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Weekly Info Update

To: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
From: MIKE BENNETT, CITY MANAGER
Date: NOVEMBER 20, 2015
Re: WEEKLY INFO UPDATE

City Offices closed for Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday & Friday, Nov. 26-27. Happy Thanksgiving!

Gateway Design—Community Engagement Update

We had a decent response to our new community engagement attempt with the gateway design packets. We received over 90 completed packets and handed those over to a Fruita local who is the director of the University Technical Assistance program—the group that is compiling the feedback for us, so hopefully by early 2016 we will have some conceptual designs that will aid us in narrowing the concepts down and prioritizing phasing. This will lead to entertaining bids for professional design of selected phase and concept with the remaining DOLA funding. Just a reminder that UTA is affiliated with DOLA and DOLA asked that we consider working with them to save funds when we requested the grant in case people wonder why we are working with University of Colorado-Denver. In the first 30 we gave UTA a few weeks back they mentioned heavy dinosaurs and cycling themes.

Mulberry Sewer Project

Just after we notified residents on Mulberry north of Pabor that the Mulberry sewer replacement project would be delayed by the contractor until February, the contractor had a window of opportunity to start Wednesday. We attempted to make contact with those impacted (especially the Fire Department). The work at the intersection of Mulberry and Pabor will last about another week and the new pipe laid north of Pabor is planned for about a month period. Road base will be laid, but paving will occur in the spring.

TID BITS:

- Garfield County now has a signed agreement with DOLA for funding to engage with a qualified consulting firm to develop a regional broadband plan that addresses barriers to achieving abundant, reliable, redundant, and affordable broadband in Garfield and Mesa Counties (including Fruita).
- October law enforcement incidents were down to 746 from 762 in 2014. For the year we are down 1%.

- The question was raised in Tuesday’s council meeting about jet skis and jet boats in the river and we did confirm Councilor Bonar’s recollection that it is a navigable water way allowing such.
- Community Development Director Dahna Raugh will be speaking soon to a CMU class regarding building tiny homes.
- Staff is on the steering committee working with Grand Valley Transit evaluating bus routes and schedules.
- The D51 school buses that used park at City Shops, then moved to the Lagoon property now have a home at the Loco Gas station on the south side.
- We received an application for an ice cream store to locate in half of Ruby Canyon.
- Planning Commission will be reviewing a new Sign Code and the Fruita Liquor Mart’s expansion and relocation in the old Thai Restaurant at the corner of South Maple and Hwy 6&50
- This week I had the opportunity to meet with all full-time employees to discuss the budget and our goals and priorities—we have excellent people working here!
- The Rotary Triangle Park sign was put in place this week and looks great.
- The art pedestals were installed this week downtown—soon to be art added. In between Jimmy’s and Kim’s will be the “Rural Memories” art piece that used to be near the Fruita Health Club. The horse sculpture that used to be in Triangle Park will be placed on the southwest corner of downtown.
- The Fruita Business Incubator space is now by appointment only. We are also working with the BIC on a prospective company to lease some of the space!
- We continue to advertise for new bids for the Little Salt Wash Trail construction and the bid opening will be Dec. 8.
- When adequate weather and time allows we plan to add bike lane symbols in the bike lane along Pine Street.
- There is a Union Pacific Railroad project going on near Fruita so you may see additional vehicles and equipment near town.
- If you remember the robbery at Dragon Treasure that created viral videos and was part of a string of similar such robberies throughout the state by the same people—the case was solved and the criminals arrested in Wyoming this week.
- Parks staff has been hard at work putting up Christmas lights and decorations around town. I believe we are up to about 36,000 lights this year and you should see them on early next week.
- Salty Treads—a Cycle Cross race by MAD racing will be going on at Little Salt Wash Park Saturday.
- The next edition of City Link is off to the printers and should be mailed out next week.
- Staff met with BLM today to discuss their future plans for an event space out near the 18 Road trails (plans currently, not planned for construction yet) and to further conversations of 6 miles of new trail on Mack Ridge. Ture has done a great job facilitating quotes for environmental studies and it looks like we may have plenty of participation from businesses and COPMOBA to cover the costs.

