



# FRUITA COLORADO

## Weekly Info Update



To: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
From: MIKE BENNETT, CITY MANAGER  
Date: JULY 12, 2019  
Re: WEEKLY INFORMATION UPDATE

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### Tuesday's City Council Meeting

The meeting on Tuesday will begin with a presentation from Fire Chief Frank Cavaliere on the Lower Valley Fire Protection District, and a Proclamation for United States Navy Week in the City of Fruita. There are currently four items on the consent agenda, one legislative hearing, and two quasi-judicial hearings. After reports, the meeting will conclude with an executive session.

### Fruita Awarded the Colorado Lottery's Starburst Award for Excellent Use of Lottery Funds

At the Thursday Night Riverfront Concert, the City of Fruita was awarded the Starburst Award from the Colorado Lottery for the Kokopelli Section of the Colorado Riverfront Trail project. This award recognizes excellence in the use of lottery proceeds for community and conservation projects. Great job to everyone that was involved!



### Old Fruita Bridge Fire

Lower Valley Fire Protection District responded to a fire in the early hours on Thursday this week to find the Old Fruita Bridge burning (see news story at this [link](#)). The fire damaged much of the wooden bridge deck and further investigation is being completed to determine the impacts to the structural integrity of the structure. The bridge was already restricted for public use, but staff will be installing additional measures to prohibit trespassing and/or communicating the safety concerns with being on the bridge.

### **Arts and Culture Board Accepting Applications to Fill Vacancy**

We have begun advertising to fill a vacancy on the Arts and Culture Board. The purpose of the Arts and Culture Board is to create and enhance art and culture in the City of Fruita. To apply to be on this board, interested individuals can find an application at this [link](#).

### **Introducing Online Utility Payments (continued)**

Coming soon... Fruita residents will have the ability to pay their utility bills online! 24/7 online access will be available to residents with options to pay via credit card, debit card, or eCheck. A convenience fee will apply to online payments. This option will be available through a link from the City's website at [www.fruita.org](http://www.fruita.org) or by visiting [www.colorado.gov/payment/cityoffruita](http://www.colorado.gov/payment/cityoffruita). The City will continue to offer a variety of other utility payment options as well. We are excited to offer this new payment option for utility billing and hope it offers a convenient way to make bill paying a bit easier. For more information, please visit this [link](#).

### **General Updates**

- City sales tax was up 18.39% in May over May of 2018; Thru May of 2019 City sales tax is up 16.32% over the same period in 2018.
- On Thursday, the Office of Economic Development and International Trade hosted a Business Showcase and Workshop at the Civic Center. At the workshop, local businesses were able to hear from a variety of public agencies and non-profit organizations about the resources available to grow business.



- In June, Fruita residents recycled 44 tons of cans, bottles, paper, and cardboard. The full report is below.
- Speaking of recycling, on Wednesday, staff attended the Western Slope Recycle Colorado Kick Off event. The discussions at this event focus on recycling efforts across Western Colorado, and what other local governments and private organizations are doing to improve recycling efforts. If you want to hear more about the meeting, let me know.
- On July 31, 2019 at 9:30 a.m., the Mesa County RTPO staff is hosting a meet and greet with new staff. The full flyer can be found below.

## **Administration/Finance**

- The City closed on the 2019 Sales and Use Tax Refunding and Improvement Bonds on July 9. This refunding resulted in savings of \$4.5 million with a net present value of \$3.0 million (24.65% percentage savings of refunded bonds). A refunding of the 2009 Bonds has been in the works for several years and it is nice to see it come to a successful conclusion.

## **Engineering**

- Maple Street sewer project had an unexpected waterline break near Columbine Ave. on Thursday afternoon. Ute Water crews worked into the evening to restore service to the area. Thanks to the residents for their patience during the outage. United Company crews anticipate working through the next few weekends to keep on track for completion prior to the beginning of the school year.

## **Parks and Recreation**

- On the same day the City of Fruita received the Starburst Award (yesterday), the Parks Department was able to reopen the Kokopelli Section of the CRT at Reed Wash – the trail is completely open now. There is still some dust and sediment on the trail and Parks will be removing that as soon as they are able to.
- FCC Staff is reviewing its annual HVAC maintenance agreement with GMMI and obtaining quotes from other vendors.
- The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meet on Monday evening and took a tour of several park and trail facilities throughout Fruita, including Reed Park, Little Salt Wash Park, Trail at Village at Country Creek, the Big Salt Wash Trailhead and Snooks Bottom Open Space.
- The Fruita Youth Action Council is planning to host a Splash Bash (back to school event) at the Fruita Community Center on August 7<sup>th</sup> from 5-7pm. The council will invite middle and high school youth to the event to have fun before school starts while promoting the Youth Action Council and gathering input and solutions to issues facing our community youth. Mostly it will all be about FUN.
- Staff attended the National Forest Service Open House on a plan update for the Grand Mesa, Uncompaghre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests. The Fruita Section which surrounds the Mountain Properties is being designated as General Forest for management purpose as well as a High Use Recreation designation along the road traveling through the Fruita Section. Staff will be evaluating and discussing the impacts with NFS staff of these designations.

