



FRUITA
COLORADO

CityLink

www.fruita.org • summer issue 2017

What to do with Mountain Water

Did you know that the City of Fruita owns land, water rights, and a water supply system on Piñon Mesa, south of Glade Park? These assets are an important part of Fruita's history, but the future of maintaining mountain water is unclear. Before any decisions can be made, the City would like to make sure that residents understand the background of what the City owns and get feedback on this important issue.

The City of Fruita is uncertain about the sustainability of continuing to maintain the mountain water and land assets and would like your input as a long-term plan is developed. On average, the City expends approximately \$90,000 per year for maintenance of the mountain water system.

In addition to this annual cost, over the past 10 years, the City has expended over \$1 million on major repairs to dams. The City currently faces another \$1 million project to repair another dam at one of the reservoirs. Considering the City only owns 240 shares of water rights on Piñon Mesa that are inacces-

sible within the City limits and compared to the 2,400 unused city-owned shares that are accessible and usable within the City, this is a very important decision to make moving forward.

The City exists to provide necessary core services to residents and businesses in the community. As an organization, the City is focused on aligning resources and time to provide high quality services while impacting and increasing the level of quality of place, economic health and lifestyle of the Fruita community.

The City will be hosting an open house on Friday, June 2, from 4:00 – 6:00 pm in the old DMV room of the Civic Center (first room on right when entering the south entrance) just prior to the night activities of the Mike the Headless Chicken Festival. We invite you to join us to learn more about our mountain water rights and properties and so we may gather input from Fruita residents on the assets owned by the City of Fruita on Piñon Mesa. Please consider attending, listening and sharing your thoughts on this important matter. 🗳️

Then & Now



Mountain Water Then & Now

Land and water rights were acquired by Fruita starting in the late 1800s to provide drinking water to the Town of Fruita through a hand-built, wood pipeline that was completed in 1907, with the help from people like John Otto and Addison McCune. As the Town grew, the water system grew with it. By the 1980s, the City of Fruita owned four reservoirs, roughly 30 miles of pipelines, nearly 300 acres of land, and a water treatment plant. Ultimately, this was not enough to keep up with the growing needs of the community and the Town entered into an agreement with Ute Water in 1983 to be the domestic water provider for Fruita.

Knowing that water resources in the western United States were limited, the City of Fruita decided to retain the water rights and continued to maintain portions of the water system. The biggest challenges in maintaining the water system were related to the water treatment plant and the pipeline through the Colorado National Monument. This, along with the unlikely ability for future use of the

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Fruita City Council If calling City Hall at 858-3663 does not answer your questions, please feel free to contact any of your City Council Members.



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water rights in the City limits, resulted in the City only maintaining reservoirs and the pipeline south of the Colorado National Monument where it is currently used for irrigation water in the Glade Park area.

The City continues to maintain the mountain reservoirs and land. After the water was no longer being used for drinking water, the City opened up the reservoirs and some of the properties for public recreational uses in an effort to maximize the use of these resources. Most of the properties are surrounded by U.S. Forest Service properties and allow for dispersed camping, picnicking, hiking, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, mountain biking, and ATV trails. The only reservoir not within the National Forest area is Enochs Lake, which is surrounded entirely by private properties. The Enochs Lake property has been open

for public recreational use at various levels since 1990. The City gradually developed designated campsites over time and provided vault toilet and trash services for a number of years in an effort to better manage the site for recreational users. Unfortunately, managing this isolated property (completely surrounded by private property owners) as a developed campground became too much of a strain on the City's resources and a disturbance to its private neighbors, and the City decided in 2016, to allow restricted day use only recreational activities. For those who have not visited the Fruita Reservoirs or the Fruita Division of the national forest, we encourage you to do so. The Fruita Division of the national forest is located just over an hour's drive south of Fruita and boasts over 7,300 acres of mountain properties with activities for those who enjoy the outdoors. 📍



**What's in a Name —
Snooks Bottom**

Snook's Bottom near Fruita was named after William "Billy" Snook. Snook was born around 1852 in Onondago County, New York. He married Mary Young in New York State in the 1870s, and they had four children. In about 1879, he shot a man over a "horse thieving" incident, and fled alone to Colorado. Once there, reportedly without bothering to divorce his first wife, he married Clara Z. Park in 1883 and started a new family. He and his new family farmed at Snook's Bottom, which still bears his name.

