



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: AUGUST 14, 2015
Re: WEEKLY INFO UPDATE

Tuesday Night's City Council Meeting

Tuesday night's agenda includes the special event liquor permit for Rotary to sell beer at Fall Festival, Arts & Culture Board member appointment, CO-op right of way and easement acceptances, annual review of the Red Flag Policy, July financial Report and Mesa Land Trust letter of support for a GOCO grant. On the Administrative Agenda, I will provide a brief update on the website and logo design process and also present for acceptance a Memorandum of Agreement with BLM.

Drainage

I mentioned last week we would have a drainage discussion at our August workshop, but I will actually have that on the September 1st City Council meeting since our Drainage representative, Counselor Fuller will not be able to attend. Staff will bring all of Council up to speed on the events related to valley-wide drainage at that meeting.

Just today another letter was released by Scott McInnis and Duncan McArthur requesting that all entities join together in a request to have an outside agency—DOLA professionally assess the current governance structure of the Drainage District. The letter is attached.

TID BITS:

- Please see the attached letter from Fruita Rotary about their appreciation for being able to provide the beer gardens at community events and successfully use the proceeds in many positive ways in our community.
- Underground drainage is complete in downtown—still some utilities to work on. In the next couple weeks more signs of above ground work will be seen. Stone work on Peach side begins next week. Half the footers on Mulberry side are complete.
 - We will be advertising for bids on the Mulberry sewer project beginning August 23rd.
 - West Ottley paving should be complete in the next couple weeks.
 - Staff is working with CDOT on the process for bid documents for Little Salt Wash Trail---so we will be out for bids by first of September.

- I presented our goals, priorities and future capital projects to the Mesa County Federal Mineral Lease District Board this week. We were invited to do so as to help with background for future grant requests.
- We attended the update to managers on the 911 Center's budget request that will go before the Comm Board (Chief Macy is on this board) in September. Their recommended budget shows an increase in Fruita's contribution of \$34,751 for 2016. Although the need is there for the increases in operations, I expressed the difficulty we face in such an increase when revenues are not increasing at the moment. Most agencies agreed all were feeling the same pinch.
- Army Corps of Engineers is planning to assist in clean-up on part of the Little Salt Wash in partnership with the city and LVFD in September.
- Staff is working with Rim Rock Marathon organizers to plan the race ending at Circle Park. In addition we are planning a one mile fun run on the same day in November.
- Girls on the Run is planning their annual race in Fruita May 7th with brings 2,000+ people from the region, extending far outside of the valley.
- We had our last Thursday Night Summer Concert last night with some great blue grass music by Finnders and Youngberg to a large crowd.
- As you may have noticed, quite a bit of progress was made in the last two days with striping our roads.
- We are battling a strong stench emanating from our decommissioned lagoons---actually one of them that staff is working on mitigating. This tends to happen once a year, but this one has last longer than normal.
- I remember reading about bears in Fruita before moving here, but I guess it is that time of year again. We had a bear roaming around the Little Salt Wash earlier this week. Fortunately no one was harmed but people were on alert. Stories in the news section below.

FRUITA IN THE NEWS:

- Fruita Construction TV spot: <http://www.westernslopenow.com/news/local-news/downtown-fruita-shaping-up>
- Meet Your Neighbor Michelle Cools: <http://www.gifreepress.com/news/17614336-113/meet-your-neighbor-michelle-cools>
- Lithic Bookstore & Galley Grand Opening: <http://www.gifreepress.com/news/17583279-113/lithic-bookstore-galley-celebrates-grand-opening>
- LSW and Kokopelli Riverfront Trails front page Sentinel article: <http://www.gjsentinel.com/news/articles/officials-look-to-connect-8232two-popular-8232biki/>
- Bear in Fruita: <http://www.nbc11news.com/home/headlines/Bear-reported-near-Fruita-Elementary-school-parents-required-to-pick-up-students-321318591.html>
- LSW & Kokopelli Trails TV spot: <http://www.nbc11news.com/home/headlines/Fruita-looks-to-add-two-new-trails-one-of-them-will-connect-the-north-and-south-side-of-the-city--321341111.html>
- Another LSW & Kokopelli Trails TV spot: <http://www.westernslopenow.com/news/fruita-to-build-new-trail-for-the-better>
- Bear in Fruita TV spots: <http://www.nbc11news.com/home/headlines/Bear-reported-near-Fruita-Elementary-school-parents-required-to-pick-up-students-321318591.html> AND

<http://www.nbc11news.com/home/headlines/Residents-see-a-bear-roaming-through-a-Fruita-neighborhood-321501871.html>

- Bear footage: <http://kekbfm.com/fruita-colorado-bear/>
- Drainage: <http://www.gjfreepress.com/news/17656787-113/councilman-commissioner-call-for-change-to-drainage-district>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **August 14**, Grand Valley Power's annual meeting will be in the University Ballroom at CMU. Registration and dinner from 5:30 – 6:30 pm with a business meeting to follow. RSVP to 242-0040 on or before Aug. 10th.
- **August 15** is the Math & Science Center annual fundraiser at 7 pm at the CMU University Ballroom
- **POSTPONED:** The joint city councils, county commissioner, GJEP, Chamber, Business Incubator public meeting on the plan of action to begin addressing and implementing the Competitive Location Assessment Report originally scheduled for August 20th is being postponed to late September—more details to come soon.
- Dinosaur Journey's annual fundraiser, the Feast of Skulls will be **August 22** from 6:30 – 10 pm following Dinosaur Day (We have been given some tickets by the Museum so let Deb know if you would like to attend).
- The **August** 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

August 14, 2015

Grand Valley Drainage District Board of Directors
P.O. Box 969
Grand Junction, CO 81502

RE: Governance structure of the Grand Valley Drainage District

Gentlemen:

This letter is a follow-up to our original letter of August 6, 2015, regarding the current governance structure of the District. We trust you have received such. Our focus is narrow and pertains to the governance issue only. Because we represent many of the same constituents you do we believe you share our desire to review governance issues so we can achieve best leadership structure available.