## **Planning & Development**

To see active reviews of current projects, you may visit: <https://www.fruita.org/cd/page/current-development-projects>

### **Major/ Minor Subdivisions:**

- Iron Wheel Major Subdivision final plat/plan application under review.
- Garden Estates Final Plat (located at 910 Adams Drive, south of I-70 and west of 18 Road in Fruita, Colorado.)

- Grand Valley Estates 2 Final Plan/Final Plat (1849 J 2/10 Rd)
- Bradyville Annexation & Zoning Petition (1897 L Rd)
- KCP Minor Subdivision (536 Kokopelli Blvd)
- Brandon Residential PUD Preliminary Plan

#### **Site Design Review:**

- Colorado Canyons (Family Health West) is far along on the construction of the hospital expansion.
- Einstein's Bagels/Qdoba: (401 Jurassic Ave #B) has received their planning clearance and has started construction.
- Quench Drinks Site Design Review is complete and getting ready for construction.
- Coloramo Site Design Review (333 W Aspen)

#### **Other Land Use Applications:**

- 168 N. Elm VRBO
- 604 E. Aspen Ave VRBO
- McDonald's Sign Variance

#### **Public Works**

- Fruita Reservoir #2 is nearly empty, and staff should be able to reduce the frequency of monitoring starting next week.

#### **FRUITA IN THE NEWS (and regional news of impact to Fruita):**

- [Annual Fourth of July Independence Monument Climb.](#)
- [Redlands fire forces home evacuations.](#)
- [Biz Buzz – Karma Kitchen opens on Monday.](#)
- [Mesa County real estate sales slow, but no big downturn foreseen.](#)
- [Crews battle fire in Fruita, old 340 bridge engulfed in flames.](#)
- [A love of yurts inspired this glamp retreat.](#)
- [Where to find best customer service in valley.](#)
- [Bike Mag video—Life of Pie.](#)
- [In rezoning vote, McInnis objects to possible conservation easement.](#)
- [Life of Pie: Creating Community with Pizza and Bikes.](#)
- [Auto theft up statewide, report says.](#)
- [Hail the Trail returns to benefit more trails.](#)
- [Fruita Agricultural Burn.](#)
- [GJ airport interviews candidates for board.](#)

**UPCOMING EVENTS** *(Please let Deb know if you plan to attend so we can make sure to post if multiple council members plan to attend. Deb would also be happy to RSVP for you when needed.):*

- **July 13, 2019** – Fruita Farmers Market at Civic Center Park, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- **July 18, 2019** – Thursday Night Concert – Frank Bregar Orchestra (Big Band) at 7:30 p.m. at Civic Center Park.
- **July 20, 2019** – Fruita Farmers Market at Civic Center Park, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- **July 25, 2019** – Thursday Night Concert – Slim Pickins (Bluegrass) at 7:30 p.m. at Civic Center Park.
- **July 27, 2019** – Fruita Farmers Market at Civic Center Park, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- **July 31, 2019** – Paddleboard with the City Manager at Imondi Wake Zone at 7:00 p.m.
- **August 1, 2019** – Thursday Night Concert – Oxymorons (Top 40/Rock Covers) at 7:30 p.m. at Civic Center Park.
- **August 3, 2019** – Fruita Farmers Market at Civic Center Park, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- **August 8, 2019** – Thursday Night concert – The Williams Brothers Band (Blues Rock/Grit Country) at 7:30 p.m. at Civic Center Park.
- **August 10, 2019** – Fruita Farmers Market at Civic Center Park, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- **August 13, 2019** - Walk downtown Fruita with the City Manager at 10:00 a.m. - meet at the Civic Center.
- **August 17, 2019** – Fruita Farmers Market at Civic Center Park, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- **August 21, 2019** – Beer or Rootbeer with the City Manager at Copper Club Brewery at 5:30 p.m.
- **August 24, 2019** – Fruita Farmers Market at Civic Center Park, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- **August 31, 2019** – Fruita Farmers Market at Civic Center Park, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- **September 5, 2019** – Coffee with the City Manager at Fruita Starbucks at 7:30 a.m.
- **September 24, 2019** – Hike Dino Hill with Mike at 4:00 p.m.
- **September 27-29, 2019** – Fruita Fall Festival, Downtown Fruita
- The Fruita Community Calendar is available on the website or at this [link](#).
- The **2019** Events Information is also available online [here](#).