FRUITA IN THE NEWS:

- **Interesting Wedding Company Rocky Mountain Bride Photo Shoot in Fruita:**
<http://rockymountainbride.com/2015/11/06/love-cycles-styled-shoot-fruita-colorado/>

- **Fruita 8-9 School Offering solace to those in crisis:**
<http://www.gjsentinel.com/news/articles/offering-solace-to-those-in-crisis>
- **GJ, Fruita tabbed top outdoors locations:** <http://www.gjsentinel.com/outdoors/articles/gj-fruita-tabbed-top-outdoors-locations>
- **Graffiti blemishes areas inside McInnis Canyons:**
<http://www.gjsentinel.com/news/articles/graffiti-blemishes-areas-inside-mcinnis-canyons>
- **Group looking to grow outdoor industry's \$200M contribution to local economy:**
<http://www.gjsentinel.com/news/articles/group-looking-to-grow-outdoor-industrys-200m-contr>
- **Fruita City Councilor Bob Fuller to leave term early:**
<http://www.gjsentinel.com/news/articles/fruita-city-councilor-8232to-leave-term-early>
- **Community designs Fruita Gateway Project TV Spot:**
<http://www.westernslopenow.com/news/local-news/community-designs-fruita-gateway-project>
- **IMBA Blog Article titled "A Weekend in Fruita with the Ladies of IMBA that includes some great photos:** <https://www.imba.com/blog/mark-eller/weekend-fruita-ladies-imba>
- **UAS use on Colorado city project lands firm engineering award:**
<http://www.uasmagazine.com/articles/1324/uas-use-on-colorado-city-project-lands-firm-engineering-award>
- **Surgeon seeing patients at Fruita hospital:** <http://thebusinesstimes.com/surgeon-seeing-patients-at-fruita-hospital/>
- **JEP launches new recruitment campaign:** <http://thebusinesstimes.com/gjep-launches-new-recruitment-campaign/>
- **Councilor Harvey had a cameo in Thursday's Sentinel** in a photo performing related to the "Big Reveal" at the Mesa County Libraries' Open House for the audio and visual recording studio. Also a TV Spot on this: <http://www.westernslopenow.com/news/local-news/mesa-county-libraris-970west-studio-opens-its-doors>
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UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Nov. 22nd**, the City received an invitation to the Hymn Festival with Choir and Orchestra—a free event with Dr. Monte Atkinson, conductor and Dr. Martha Sanford-Heyns, guest organist of hymn arrangements from the Mormon Tabernacle Choir repertoire performed by the Hymn Festival Choir and Orchestra at 6pm at 2543 G Road in Grand Junction (free event).
- **Nov. 28th** is Small business Saturday and businesses in Fruita will be hosting a scavenger hunt that day—clues will be found at CBB, Chow Down, Edstrom's, Thrift Shop, Gene Taylor's, Rib City, Suds, Cowboy Mercantile, True Value and Vintage Common.
- **Dec. 3rd** you are invited to a focus group meeting to discuss housing needs within the Grand Valley. This is in connection to the multi-partner Housing Needs Assessment that we are a part of. The meeting will be at 11:30 am – 1 pm in the Stocker Stadium Tower hospitality Suite at Lincoln Park in GJ. Lunch is included. Please let Deb know if you are planning to attend (invite copied below).
- **Dec. 5th** at 6 pm will be the City Staff Christmas party.
- Thursday **Dec. 10** from 4-7:30 pm is the 22nd Annual Holiday Open House at the Business Incubator Center.
- **Dec. 12th** from 10 am – 3 pm is the annual Fruita Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair at the FCC.

- **Dec. 12th** will be Fruita's Hometown Christmas. The light parade begins at 5:30 pm and the theme is Musical Madness and requires each entry to have some sort of musical aspect (I.e. live music, lip-synching, etc.). The entry for the light parade is Nov. 27th.
- The Fruita Community Calendar is available on the website at: <http://www.fruita.org/calendar>.
- The **2015** Events Information is also available online at: <http://www.fruita.org/parksrec/page/special-events>

CC: Department Directors

SAVE THE DATE

We need your input!!

**You're invited to a
Focus Group Meeting**

To

Discuss Housing Needs within the Grand Valley

Date: Thursday, December 3, 2015

Time: 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Location: Stocker Stadium Tower Hospitality Suite

Lincoln Park

Lunch included

