



FRUITA COLORADO

Weekly Info Update



To: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
From: MIKE BENNETT, CITY MANAGER
Date: MAY 22, 2020
Re: WEEKLY INFORMATION UPDATE

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City offices will be closed, and staff will be off on Monday May 25, 2020, in observance of Memorial Day. The Community Center will also be closed on Sunday and Monday. Trash and recycling services will be delayed by one day next week. Hope you have a great holiday weekend!

Tuesday's City Council Workshop

There is only one item on the agenda for Tuesday night and that is a team building exercise.

Fruita Awarded Grant from Mesa County Federal Mineral Lease District

The Mesa County Federal Mineral Lease District awarded \$50,000 to the City of Fruita to improve the 16 Road railroad crossing. These funds will be matched with transportation impact fees collected from the industrial park, which will include upgrading and widening the crossing. With funding secured, staff will work with Union Pacific Railroad ("UPRR") to contract the permitting and construction of the improvements. The UPRR schedule is projected to take up to 18 months with improvements and is anticipated to be constructed in 2021. This was a very competitive grant cycle and, unfortunately, there was only enough funding for two of the applications. The other project that was awarded funding was submitted by the Grand Junction Police Department for upgrades to the firing range.

Coronavirus Update

Below are a few updates, but I would strongly encourage all to continue to follow www.fruita.org/covid19 for all updates we are posting. This also links to important Mesa County Public Health sources, as well as many others.

- **Mesa County Public Health's Second Variance Request to the State** – The State is reviewing MCPH's Variance Request #2 that was submitted Friday, May 15. Mayor Kincaid, City Council and I have all submitted emails of support urging quick approval from the State. We heard back from the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment's Executive Director Jill Ryan on Thursday and she said that the request is "being reviewed shortly" and that she is in touch with MCPH Director Jeff Kuhr.

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

The variance requests that all businesses in Mesa County be able to open at 50% capacity with approval by MCPH with reasonable plans following health and safety guidelines.

- **COVID-19 Testing Available throughout Colorado – CDPHE Encourages Anyone with Symptoms to Get Tested** – The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (“CDPHE”) is encouraging anyone who has symptoms of COVID-19 to speak with a health care provider and get tested. Colorado’s state lab has acquired significantly more testing supplies and has adequate processing capacity. Symptoms of COVID-19 can include fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, muscle pain, new loss of taste or smell, and chills.
- **Fruita Civic Center Reopen for Appointments Only** – This past Monday, the Fruita Civic Center opened for appointments only. Public/walk-in access to the facility has remained closed. The Civic Center has been closed since March 23, 2020, and this is the first phase of a plan to reopen the facility to the public in the future. Although the Civic Center will be reopening in a limited capacity, most City business can be conducted online, and the City encourages residents to limit all visits to the facility. Additional changes include staff continuing to wear masks, social distancing measures will remain in place, the building is disinfected throughout the day, and all public meetings will be held virtually (without in-person access) until further notice. The Fruita Police Department and City Shops Building will remain closed indefinitely. To learn how to conduct City business online, you can visit fruita.org/covid19. To schedule an appointment with any of the following Departments, you can call these numbers:
 - Planning and Development: 970-858-0786
 - Engineering: 970-858-8377
 - Administration: 970-858-3663
 - Human Resources: 970 858-8373

PHROST Master Plan Survey Open for Public Comment (cont’d)

In January 2020, the City of Fruita kicked off a Master Planning process to create and update the Parks, Health, Recreation, Open Space and Trails master plan. We have hosted strategic planning meetings with many of our partners and stakeholders, but now we are asking for community wide input to get your ideas and priorities that will help shape the future of Fruita. We acknowledge this is a unique time and ask you to take a moment to envision the future of parks and recreation services in Fruita. To do this, the City of Fruita is conducting a survey to provide input to the PHROST Master Plan. We are requesting your participation as part of the effort to better understand your usage and needs for the park and recreation system, open space and trails. In addition, we are asking some questions that relate to the health of our community. The survey can be found at this [link](#). In addition to the survey which will collect quantitative information, we have an online engagement platform where you can interactively provide the City of Fruita with qualitative information. Visit <https://fruitaplaylikealocal.com> to provide us information on where you would like additional accessibility to recreational opportunities or what type of facilities and programs you would like to see provided in the future. All of this information will help us create a PHROST Master Plan to work to meet the needs of the future.