CC. Department Directors

# Explore Fruita with the City Manager

## Upcoming Dates:

7.2.19 at 8:00 a.m.  
Coffee with Mike at  
Enstroms Candies Fruita

7.31.19 at 7:00 p.m.  
Paddleboard with Mike  
at Imondi Wake Zone

8.13.19 at 10:00 a.m.  
Walk Downtown Fruita  
with Mike

8.21.19 at 5:30 p.m.  
Beer or Rootbeer with  
Mike at Copper Club

9.5.19 at 7:30 a.m.  
Coffee with Mike at  
Fruita Starbucks

9.24.19 at 4:00 p.m.  
Hike Dino Hill with  
Mike



Is there anything that you would like to discuss personally with the City Manager? Join City Manager Mike Bennett and guests for informal discussions about Fruita while exploring what our community has to offer. Join us at any of the following dates. For more information and the most current schedule, please visit [fruita.org](http://fruita.org).



**FRUITA**  
COLORADO



## June 2019 Recycling Benefits for the City of Fruita

In June 2019, we recycled 44 tons of cans, bottles, paper, and cardboard.

Recycling these materials will save the following resources:

### 298 Mature Trees

Represents enough saved timber resources to produce 3,690,100 sheets of printing and copy paper!

### 159 Cubic Yards of Landfill Airspace

Enough airspace to fulfill the annual municipal waste disposal needs for 204 people!

### 107,966 kWh of Electricity

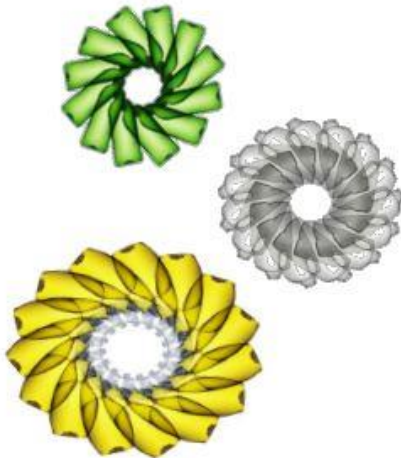
Enough power to fulfill the annual electricity needs of 10 homes!

### Avoided 101 Metric Tons of Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Recycling these materials helps create cleaner air!

### 173,736 Gallons of Water

Represents enough fresh water to meet the daily needs of 2,316 people!



Prepared by Waste Management

Sources: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, International Aluminum Institute, National Association for PET Container Resources, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Earth Works Group Recycler's Handbook, One Earth Recycle, Bring Recycling.org, National Recycling Coalition, US Forest Products Laboratory, and Waste Management. © Waste Management 2016



Dear Local Coordinating Council,

It has been awhile since we have communicated with you and there have been many changes at the Mesa County Regional Transportation and Planning Office (RTPO), including the three new staff members hired in April.

- *Dana Brosig* is the new MPO Director, and was formerly in the Mesa County Planning Department as the Development Engineer. Dana has lots of fresh ideas and is excited about her new role as Director.
- *Sarah Brooks* is the new Mobility Manager; she is responsible for planning and organizing Travel Training and Trip Planning classes, GVT marketing, and community outreach.
- *Andy Gingerich*, previously with the City of Grand Junction Community Development Department, is the new Transit Coordinator responsible for transit planning and administration.

Our office would like to invite the LCC to a Meet and Greet on **Wednesday, July 31 from 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM** at the Central Branch Library in the meeting room, pastries and coffee will be provided.

During this meeting we will discuss:

. **2045 Regional Transportation Plan** - This plan is used to determine community transportation needs and how transportation funding is used in the future. Community feedback is very important in this process and we would like your input on how to best reach out to community members served by LCC agencies.

. **Changes to the ADA Paratransit Eligibility process** – Paratransit ridership has greatly increased and GVT Paratransit resources are becoming strained. In efforts to assure that those who truly need the service receive the best service possible, Mesa County is in the process of changing the process for riders to gain Paratransit eligibility.

. **Travel Training** – Discuss Learn to Ride classes and Trip Planning and identify individuals/groups that would like to go through a Train the Trainer program in order to be able to offer classes to help individuals to feel confident about riding Fixed Route.

. **CDOT Presentation** – TJ Burr, CDOT Region 3 Project Coordinator, Division of Transit & Rail will present on upcoming funding opportunities. CDOT staff will also do a short presentation on Bustang/Outrider, bus service to Denver and Durango from Grand Junction.

