



FRUITA COLORADO

Weekly Info Update



To: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
From: MIKE BENNETT, CITY MANAGER
Date: MARCH 27, 2020
Re: WEEKLY INFORMATION UPDATE

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2020 City of Fruita Municipal Election

The 2020 Municipal Election is still on schedule, and mail-in ballots continue to trickle in. As of this morning, we have received 1610 ballots. With the Civic Center now closed, ballots can be dropped off in the ballot box located in the Civic Center parking lot. Ballots will be received until April 7, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. Ballots can also be mailed in using the envelope provided with the ballot.

Coronavirus Update

Stop me if you have heard this before, but what a week! I continue to be humbled by the response of our staff and the community to the COVID-19 response. It was a busy week, and here a few highlights from the week and the actions we took as a City:

- Monday afternoon, we moved to Tier 4 of our Emergency Operations Plan in response to Governor Polis's Executive Order to reduce staff by 50%. Many employees are now working remotely, and we have also begun to stagger shifts to limit potential exposure. In addition, employees that are not working remotely are adhering to the social distancing requirement of having a least six feet of separation from one another.
- Tuesday morning, the Fruita Civic Center closed to the public until further notice. Although the Civic Center is closed, business continues as usual. All City business can now be conducted online, and many links on how to conduct this business online at www.fruita.org/covid19.
- Tuesday night, I signed a Local Disaster Emergency in Response to COVID-19. This declaration allows the City to be in a position to be eligible for any potential aid and funding as a result of economic hardship and disaster relief. This action was also recommended by the Mesa County Emergency Management Manager. At the time, this did not change any existing measures that the City was already taking to combat the spread of the virus.
- Wednesday night, Governor Polis issued a statewide Stay at Home Order. More information on this can be found below. Luckily, due to previous operational action taken, we did not have change much of our operations to be in compliance with this

Honor the Past – Envision the Future **FRUITA**

action. We did have to comply by then closing playgrounds, courts and shelters at parks, but not parks themselves which remain open.

- Also, on Wednesday, we began providing the Community with quick video updates on our operations. To date, there are video updates from Mayor Kincaid, Parks and Recreation Director Ture Nycum, and myself. These videos can be found [here](#), and we will continue to provide these updates as a way to keep our community informed and involved.
- Thursday night, the City Council ratified the Emergency Disaster Declaration in a remote meeting. Thank you all for participating in this meeting remotely.
- We continue to update our website and our Facebook page as more information becomes available. At fruita.org/covid19, you can find all our information related to this, as well as many helpful links. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to discuss.
- In an effort to continue responsible tourism messaging during this time that we began over a week ago, we strengthened this message on Fruita Tourism and Go Fruita social media sites:
 - *In response to COVID-19, Colorado's Governor has enacted a statewide "stay at home" order lasting through at least April 11. Now is not the time to travel in Colorado, and the Fruita community asks that you please avoid traveling to our area for at least the next two weeks. We'll be happy to have you here in the future, but are doing our best to stop community spread of COVID-19 right now. Thanks for doing your part to keep us all safe!*
- Mayor Kincaid participated in a Facebook live chat with the Fruita Chamber this morning.
- Today President Trump signed a \$2 trillion relief package passed in the Senate and House, and we will be diving into this and providing info related to it.

Governor Polis Issues Statewide Stay at Home Order

On Wednesday night, Governor Polis issued an Executive Order requiring that everyone in Colorado must remain home to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus. For now, the order is in effect until April 11, 2020, but this could change. People may leave their home to engage in activities or perform tasks for their health safety, and to go to or return from "critical work". More information on the Executive Order can be found at our website [here](#), as well as descriptions of exceptions to the stay in place requirement.

City of Fruita now accepting online payments for Planning Payments, Municipal Court Fees

A little lighter news, we are excited to announce that we can now accept online payments for planning fees, court fees, and restitution. With these additions, now all City business can be completed online throughout these closures. In addition to these, residents can still pay any utility bills online as well. All electronic payments can be submitted at this [link](#).

General Updates

- School District #51 has announced that remote learning for students will begin next week. All Mesa County schools remain closed until April 17th. More information can be found [here](#).
- FWorks has informed us that they will be pausing all memberships until April 11th
- Since Fruita was in the spotlight in the April edition of Elevation Outdoors, yet this free hardcopy magazine is hard to come by considering the current scenario, they have a way for you to receive a free version to your house by clicking [here](#).

- Grand Valley Transit provided a link if interested in seeing how traffic volumes have changed in recent weeks. Click [here](#) to see the interesting trends.
- We appreciate the Fruita chamber of Commerce and their efforts to provide info to our local businesses. We continue to provide them with updates that we have.

Administration

- The Municipal Court is transitioning to modified hours beginning next week, and will now be open Tuesday through Thursday between 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. To contact the Court, you can call 970-858-8041.

Engineering

- The 16 Road Trail Extension project is wrapping up. The last concrete pours are anticipated this coming Monday. Crews will then have to shoulder the concrete with road base and perform cleanup items. The connection should be open mid-April.
- Engineering continues to move forward with the bid opening for the 2020 K.4 Rd. Improvements Project as scheduled for 1:30 pm on Friday, April 3. A web-based live video of the opening will be performed in order to follow social distancing policies. An addendum will be issued next week answering any questions and providing details for bid submission and viewing of the bid opening.