To see more photos of Fruita's past and learn out more about our community's colorful history, we invite you to follow Historical-FruitaPhotos on Facebook. 📱

**Annual Notice to all Fruita Residents:
Properties are to be Maintained Free of Weeds**

Please help maintain our beautiful small town atmosphere by removing weeds and keeping the city weed free. Many people don't realize that pursuant to Chapter 8.04 of the Fruita Municipal Code, failure to meet the requirements of the Weed Ordinance is a non-criminal municipal offense which can result in a mandatory court appearance and a possible fine. Non-compliance could also result in the City of Fruita cutting and removing the weeds and filing a lien on the property for those costs incurred. Here is what you need to know:

Cut weeds 12" in height or higher to the ground and remove them:

- From the entire property where you live or conduct business
- From your back property line to the centerline of the alley
- Along the street adjoining all sides of your property between the property line and the curb line and/or sidewalk. If there is no curb line, then cut to within ten feet of the pavement. This includes the weeds outside of your fence to the curb line.
- Including all noxious weeds, like the puncture vine (goat heads), which should be sprayed with herbicide and removed when dead

Keep in mind:

- If you spray any weeds with herbicide, all dead vegetation must be removed.
- Keep irrigation ditches and easements free of weeds and debris.
- All weeds and brush must be properly disposed of by bagging, bundling, placing in trashcans or hauling to the Mesa County Compost Facility.

For additional information, questions, or to report a big weed issue contact Code Enforcement at 858-0763 or via e-mail at mangelo@fruita.org. 📱

Leadership changes at the Police Dept



Judy Macy retired from serving as Fruita Police Chief in early April. Judy had spent three years as Chief, and 15 total years with the department.

Judy began her career in Fruita in 2002 as a Sergeant, having spent the previous 14 years at the Douglas County Sheriff's Office. Prior to that,

Judy was an engineer with the Rio Grande Railroad. Judy was promoted to Chief after serving as Lieutenant with former Chief Mark Angelo. When Mark retired in 2014, Judy was the natural choice to take the department's helm. Chief Macy's leadership and service to the community is greatly appreciated.

With Judy's retirement and the retirement of Officer Gary Younger, there are changes taking place. An internal assessment process took place to find Judy's replacement. Several panels, including local law enforcement executives, community representatives, and Fruita Police Department staff led to the City Manager appointing Fruita Police Department Lieutenant Dave Krouse to Police Chief upon Judy's departure, with the approval of the Fruita City Council.

Several panels, including local law enforcement executives, community representatives, and Fruita Police Department staff led to the City Manager appointing Fruita Police Department Lieutenant Dave Krouse to Police Chief.

Chief Krouse has served in law enforcement for over 20 years, beginning his police career with the Fruita Police Department in 1995. In 1998, Dave was hired

by the Grand Junction Police Department, where he held positions as a Patrol Officer,

Hostage Negotiator, Crime Prevention Officer, and Public Information Officer. He served over 12 years as a Sergeant with the Grand Junction Police Department where he supervised several Patrol teams before being assigned to the Professional Standards Unit where he worked Internal Affairs, Training, and Recruitment and Hiring. He also served as the department's liaison to the Western Colorado Peace Officers Academy at Western Colorado Community College. He then became the Sergeant overseeing the School Resource,

Homeless Outreach, and Community Advocacy programs at the GJPD before being hired as the Lieutenant at the Fruita Police Department in 2014. Dave holds a bachelor's degree in Sociology/Criminology from Colorado State University – Pueblo, and a Master's degree in Psychology from Northcentral University, and also serves as an adjunct instructor in the Criminal Justice Program at Colorado Mesa University. Dave attended Fruita Middle School and is a 1991 graduate of Fruita Monument High School.

