

approach strongly favors collaboration, both internally with my colleagues and with the community. In both my public and private work I have used my skills as a facilitator and knowledge of collaboration to help elected officials and the community work through challenging issues in a manner that empowers all parties. I have learned that if you share power you can gain control of an issue or problem."

He added: "Over the past twelve years, economic volatility has been a major concern for elected officials. During the two most recent economic challenges, the tech bubble rupture and the credit/debt/housing bubble collapse, I worked with elected officials to successfully navigate the economic turmoil." He has already been hard at work with the New Castle Economic Advisory Committee and the Town Council to promote economic growth in New Castle.

The Council and staff joins New Castle citizens in welcoming Tom Baker to town; they look forward to working with him and drawing on the extensive cache of experience he brings to the community.

I-70 intersection improvements planned

The Town of New Castle is well on the way toward constructing a pedestrian bridge and a roundabout at the I-70 interchange. The planned pedestrian bridge will cross the railroad tracks, the highway and the Colorado River. The present bridge is too narrow to allow a pedestrian lane, and the Town Council has long sought a solution to the problem.

During the planning process the Council realized that it would be economical to make improvements to the Highway 6 and Castle Valley Boulevard intersection at the same time. It was determined that a roundabout would be safer, would move traffic more efficiently, and would cost less than a traffic signal.

New Castle celebrates 125 years

First known as Chapman, then Grand Buttes, the Town Of New Castle was officially incorporated on February 2, 1888. The year 2013 marks the Town's 125th anniversary.

The original settler at the confluence of Elk Creek and the Colorado River was Jasper Ward, who built his log cabin in 1883. The vast coal deposits in the Grand Hogback were soon discovered and the town grew very quickly. During the 1890's as many as 2500 people lived in town, including miners, their families, and the business workers and entertainers who served them.

After three explosions in the Vulcan Mine,

coal production ended in 1918. For the next seven decades the town's population remained at 700-800, until the development of Castle Valley Ranch, and later Lakota Canyon Ranch, made New Castle once again a fast-growing town.

The current 4500 residents will celebrate the 125th anniversary at events sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, the Town Council and staff, the Historical Society, the Historic Preservation Commission, the Lions and other civic organizations.

The first planning meeting was held in early December. Watch for announcements of volunteer opportunities and celebration events.



Licenses due

All town licenses must be renewed by January 15. Business, contractor, electrical contractor and dog licenses may be paid in Town Hall, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dog licenses require proof of rabies vaccination.

Support New Castle - Shop locally

1. Dollars you spend locally support vital public services in our town and county.
2. Your community is unique, and our one-of-a-kind businesses are an integral part of our town's distinctive character.
3. You can build a relationship with your local merchants. They can get to know you, and cater to your preferences.
4. Local merchants care about and invest in your community. They donate part of your dollars back to local groups and charities.



5. Your local purchases support local jobs.
6. When you shop at one local merchant, you're supporting a whole host of other business. Banks, restaurants and other business cluster

around our local shops.

7. Local shops are more accessible for everyone. This is especially important for elderly, vulnerable and young people and those without transportation.

8. You save money by shopping at home. You drive less, save time, and you'd be surprised how often the retail prices are lower too.

9. You can reduce your environmental impact by cutting out those long drives to neighboring cities.

10. Your purchases help the town attract new entrepreneurs and skilled workers. Towns that preserve their one-of-a-kind businesses and distinctive character are more successful in recruiting.

Message from the Utilities Department

If you live on the northwest side of Castle Valley Ranch, you will have seen that the utilities crew has been busy this last quarter repairing water line leaks. The crew has repaired seven leaks in three months. The leaks we are finding have been in the service lines, the 5/8 inch pipes that bring water from the main line into the home.

The problems have been with polybutylene service lines. Polybutylene is a form of plastic resin that was used extensively in the manufacture of water supply piping from 1978 until 1995. Due to the low cost of the material and ease of installation, polybutylene piping systems were viewed as "the pipe of the future" and were used as a substitute for traditional copper piping. We are finding that the



leaks were caused by improper bedding of the service line and not line failure.

