



325 E Aspen
Suite 155
Fruita CO 81521

Phone:
970-858-3663

Fax:
970-858-0210

E Mail
fruita@fruita.org

Web Site
fruita.org

City Manager's Office
970-858-3663

City Clerk/Finance
970-858-3663

Community
Development
970-858-0786

Engineering
970-858-8377

Human Resources
970-858-8373

Public Works
970-858-9558

Recreation Dept.
970-858-0360

Weekly Info Update

To: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
From: MIKE BENNETT, CITY MANAGER
Date: APRIL 2, 2015
Re: WEEKLY INFO UPDATE

Tuesday's City Council Meeting

Tuesday's council meeting consists of a number of proclamations and liquor license renewals. In addition we have second readings on our noise and disturbing the peace ordinances. We also have first reading on the ordinance revisions that deal with RV Parks. Dahna will update Council on the progress since your February workshop discussion, as we relayed your intent to the RV Park and it has gone to Planning Commission since. We were also able to draft all paperwork related to the Brandon Estates subdivision, as discussed in your March workshop and receive the paperwork back from the developer and owners ready for your approval at this meeting. Please pay close attention to the council agenda memo on this as it has multiple requests for approval.

Tuesday's North Star Economic Development Focus Group Meeting

Tuesday from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm at the Civic Center (third floor) will be the rescheduled focus group on economic development in the valley, particularly focused on Fruita's perspective. I hope some of you will be able to attend as this is an important opportunity to provide our thoughts to the consultants working on this valley-wide study funded by Grand Junction and Mesa County. The consultants have previously toured Fruita, met with some businesses and toured the Greenway Business Park. Notice will be posted so as many of you as can attend are able to. We have also invited the Planning Commission members to attend. Grand Junction is providing lunch.

SB15-255 Passed in the Senate Today

Attached below is the letter of opposition we sent Monday regarding SB15-255 which transferred \$20 million of severance tax money (off the top) to the General Fund. Unfortunately it passed third reading and final passage this morning in the senate. We appreciate the efforts of CML and AGNC who will continue to fight this through the House next week. Since we receive both energy impact direct distributions and have been and anticipate being recipients of Energy Impact Assistance Fund grants (like the grant we were awarded last week for downtown improvements), this is not something we want to see pass. AGNC has stated "Because of the role that a spike in severance tax revenues played in exceeding the TABOR cap, there is significant discussion at the Capitol about restructuring severance tax including some form of "deBrucing." Those options, of course, contain both pros and cons. We will keep you abreast of discussions as they progress." CML is also closely monitoring and opposing.

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Valley Wide Drainage Studies

As you are aware, much attention is being focused on a long term plan for drainage in the valley. Public Works Director Ken Haley has been attending a weekly staff committee, made up of representatives from the 5-2-1 Drainage Authority. This committee is a response to Commissioner McInnis' request that the committee be formed to study the ideal drainage organization, develop a comprehensive plan and report rough recommendations at the 5-2-1 Board meeting on May 20th. Also, the Grand Valley Drainage District (GVDD), which has staff in the aforementioned committee, has formed an Ad Hoc committee to identify a financial model if the GVDD were to assume all drainage responsibility in their current boundaries. I received a presentation from the GVDD this week. It seems the two efforts will merge after the staff committee's recommendations to the 5-2-1 Drainage Authority.

TID BITS:

- We submitted our official administrative grant application for the gateway enhancement plan to DOLA on Wednesday.
- We are participating with local municipalities, the county and Garfield county on a grant request Garfield County is going to make to DOLA for Garfield-Mesa County region broadband study.
- Two flyers are attached below for our Fruita Bike Park Grand Opening and Reconditioning day April 17th and 18th, and for our Arbor Day Celebration on April 22, 2015 at 4pm in Circle Park.
- We informed the Mesa County Federal Mineral Lease District Board that we received the DOLA downtown improvement grant—hooray! Hopefully this helps in their decision on April 8th whether to fund our grant request to complete this project.
- We had a huge crowd on the FCC backyard lawn for the Easter Egg Scramble yesterday---8,000 eggs gone in less than 8 minutes!
- The Summer Activity Guide is out and for the first time was mailed to 7,750 homes in the area.
- The FCC is closed Sunday for Easter—Happy Easter!
- City Offices are closed tomorrow, Friday, April 3rd for Good Friday.
- The City is partnering with the Rumble at 18 Road event on April 18-19 by donating day passes to registrants.
- Pinkbike.com will be in Fruita next week filming trails and community!
- Code Enforcement has been busy working with community members to clean-up properties this week. Staff is reviewing 20 proposals from web designers and narrowing the field next week to invite finalists to present to our committee.
- Please see the attached invite to a celebration of trails and community at the Lunch Loop Parking lot on April 11th from 3:30 – 7:30 pm.
- I will be participating in the interviewing for a new director of GJEP next Friday.