Parks and Recreation

- The sharing shelves at the Fruita Community Center (“FCC”) continue to be a great success and we are getting a lot of community involvement. These sharing shelves allows people or companies to donate items and receive items that may be of need. This week we received donations from Sara Lee, the Fruita Middle School, Jimmy Johns, and many Fruita residents! Another great example of the awesome community that we have here in Fruita.
- Fruita Parks and Trails remain open and crews are working on sanitizing restroom facilities twice daily. While the parks remain open, the playgrounds, shelters, and court facilities are closed until further notice due to the Executive Order. WE also shared template signage information with HOAs in case that would help them.
- Our recreation crews are reaching out to the various communities to help encourage healthy activities, such as fitness workouts and classes online. Online or virtual classes can be found at the Fruita Parks and Recreation Facebook page [here](#).
- FCC Front Desk staff has also been busy helping deliver Meals on Wheels to eligible seniors in Fruita. These deliveries are available for people that may not be able to travel in light of COVID-19 concerns.

Planning & Development

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

Major/ Minor Subdivisions:

- Dwell PUD Concept Plan

- Bradyville Minor Subdivision
- Cider Mills Preliminary Plan

Site Design Review/ Other Applications:

- Coloramo Site Design Review (333 W Aspen)
- Monument Powder Coating (1596 Cipolla)
- Pediatric Dental Specialist (197 & 101 Jurassic)
- Sycamore St ROW Vacation
- Lithic Arts Building Site Design Review

Police Department

- To provide some clarification on the Stay at Home Order, the Mesa County Sherriff's Department put out a news release on essential travel. One highlight is that if you are participating in essential travel, there are no additional documents that are needed. To read more, that release can be found [here](#).

Public Works

- Assignments for maintenance crews have shifted considerably as we adapt with the COVID response plans. All maintenance employees have been assigned individual vehicles and are working modified/reduced schedules. Most preventative maintenance and capital projects have been postponed for the time being, which includes street striping downtown, street sweeping, routine sewer cleaning program, and similar non-safety related operations.
- Although now closed to the public, cleaning and disinfecting of City buildings remains a top priority and has been the primary focus for a number of our maintenance employees.
- Staff has been working on repairing non-functioning irrigation valves, installing trash cleaners at canal headgates, and cleaning irrigation silt traps in preparation for irrigation season. All critical maintenance items necessary for irrigation have been completed and we are expecting the canals to start filling April 6th.
- The carpet replacement project on the second floor of the Civic Center was completed this week.

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

- [Gov. Polis announces statewide stay-at-home order amid COVID-19 pandemic.](#)
- [Fruita, Palisade declare states of emergency.](#)
- [Fruita upgrades to Tier 4 of COVID-19 Response Plan.](#)
- [Cities to hold spring elections with mail-in ballots.](#)
- [City of Fruita declares Local Disaster Emergency in Response to COVID-19.](#)
- [SBA Approves Federal Loans for Small Businesses in Colorado.](#)
- [Senator Ray Scott speaks on COVID-19 in Colorado, Mesa County.](#)
- [Increases traffic at state parks.](#)
- [Fit4Moms offers online classes.](#)
- [National Monument staff and MCSO: be prepared when heading outdoors.](#)

- [Mesa County closing County parks, recreation facilities for 30 days.](#)
- [How area hospitals are working together during the COVID-19 outbreak.](#)
- [There's some good news in help for local businesses.](#)
- [Local schools ready for new 'adventure' as online learning begins.](#)
- [Family Health West moves to Telemedicine.](#)

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.):*

- **April 18, 2020** – Youth Scholarship Golf Tournament, Adobe Creek Golf Course at 9:00 a.m.
- **April 22, 2020** – Start the Conversation on the topic of Social Media Use, Fruita Community Center from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- **May 2, 2020** – Girls on the Run 5K at 9:00 a.m. at the Fruita Community Center
- **May 6, 2020** - Bike to Work Day, 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., at Civic Center or Heritage Park.
- **May 29, 2020 – May 30, 2020** – Mike the Headless Chicken Festival, Downtown Fruita.
- The Fruita Community Calendar is available on the website or at this [link](#).

CC. Department Directors

Do you have questions about anything in the Weekly Information Update? Please feel free to email us at communications@fruita.org.



**MESA COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH**

HOTLINE
(970)683-2300

WE KNOW YOU ARE WORRIED

Mesa County Public Health is working to keep our community informed.



Aim your camera
at this code



Get the latest information about COVID-19 at
health.mesacounty.us/COVID19

For general questions about COVID-19 call **1-877-462-2991**.

Public Health Recommendations (As of 3/9/20)

- If you are experiencing symptoms like a cough, fever, or respiratory problems, call your health care provider **FIRST. Do not go to the emergency room.** Emergency rooms need to be able to serve those people with the most critical needs. If you are having a medical emergency, call 9-1-1.
- Do not go to a health care facility in person unless directed by phone or if it's a medical emergency. If you are in Mesa County and believe you were exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19 or if you are a health care provider with questions, call 970-254-4120.
- Stay home when sick.
- Practice excellent personal hygiene habits, including hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes, and avoiding touching your face.
- Stay away from people that are ill, especially if you are 60 and older, or have underlying medical conditions, or if you are pregnant.
- Avoid non-essential travel to impacted areas. Stay up-to-date on travel advisories.



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.