Water leaks are labor intensive and costly to repair, and when we shut off the water to repair the leak, the disruption of service is very inconvenient. We repair water leaks as quickly as possible to save on water loss and possible property damage. If you notice water coming out of the street or suspect a leak, please give call 984-2311 and we will inspect it. Citizens are our eyes and first line of defense in identifying water leaks.

With cold weather coming in, remember to blow out your irrigation lines and insulate your outside faucets from freezing.

Your utility crew works hard to provide you with water and wastewater service, If you notice them working on a line repair please slow down in the construction zone to provide a safe work area.

Message from the Colorado River Fire District

My name is Orrin Moon; I am the Fire Marshal of the Silt and New Castle area for the newly formed Colorado River Fire Rescue. Many of you know that Burning Mountains Fire Protection District and Rifle Fire Protection District have joined together to provide fire, rescue and EMS response. This new organization is called Colorado River Fire Rescue.



I would like to spend some time talking about smoke detectors. We all know that you should change the batteries in your smoke detectors when the clock changes, or at least once a year. If you haven't changed batteries during 2012, I would like to encourage you to do so now.

The smoke detectors in the majority of newer homes are powered by electricity and also have a battery to operate the detector if the power goes out. Having the detectors hardwired causes all of them to go off if one detects smoke.

Most smoke detectors are designed to alert the occupants with a short beep or a chirp when the battery needs to be changed. If you have heard a beep or chirp in your house, you should look for the detector with a solidly shining light to determine which battery needs to be changed.

Smoke detectors are designed to be replaced every 10 years. Your detectors should have a manufacturer's date on the back; any which are dated before 2002 should be replaced. If you are having problems with your smoke detectors or you don't have any working smoke detectors, please call me at 984-3157 with any questions.

Town Council Highlights: August, September, October 2012

- Appointed Steve Rippy to Historic Preservation Commission
- Appointed Virginia Erickson to Historic Preservation Commission
- Approved Ordinance 2012-3 – Amending the Municipal Code to include a provision for the extension of vested rights in certain circumstances
- Hired Tom Baker as the new town administrator
- Approved a special event liquor license for Burning Mountain Festival
- Applied for and received grants from the Federal Mineral Lease District for improvements to the I-70 interchange, and for purchase of an additional police vehicle
- Recognized Town staff members for their years of service to the Town of New Castle: Chris Sadler 17 years, Lyle Layton 13 years, Mindy Andis 11 years, Jerry Grunski 10 years, JuLynn Saunders 8 years, Betsey Ridlon 6 years, Kim Rider 5 years, Tim Cain 5 years, Justin Mayfield 5 years, Wendy Mead 5 years, John Wenzel 5 years, Tim Klintworth, Charles Butcher and Melody Harrison 2 years
- Issued a Proclamation honoring Cub Scout Pack 225 for exemplifying citizenship and service
- Declared Conflict Resolution Month
- Honored Grace Vandevender and Kayla Warren for their extraordinary acts of helpfulness and care during an emergency situation
- Extended a conditional use permit for Lakota Canyon Golf Clubhouse
- Approved a waiver of fees for conditional use permits for one year
- Approved a tavern liquor license for the Silver Club Saloon
- Received the 2013 proposed town budget



Cub Scout Pack 225 marching in Coal Ridge Homecoming parade



The Winter 2012 Activity Guide for December 1012 - April 2013 is available at the Community Center or by going to: www.newcastleec.org

Upcoming at Town Hall

Town Council – December 4th, 18th, January 2nd, 15th, February 5th, 19th, March 5th, 19th

Planning & Zoning Commission – January 9th, 23rd, February 13th, 27th March 13th, 27th

Historic Preservation Commission – 6:30 p.m. third Monday of month as needed

Parks, Open Space & Trails – first Monday of month as needed

Municipal Court – 9 a.m. 2nd & 4th Mondays of month

NOTE: Town Hall will be closed at noon on December 24th, 25th for Christmas, noon on December 31st and January 1st for New Years, February 18th Presidents' Day

Town Hall: 984-2311 · fax: 984-2716
Town e-mail: info@newcastlecolorado.org
Website: www.newcastlecolorado.org
Police, fire, after hours water/sewer emergency: 911

Police non-emergency: 984-2302
Building Department: 984-2311
Public Works Department: 984-0669
Recreation Department: 984-3352