FRUITA IN THE NEWS:

- Check out Fruita on America's 20 coolest towns for outdoor adventure: <http://matadornetwork.com/trips/americas-20-coolest-towns-outdoor-adventure/>
- TV Spot of the Fruita chamber Business Expo: <http://newsr.in/video/20150402/2715222/Fruita-Chamber-Expo.htm>
- Congrats to The Hot Tomato: <http://www.gjsentinel.com/news/articles/the-hot-tomato-8232celebrates-a-decade-with-custom>

- Editorial in GJ Sentinel about Fruita PD's approach to body worn cameras: <http://www.gjsentinel.com/opinion/articles/fruita-takes-the-right-approach-to-copcams>
- Fruita Tourism by Free Press: <http://www.gjfreepress.com/news/fruita/15661619-113/fruitas-tourist-season-gets-early-boost-from-warm-weather>
- Fruita man arrested: <http://www.gjsentinel.com/news/articles/fruita-man-arrested-on-suspicion-of-six-felonies-i>
- Fruita Monument and Fruita 8-9 Orchestra head to Disneyland: <http://www.nbc11news.com/home/headlines/Fruita-Monument-and-Fruita-8-9-orchestra-head-to-Disneyland-for-a-special-performance-297749011.html>
- Fruita Monument High Job Fair: <http://www.nbc11news.com/home/headlines/Fruita-Monument-High-School-hosts-summer-job-fair--297734561.html>

Spiess Arrest:

- <http://www.nbc11news.com/home/headlines/Neighbors-of-Danya-and-Steven-Spiess-weigh-in-on-first-degree-murder-charges-298413091.html>
- http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_27827412/fruita-man-arrested-wifes-january-shooting-death?source=rss
- <http://www.westernslopenow.com/story/d/story/murder-suicide-fruita-prosecution-jail/22422/hwB5NtzQ-U-bNGPuDWpa4g>
- <http://www.nbc11news.com/news/headlines/Steven-Spiess-officially-charged-with-first-degree-murder-of-wife-Danya-298208871.html>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **April 7th** is the rescheduled North Star Economic Development Focus Group from 11:00 am – 1:30 pm at the Civic Center.
- **April 8th** is the date for the rescheduled Grand Valley Transit West Transfer and Park-n-Ride Facility Grand Opening from 11 am – 12 pm at 612 24 ½ Road in GJ. Parking is available off F 1/8 Road in the new Park-n-Ride Facility.
- We received an invite for the Relay for Life of Fruita Social and Chili Cook Off **April 18** from 6:30 – 8:00 pm at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at 343 E Ottley Ave.
- Fruita Fat Tire Festival—downtown **April 23-26!!!!**
- The **March** 2015 City of Fruita Meeting Calendar is available on the website at: <http://www.fruita.org/documents/admin/mtgcal.pdf>.
- The **2015** Events Calendar is also available online at: http://www.fruita.org/documents/rec/EVENT_CALENDAR.pdf

CC: Department Directors



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Web Site
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City Manager's Office
970/858-3663

City Clerk/Finance
970/858-3663

Community
Development
970/858-0786

Municipal Court
970/858-8041

Police Department
970-858-3008

Engineering
970/858-8377

Human Resources
970/858-8373

Public Works
970/858-9558

Parks and Recreation
970/858-0360

March 30, 2015

The Honorable Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee
Colorado General Assembly
200 E. 14th Ave., Third Floor
Legislative Services Building
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Honorable Senators and Members of the Appropriation Committee:

The City of Fruita joins with the Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado (AGNC) and the Colorado Municipal League (CML) to adamantly oppose SB 15-255 which proposes the transfer of \$20 million from severance tax funds to the general fund. This \$20 million of severance tax revenues, for local governments, are intended to mitigate the impacts of natural resource extraction on local government infrastructure and programs. Proceeding in this manner sets a harmful precedent and has a negative impact on jurisdictions like ours who count on and effectively utilize severance tax revenues for essential infrastructure projects.