With Dave's promotion from Lieutenant to Chief, another opportunity opened up for promotions within the department. Four internal candidates competed for promotion, again being assessed by panels made up of law enforcement leaders, community members, and department employees. Nick Peck, who had been serving as a patrol supervisor with the department was selected to be promoted Lieutenant. Lt. Peck was hired with the Fruita Police Department along with former Chief Macy in 2002.

Prior to that, he worked for the Mesa County Sheriff's Office in the records and detentions sections for three years. He

has enjoyed multiple collateral duties as a police officer such as Taser and Intoxilyzer instructor. The greatest assignment would be serving as a Field Training Officer, teaching new recruits the necessary skills needed to work in law enforcement.

As the domino effect continued, Nick's promotion created the opportunity to select an officer to serve as a patrol supervisor. Officer Garrett Henderson was promoted to Corporal in mid-April. Corporal Henderson was born and raised in Hotchkiss, Colorado, and attended Western State College following his graduation from Hotchkiss High School. He attended the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Academy at the Delta-Montrose Vocational Technology



School in 2000. The day after graduation, he began his law enforcement career with the Cedaredge Police Department. In 2003, He joined the Buena Vista Police Department, where he achieved the rank of Sergeant. In 2007, Garrett joined the Mesa County Sheriff's Office. While with the MCSO, he became part of the Mesa County Sheriff's Office Street Crimes Unit and in 2014 became a Complex/Property Crime Investigator. Garrett joined the Fruita Police Department in 2015 and has served as a patrol officer, defensive tactics instructor, and field training officer.

While your police department is experiencing some significant changes, the mission remains the same: To protect life and

property, build relationships with our citizens, and always do the right thing for the right reasons. 📞



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Upcoming Events in Fruita

June 2nd and 3rd	Mike the Headless Chicken Festival	Civic Center Park	
June 8	Riverfront Concert – Big Sam’s Funy Nation	James M. Robb State Park	7:30pm
June 15	Thursday Night Concert – Bicycle Annie	Civic Center Park	
June 15-18	Country Jam	Country Jam Ranch	
June 16	Food Truck Friday	Civic Center Park	5:30pm
June 21	Community Solstice/Harvest Dinner	Aspen St.	6:30pm
June 22	Thursday Night Concert – Johnson County Coroners	Civic Center Park	7:30pm
June 24- Sept 16	Fruita Farmers Market (Saturdays)	Civic Center Park	8:30am
June 28	Bike to Work Day – Breakfast provided by FHW	Fruita Community Center	6:30am
June 29	Ice Cream Social with City Council	Civic Center Park	7:00pm
June 29	Thursday Night Concert – Centennial Band	Civic Center Park	7:30pm
June 29	Riverfront Concert – Fabulous Thunderbirds	James M. Robb State Park	7:30pm
July 3	3rd of July Fireworks Show	Snooks Bottom Open Space	Dusk
July 6	Thursday Night Concert – Threads	Civic Center Park	7:30pm
July 13	Thursday Night Concert – Flat Top Reed	Civic Center Park	7:30pm
July 20	Thursday Night Concert – Stray Grass	Civic Center Park	7:30pm
July 27	Thursday Night Concert – Jack + Jill	Civic Center Park	7:30pm
Aug 3	Thursday Night Concert – Halden Wofford & The Hi Beams	Civic Center Park	7:30pm
Aug 10	Thursday Night Concert – The Williams Brothers Band	Civic Center Park	7:30pm
Aug 12	Tour of the Valley	Fruita Chamber	8:00am
Aug 26	Bike Rodeo	Fruita Community Center	9:00am