Feel free to pass this invitation on to the appropriate person in your agency. I will also be sending out a calendar invite shortly so that it will be on your calendar. In order to help us plan for this meeting, please RSVP to [sarah.brooks@mesacounty.us](mailto:sarah.brooks@mesacounty.us) or accept the invitation by **July 24, 2019**.





# WARNING



## High Water Danger

High water levels are creating potentially dangerous river conditions. Hazards will change day by day. Check conditions every time you raft.



### BEWARE



#### Swift Water, Dangerous Currents

Not all hazards can be seen from the surface, even gentle stretches of water can have dangerous undercurrents.



#### Debris and Tree Snags

It's creating dangerous undercurrents that can trap you underwater. Debris can also puncture rafts.



#### Cold Water Temperatures

Hypothermia is a very real concern. Water will be colder the deeper the River gets, creating a potentially deadly situation for even the strongest of swimmers.



#### Unstable Riverbanks

Ground can erode underneath, and breakaway without warning. If you're standing on it, you can get swept away.



### SAFETY



#### Always Wear a Life Jacket

This is NOT the year to skip wearing a life jacket! Life jackets are available to borrow for free at many boat ramps thanks to the Save-A-Life Jacket Program.



#### Use Proper Equipment

Pool toys and inner tubes on the river can kill you. Use equipment designed for the river, sub-standard equipment won't protect you from river hazards.



#### Raft Sober & with Friends

Rafting impaired puts your life at risk. Raft with others, not alone. A preferred minimum is three boats. Let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return.



**WHY FRUITA?** The City of Fruita focuses on three strategic outcomes built upon a base of providing quality core services.

**Quality of Place (QP)** The City of Fruita is a community where residents and visitors love where they are. The City strives to be a bike and pedestrian friendly community by providing a system of sidewalks, trails, and bike lanes that connect our parks, schools, neighborhoods, civic facilities, and commercial areas. We value safe neighborhoods, our geographic natural resources and landscapes, top tier education and healthcare, and we collaborate to provide quality essential infrastructure and services. We are an inclusive community of doers who enjoy active and healthy lifestyles.

**Economic Health (EH)** The City of Fruita strives to be financially sustainable by enabling a stable economy and supporting a diversity of businesses that offer well-paying jobs that attract educated employees. The City works to be fiscally responsible and continuously seeks ways to allocate resources to services and projects that have the highest impact on the City's priorities. We are the innovative leader for economic development in the Grand Valley.

**Lifestyle (L)** The City of Fruita fosters a fun and funky ambiance by celebrating the local arts, farm and ranching history, unique leisure opportunities, and family-friendly events and activities. As a city, we encourage a diversity of cultural opportunities, businesses, and recreational activities. We continue to improve and enhance recreational offerings from traditional to outdoor adventure sports and youth to adult activities. We are a family-friendly community with diverse cultural opportunities, businesses and recreational amenities where visitors feel like locals and locals play like visitors.



# FRUITA COLORADO



*City of Fruita staff strive to emulate these core behaviors in everything we do in order to show gratitude for public trust, build trust and maintain trust with the public, our partner agencies and with one another.*

## **We are Fruita. We are...**

**Fun**—This is such a critical behavior that impacts everything we do. If we are not having fun, we must ask why and recalculate and adjust. We must love what we do and where we work, live and play. We are positive and put forth focused effort to have a positive attitude. We are smiling. We are friendly. We enjoy serving the public and working together. We care about the experience those who interact with us internally and externally have.

**Respectful**—We are empathetic. We take an active interest in each other, residents, businesses and visitors. We listen. We talk one at a time. We compliment and build up others. We are tough on issues and easy on people. We recognize the role of City Council, Board and Commission Members, residents, supervisors, coworkers and customers. We are kind. We treat people with dignity. We embrace diversity and make every effort to think collectively.

**United**—We are a team. We focus on purpose and work together to achieve our goals. We communicate effectively with each other. We seek consensus, agree to disagree and move forward for the greater good. We support each other. We value partnerships that help us achieve our goals. We remember we are public stewards and serve. We are inclusive. We create synergy by recognizing our strengths and weaknesses and succeeding as a team.

**Innovative**—Simplicity is our key to innovation. We consider and explore alternatives to the way we've always done it. We are open to new ideas. We welcome calculated risk-taking and learning from our mistakes. We seek continuous improvement and welcome constructive feedback. We ask why and why not. We work to continually improve.

**Transparent**—We operate as an open book. We create, over communicate and reinforce clarity in our work. We are trustworthy. We assume a positive intent from others. We work with integrity. We seek ways to increase transparency internally and externally.

**Authentic**—We are unique. We are real. We are different. We are special. We are optimistic. We are exceptional and proud of it. We are comfortable being different. We are open-minded. We are honest. We embrace and value family. We live what we speak. We create clear expectations and work hard to manage those expectations.