



FRUITA COLORADO

Weekly Info Update



To: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
From: MIKE BENNETT, CITY MANAGER
Date: APRIL 3, 2020
Re: WEEKLY INFORMATION UPDATE

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Human Resources
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Recreation Dept.
970-858-0360

2020 City of Fruita Municipal Election

Fruita's Municipal Election is still on schedule with no changes, since it was originally scheduled to be a mail-in or drop box election anyway. Completed ballots can be dropped off at the drive-thru election drop box in the east parking lot of the Fruita Civic Center until 7:00 p.m. April 7th. If people choose to mail in their ballot with the prepaid envelope, it must be received by or on Tuesday's (April 7) mail so we would recommend dropping off in the drop box at this point. If people have questions, they may call our office 970-858-3663 M-F 8am-5pm. As of Thursday, April 2, Fruita voters have returned 2,148 ballots. This represents 26% of the ballots mailed out.

Coronavirus Update

- **Wearing non-medical masks.** Governor Polis recommends all Coloradans where non-medical face coverings when in public. The Governor said, "About 25% to 50% of people (with COVID-19) are asymptomatic. If you are wearing a mask, you may be preventing yourself from spreading it, even if you don't know you have it." He referred people to <https://www.coloradomaskproject.com/> for more info on non-medical masks, which can be "anything that covers your nose and mouth without getting in the way of your breathing."
- **Webinar on CARES Act and other COVID-19 legislation.** City Attorney Paul Wisor and I hosted a webinar on the CARES Act (the new federal stimulus bill) and other COVID-19 legislation on Thursday directed to employers and employees in our area. We had a great turnout of 17 zoom attendees and many on Facebook live or who continue to view it on Facebook. We appreciated the questions from viewers. If you missed it, view the webinar on our City of Fruita Facebook page or on YouTube [here](#). Thanks to Paul for putting this together!
- **Businesses seeking CARES Act Relief** should talk with their lender ASAP and go to <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options> to apply for COVID-19 related relief that includes applicable forgivable loans.
- **City YouTube Channel.** Speaking of our YouTube channel, we have been uploading all COVID-19 video updates to the Fruita TV channel. If you've missed any or are not on social media, you may view them all [here](#). More scheduled through the weekend and next week.

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

- **Local Coordination.** We continue to coordinate regularly with the Mesa County Public Health Department, state agencies, Mesa County Economic Development First Responders, other governmental jurisdictions in the county and throughout the state, public land managers and local law enforcement agencies.
- **Mesa County Public Health Updates.** Please refer daily to the updates [here](#). For all summaries and info: health.mesacounty.us/covid19. Today's update will be out shortly. But as of yesterday, Mesa County has 18 positive cases, with only 2 cases with unknown sources and 2 pending.
- **Current, Key Messaging.**
 - Stay at home, with exception of essential, approved activities.
 - Visitors, stay home!
 - Social distancing is very important to limit spread and avoid overloading healthcare system for all those in need of critical healthcare.
 - Do your part to keep our public lands open. Spread out, take out trash, obey rules of public lands, don't congregate and don't test your skills—be safe.
 - Safely check on neighbors.
- **Mesa County Public Health Hotline.** Remember that if you receive from the public or have questions, concerns or requests related to the Governor's Stay at Home Order or other public health related matters, please direct them to the Mesa County Public Health Hotline at (970) 683-2300. They are set up with a call center trained to handle these calls. When someone reports a possible violation, they first contact the reported party and educate, determine next steps, and if necessary involve local law enforcement. Mesa County also officially requested the Governor amend the Stay at Home Order to more directly address Coloradans not travel out of their home area to recreate.
- **Bipartisan letter from CO Senators Bennet and Gardner.** As you are aware, the CARES Act does not provide local government aid related to COVID-19 loss of revenue or expenses unless over 500,000 in population. See letter below from our Colorado Senators urging fair relief for small and rural governments.
- **Temporary Furlough and Unemployment Assistance for part time recreation and community center staff.** With the closure of the Community Center March 15, we have just over 100 part time employees who work as lifeguards, front desk staff and many other roles in various recreation functions as well. With no revenue coming in we are not able to continue paying every two weeks for these positions during the closure. As we worked the end of last week into this week with the City Attorney County to understand both what is best for the City and the employees, we determined it best to furlough (lay-off with job attached) to enable them to apply for and obtain unemployment insurance (with additional \$600/week COVID pay) and have the ability to quickly begin work again with us when these services resume in future. Full time staff are called each of these people and we provided a follow-up letter with explanations, FAQ, and all the information they individually need to apply. We also coordinated with the County to host a webinar for them for any questions. Each of these employees received a check Friday for hours worked one week, and hours scheduled, but unworked the following week. They will also receive a check April 9, for the current payroll based on average hours. This should help them transition. This was received with much understanding and kind words. We can't wait to bring them back on and resume normal operations. This does not impact all full time and other employees in other city departments.