To the extent possible, the issue should remain free of political jabs back and forth and instead we should work to obtain the goal of governance that best represents the District considering the many changes over the years, not only in population and geographical growth but regulatory challenges as well. It is fair to those for whom the District represents to ask and assess a governance structure to be sure that constituent bases are not underrepresented in such structure. The District is a public entity that is critical to the Grand Valley.

The job of governance structure belongs to the General Assembly and we believe the local legislative delegation should be provided as much information as possible so that fair and best practice model can be assessed and deployed. To support this we would ask that you join us in the following request to the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA). DOLA has many resources including, as a part of their mission, to assist "Special District Administration". They have deep experience in governance issues and assessments and they offer this service to communities across the state.

Along that line of thought we would submit a joint request from those entities wishing to join the request to the DOLA asking that they professionally assess the current governance structure of the District to determine what changes could improve the governance, if any, and what models they might put forward for the legislative delegation to consider. We would expect that local entities including the District would submit points they feel are important in the information gathering stage by DOLA.

We would also ask that such professional study be completed in a timely fashion so that the delegation and the involved parties could review prior to the January 2016 start of the legislative session.

August 14, 2015

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There is no downside to this request for the District, the County, or the Communities. The legislative delegation will benefit from the third party study by DOLA and can take comfort that individuals with extensive experience with governance issues has conducted the review. Of course, it also lifts the issue from local politics and accomplishes what we all want which is what best serves the citizens.

It helps all of us with vested interests in the District be sure that our District governance is in fact the best model to serve the community. Finally, submitting the issue to DOLA demonstrates good faith by all involved and shows that we are willing to come to the table and handle the matter as it should be with the goal of positioning the district to meet the challenges of the future.

We look forward to your response and to working with you.

Sincerely,



Scott McInnis
Mesa County Commissioner



Duncan L. McArthur
Grand Junction City Councilman

Cc:

Sen. Ray Scott
Rep. Yuelin Willett
Rep. Dan Thurlow
Grand Junction City Council
Fruita City Council
Palisade Town Board
Mesa County Board of Commissioners
Colorado Department of Local Affairs
Frank Whidden
Mike Bennett
Tim Moore

August 10, 2015

City of Fruita City Council
Mayor Lori Buck
City Administrator Michael Bennett
Fruita City Council Members
Judy Masey, Fruita City Chief of Police
TureNycum, Fruita Parks and Rec

Thank you. Thanks to all of you and the City of Fruita. For over 20 years everyone has supported the Fruita Rotary Club in its mission to Serve, to help.

In the past, The Fruita Rotary Club has specifically thanked Public Works and Parks and Recreation for its contribution to our success at the Mike-the-Headless-Chicken Festival and the Fruita Fall Festival. We would like to thank you ALL for that opportunity, the continued opportunity, to be a participant in these events. Our Beer-Vending is notoriously positive.

The Rotary Club of Fruita is small in number but we like to think that we make a significant impact as citizens of our community.

We have helped fund the Art on the Corner Project, the City Benches Project and the Bus Stop Project. Soon, our Rotary Triangle Park Project will have a new Monumental Park sign as all the other Parks in the City. This was done by mutual financial contribution from Parks and Rec and the Rotary Club. You were most generous in allowing us to post our Rotary Logo on Triangle Park. We committed to improve the Park as our part, as our contribution to the improvement of that small, yet significant, community asset.

Our Fruita Rotary Club mission of the last ten years has been "helping the children of our community and Mesa County". We are active financial supporters of the Back-Pack (food for kids on the weekends) Program, the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, the third-grade Dictionary Project (a hard-bound Scholastic dictionary) for each third grader in Fruita and Loma. We have a large, active and enviable Interact Club at FMHS (Rotary Club for high school). And, each May the Fruita Rotary Club awards two \$1000 academic scholarships to FMHS graduates, the Mike Williams and Marge Miller scholarships.

Each December we help support the "Christmas-For-All" program, a privately sponsored and funded Christmas giving and meal Program for the disadvantaged families of the Lower Valley. Extra-large kudos must be paid to the Otero Family sisters for their exhausting effort in continuing this valuable Program. We are pleased to be a part of that giving. The Agape Food Bank, Fruita, has always been one of our first considerations when offering help to those local families, children, in need. And the need in Fruita is, like so many Colorado cities, a very deep well.

As you can see, we carry on financially, for the children. The Rotary Club's ability to carry on is most dependent on our annual fundraising, of course. Two thirds or more of our Club's budget is generated at the Fruita Fall Fest and the Mike-the-Headless-Chicken Festival. Without the fundraising success of

either of those two venues, it would be impossible for us to continue our level of financial contribution back to the community, to the children.

We would like to ask that our Club be given some assurance that we would be allowed continued participation in these City Events in the future. Our beer vending booths have become a mainstay of each Festival for our Club's financial health. We trust that the City of Fruita and Parks and Rec are as enthusiastic for our success as we are.

Thank you for your continued help and consideration.

Tom McNamara, Fruita Rotary Events Co-Coordinator
Karen Leonhardt, Fruita Rotary Events Co-Coordinator
Duke Wortmann, Fruita Rotary Club President
Winnie Storm, Fruita Rotary Club Treasurer