The City of Fruita opposes the default position of the state to balance the budget on the backs of energy impacted municipalities and counties, both when state revenues are robust and when they are in decline.

Oil and gas development was one of the primary drivers of the high growth rate the City of Fruita experienced over the past 13 years. From 2009 through 2011, the employee count for employees associated with extraction has ranged from a high of 490 employees in 2011 to a low of 244 in 2010. In 2012, the employee count totaled 353. This up and down fluctuation continues to significantly impact the City of Fruita. Clearly, the employment opportunities the industry creates are favorable, but the constant swings (boom and bust) of the employment cycle significantly impact the community. Fruita's economy has historically been tied to the energy industry and we count on severance tax revenue for the purpose it was established for.

The statutes set forth various purposes for which severance tax is to be expended, including the operation of various state programs, water development, and support to local communities which generate the tax and experience the impacts of mineral development. In the past during times of economic crisis, that money has been diverted to the General Fund to balance the state budget. It is a bitter pill for rural communities to have a resource redirected during difficult times for the state; it is even more difficult to support this strategy when rural Colorado lags the state in economic recovery and are once again disadvantaged to balance the budget during good times for the state.

Energy development is cyclical in nature. A major purpose of severance tax is to help communities impacted by energy development to overcome the declines in those

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cycles by developing infrastructure and working to diversify their economies using severance tax funds. By taking severance tax funds to consistently backfill the General Fund, the state further disadvantages communities that cannot replace severance tax revenues through property tax measures. Communities on the Western Slope are facing a potential "triple" dip recession as dynamics in the energy industry are likely to result in less production, i.e. less tax revenue at all levels including severance tax over the next few years.

It is our understanding that an anticipated TABOR refund of approximately \$125 million will be required and that \$50 million from the general fund, specifically education, has been identified to address the shortage as has approximately \$100 million from SB10-228 funding for transportation and, once again \$20 million from severance taxes.

We ask that you look at all the income sources that impact the requirement for TABOR refunds in determining where to find funding for TABOR refunds. Thank you for considering the concerns of rural Colorado and the City of Fruita as you evaluate taking one more resource from our communities and citizens. The budget resolution you seek needs to be a statewide solution and not one that leaves rural Colorado bearing a disproportionate share of the burden.

The City of Fruita respectfully requests your "NO" vote on SB 15-255.