- **School District 51** extended at home learning through April 30 in response to Governor.
- **Third update to Governor's Stay at Home Order** is found [here](#), which further clarifies and defines essential services.
- **Governor's Orders** are found at <https://www.colorado.gov/governor/2020-executive-orders>.

General Updates

- Even with the closures, business continues at the Civic Center as Planning and Development issued 56 planning clearances and 14 new residential build permits last month. There were no code enforcement issues. The full monthly development report can be found below.
- Even in the midst of all this, we were able to talk on the phone or video conference to previous prospective businesses that are checking in and exploring options.
- The newest edition of the GoFruita newsletter is out now. To view it, click [here](#).

Engineering

- The 2020 K.4 Road Improvements Project bid opening was conducted virtually Friday afternoon. There were 6 bids submitted with MA Concrete Construction, Inc. submitting the lowest responsive bid with a bid amount of \$ 396,933.16, which is below our budgeted amount.
- Concrete is completed on the 16 Road Extension of the Kokopelli Trail. Shouldering work will take place in the coming weeks.

Parks and Recreation

- We are disappointed that some playground and park restroom facilities at Reed Park were hit with graffiti this week. A report is in with law enforcement and the graffiti was cleaned up as best as possible.
- The project to convert all lighting to LED at the Fruita Community Center is in progress and should be finished up within the next one to two weeks.
- Parks staff continues to prepare for the spring and has been applying pre-emergent in parks and along trails. Please note that our spray has a yellow or blue dye and we also flag the areas where we have sprayed. Fertilization and aeration of turf has also begun and staff is preparing for irrigation when it is turned on in the next couple of weeks.

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

Public Works

- Irrigation systems will be turned on the week of April 13th.

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

- [Coronavirus In Colorado: Governor asks everyone to wear masks.](#)
- [County commissioners to declare 'economic emergency'.](#)
- [COVID-19 Briefs: State sends COVID-19 testing kits.](#)
- [BLM hiking N. Fruita camping fees in prelude to adding 150 sites there.](#)
- [Mesa County jobless rate steady in February but increases expected.](#)
- [Sports commission juggling schedule, looking to 2021.](#)
- [Commissioners approve economic disaster declaration.](#)
- [Health and Human Services programs still available, despite office closures.](#)
- [Mountain lion management plan sets goals for west Colorado.](#)
- [Missing the gym? Here's a list of local, virtual workouts.](#)
- [Mind Springs COVID-19 mental health support line.](#)
- [CPW extends expiration dates on State park passes and registration.](#)
- [CPW: Hunting and fishing seasons are not canceled.](#)
- [Mesa County Sheriff Says We Can Do Better.](#)
- [District 51 school closure extended through April 30.](#)
- [Headed outside? Land managers warn to practice social distancing while recreating.](#)
- [#StayTheBleepHome.](#)
- [Don't keep tasty food at a social distance. Here are our favorite spots.](#)
- [Coronavirus Cancelled Pickin' Peggy Malone's Nursing Homes Shows So Now The 'Bathroom Balladeer' Rides to the Rescue.](#)

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.
- **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.

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0609

April 3, 2020

The Honorable Steven T. Mnuchin
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Mnuchin:

We write you to express support for Treasury ensuring that funding from the \$150 billion Coronavirus Relief Fund included in the CARES Act for state, tribal, and local governments is provided as flexibly, inclusively, and quickly as possible. While substantial additional federal support will be required to address the immense budget gaps faced by state and local governments as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and we strongly encourage its inclusion in the next assistance package, this \$150 billion is an essential down payment to help state, tribal, and local governments meet critical and immediate needs.

As you develop guidance for recipients of the funds, we urge you to follow the language and intent of the statute, specifically by putting in place guidance that allows for:

1. **Flexibility of Use.** The statute states that the funds are to be used to cover costs that “(1) are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19); (2) were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of the date of enactment of this section for the state or government; and (3) were incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 30, 2020.”

We request that, consistent with the first and second requirements, your guidance allows unanticipated expenditures related to both the direct public health response and to human services or other needs that are a result of the economic effects of the public health emergency, including but not limited to the effects on social expenditures due to limiting or shutting down non-essential businesses as well as shelter-in-place orders.