With the support of the Honorable Mayor Buck and our City Council,

Sincerely,



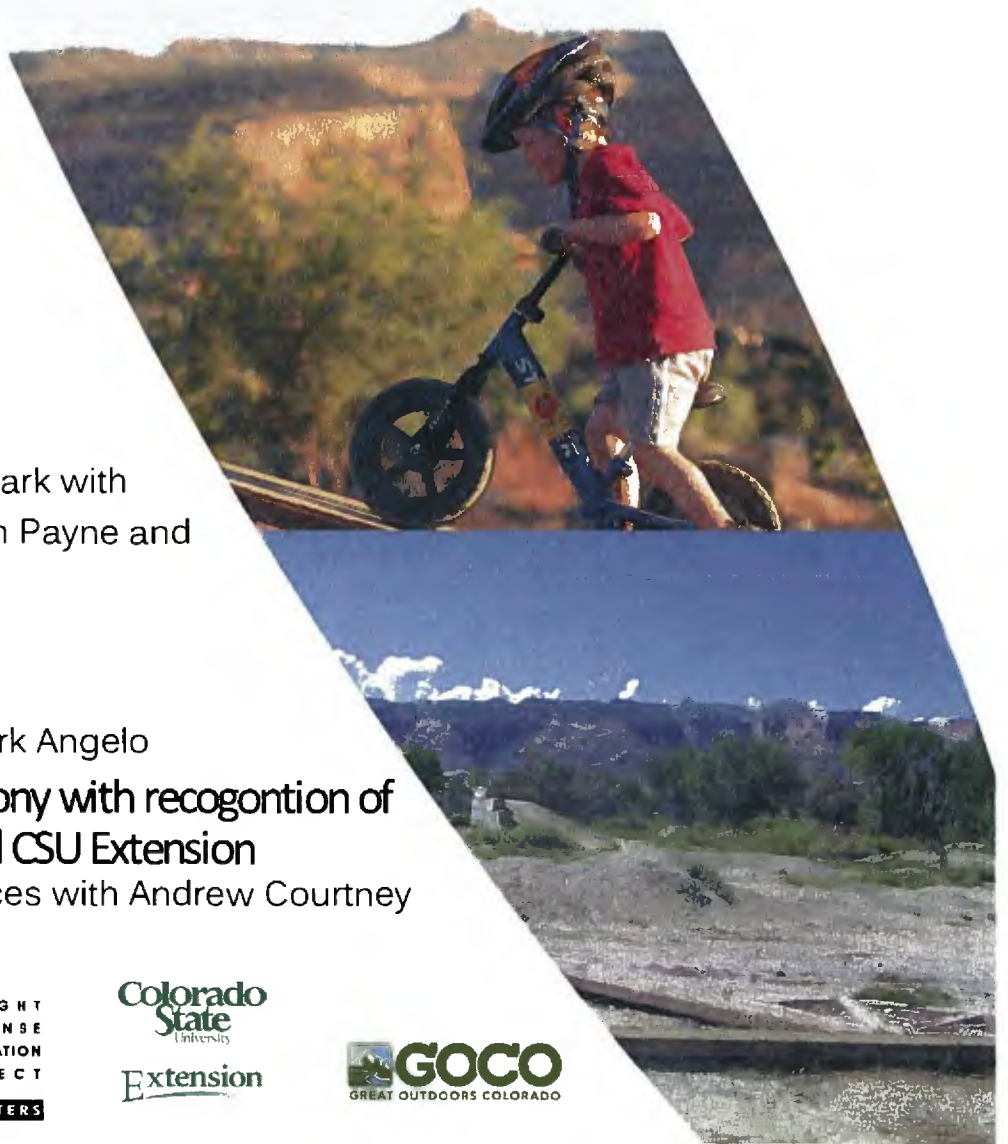
Mike Bennett
City Manager
City of Fruita

Fruita Bike Park

**Grand Opening
and
Reconditioning Day!**



**April
17th and 18th
2015**



Friday 4/17

4:00pm - Recondition Bike Park with
Scout Troop, Aaron Payne and
Andrew Courtney


Saturday 4/18

8:30am - Trail Work with Mark Angelo

10:00am - Opening Ceremony with recognition of
GOCO, DRIP and CSU Extension

10:15am - Youth Bicycle Races with Andrew Courtney





ARBOR DAY
CELEBRATION!
APRIL 22, 2015
CIRCLE PARK
4PM

PROFESSIONALS
AVAILABLE FOR
QUESTIONS. FREE
BROCHURES ON
HOW TO PLANT A
TREE!

THE WINNER OF
THE 5TH GRADE
POSTER COMPETI-
TION WILL BE
RECOGNIZED.

PLANT A TREE WITH
FRUITA PARKS AND
RECREATION, THE
MAYOR AND STATE
FORESTER!

FREE TREES!
KIDS CRAFTS!
COOKIES AND
PUNCH!



Come celebrate Trails and Community!

Beer & BBQ

April 11th, 3:30—7:30! Lunch Loop Parking lot

\$25 (2 Kannah beers and a plate of BBQ) \$10 for kids

All proceeds benefit MLT and COPMOBA!

Volunteer Trail Builders & Restoration Folks eat and drink for free

We need volunteers! Come help trail build or do restoration (9am to 3pm)—no experience required!

For more info: www.mesalandtrust.org/www.COPMOBA.org



Thank you Sponsors!

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