This would include the following: salary and benefits for local and state government employees who would have been furloughed from their normal duties but who have been reassigned in response to the COVID-19 public health crisis and thus are working; increased operational expense for local health departments; the costs of paid sick and paid family and medical leave for local and state government employees; the costs to communicate or enforce public health orders related to COVID-19; the additional human services costs incurred due to the knock-on economic effects caused by actions taken due to the public health emergency (for example, the need to provide Medicaid coverage to people who have lost their jobs and need health care in the context of a pandemic; to rehouse people experiencing homelessness in a manner that reduces the risk of spread of COVID-19; to staff and support efforts to make up for lost learning time in schools and higher education institutions; or to expand food delivery for seniors and other vulnerable populations, among many others). These are just a few examples of a much wider array of necessary and unanticipated expenses being incurred by state and local governments, including

local governments in smaller and rural communities where a few people often bear the burdens of a wide and varied array of responsibilities.

We have also heard from communities across all corners of Colorado that the drop-off in their anticipated revenues has been severe and is expected to remain so throughout the public health crisis and as the economy recovers in the months following. The language clearly allows for necessary expenses that are not "accounted for" in the most recent budget, which includes the ability for state and local governments to fill a gap in revenues resulting from the public health emergency. Ongoing expenses that remain necessary but are no longer able to be financed should qualify by this standard, as they are no longer "accounted for" as they were in the most recent pre-crisis budgets.

2. **Inclusivity of All Local Jurisdictions.** While we never supported population thresholds for any state and local government stabilization funding, which would eventually become the Coronavirus Relief Fund, the statute only allows direct applications to Treasury for funding by local jurisdictions with populations in excess of 500,000 people. Our understanding is this population threshold was put in place due to the administrative complexity and potentially substantial delays caused by directly issuing payments to every jurisdiction in the United States with fewer than 500,000 people as well. We request that you develop guidance for the state recipients of the funding consistent with Congress's intent that local governments with populations below 500,000 should receive their fair share of the remaining funding allocated to the state. Clearly, Congress intended to provide fiscal support not only to states and larger local jurisdictions, but also to acutely affected local jurisdictions with fewer than 500,000 residents.
3. **Speed of Delivery.** While the statute requires paying state, tribal, and local governments within 30 days of enactment, we urge you to move much faster than that deadline, given the urgency of the budgetary issues faced by state, tribal, and local governments, especially those most acutely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please do not hesitate to be in touch if we can be of any assistance in getting these funds to state, tribal, and local governments as flexibly, inclusively, and quickly as possible.

Sincerely,



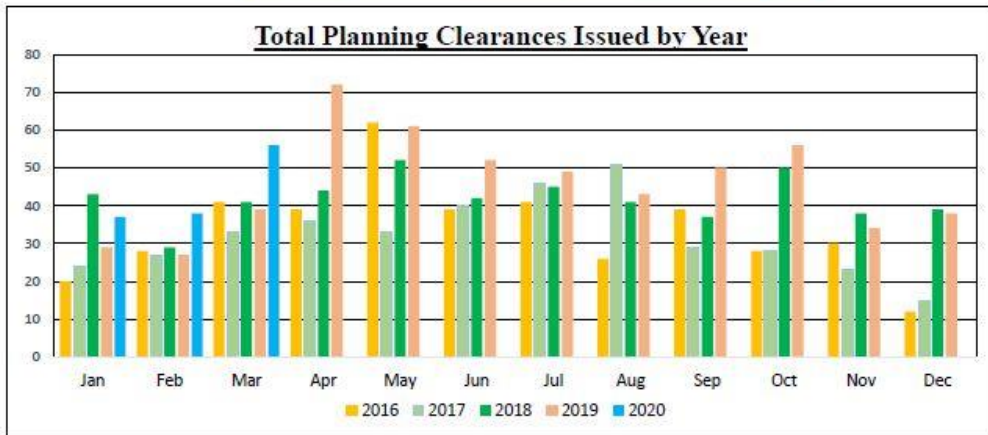
Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Cory Gardner
United States Senator



Monthly Development Report 2015-2019											
	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		
	PC's	NR	PC's	NR	PC's	NR	PC's	NR	PC's	NR	
Jan	20	1	24	4	43	16	29	6	37	4	
Feb	28	5	27	2	29	7	27	8	38	3	
Mar	41	5	33	0	41	14	39	2	56	14	
Apr	39	11	36	5	44	5	72	7	0	0	
May	62	11	33	4	52	10	61	11	0	0	
Jun	39	4	40	1	42	11	52	9	0	0	
Jul	41	6	46	2	45	6	49	3	0	0	
Aug	26	2	51	11	41	4	43	2	0	0	
Sep	39	7	29	2	37	6	50	1	0	0	
Oct	28	2	28	4	50	5	56	6	0	0	
Nov	30	3	23	9	38	7	34	2	0	0	
Dec	12	2	15	2	39	2	38	5	0	0	
TOTAL	405	59	385	46	501	93	550	62	131	21	





**MESA COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH**

HOTLINE
(970)683-2300



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.