General Updates

- Grand Valley Bike Month continues, and this week’s challenge is to bike for coffee. Participants can snap a photo of themselves biking for coffee and submit to Healthy Mesa County for a chance to win gift cards to local businesses.

- The newest GoFruita Blog is now available in time for Memorial Day weekend – view it here: [Fruita 'Off the Beaten Path'](#).
- The Fruita Chamber of Commerce is accepting applications for the 2020 Farmer's Market. The scheduled dates for this year's market are June 20 – September 19 every Saturday morning (although this could change). For more information, you can visit their website [here](#). All three Grand Valley Farmer's Markets have worked together with Mesa County Public Health to develop precautions to open. This year the Chamber will host Farmer's Markets in Fruita at Reed Park to meet these standards.
- This week, the Colorado Tourism Office informed us that all Colorado Welcome Centers will remain closed until further notice.

Administration

- The auditors are scheduled to complete their remote field work for the audit of the City's 2019 Financial Statements next week.
- Waste Management is working on finalizing changes to the trash and recycle routes in the City of Fruita which will add an additional day for collection services.

Engineering

- 2020 K.4 Road Improvements Project is progressing with a widened curb gutter and sidewalk being constructed along the south side of K.4 Road. Utility work continues on Fremont St. With a competitive bid from MA Concrete Construction, Inc., the project is looking to complete the widened sidewalk from Pine Street to Fremont Street.
- The Concrete Sidewalk and Ramp Replacement project is underway with ramps at Pabor Ave. and Maple St. and Aspen Ave. and Maple St. being poured this week.
- Street Overlays project is out for bid with a deadline for bid submission is June 5, 2020, at 1:30 pm.
- The Request for Qualifications (RFQ) went out this week for the MMOF Fremont Street Design Project. Submissions are due June 17, 2020 at 5:00 pm.



Parks and Recreation

- Recreation staff continues to prepare the additional phases of our reopening plans for the Fruita Community Center and is also working on recreation programming.
- Little Salt Wash Park was tagged by graffiti this week. Parks crews were at Little Salt Wash Park the day after working on cleaning up the vandalism. With the help from their parents, the two youth that tagged the park turned themselves in.

- Snooks Bottom has been very busy as of late. We ask that if people are using the outdoor space at Snooks they practice safe behavior and social distancing. One last reminder, the lake is not intended as a swimming facility and alcohol is prohibited at Snooks Bottom Open Space.

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

- Sewer crews interviewed applicants for the vacant Maintenance Worker position this week and are hopeful to fill this essential position soon.
- Road crews have been working on completing some asphalt patches around town this week.
- There continues to be a number of water leaks on the mountain pipeline and are estimating that we are losing 197,000 gallons/day. GPPWUA has work crews scheduled to make additional repairs over the Memorial Day weekend for the sections within their responsibility and City road crews are tentatively scheduled next week to replace some of the pipeline from Enoch that the City is responsible for. Until repairs are made, the amount of water stored in Reservoir #1 will continue to steadily decrease and will impact how much water is available later in the summer.

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

- [Fruita planning for decreased revenues due to COVID-19.](#)
- [COVID-19 cases remain low as Mesa County waits for second variance.](#)
- [MCPH Expands COVID Testing While Waiting on Phase 2 Approval.](#)
- [Colorado National Monument increases recreational access.](#)
- [Legislators begin process of deciding what to cut from budget.](#)
- [Anyone with symptoms can now be tested for COVID-19.](#)
- [Colorado National Guard flyover for Health Care Workers.](#)
- [Concern as North Fruita Desert seeing campground overflow.](#)
- [Fruita development brings quality and a sense of community in a 55+ neighborhood.](#)

- [BLM names new Grand Junction Field Office Manager.](#)
- [Public swimming pools to remain closed.](#)
- [Western Slope parks see uptick in camping, boating.](#)
- [Fruita graduates gather in lieu of commencement.](#)
- [New Fruita Boat Ramps Open.](#)
- [River recreation picks up ahead of Memorial Day Weekend.](#)
- [Monument restores fees, some access.](#)
- [Seven rescued after raft pops in Colorado River.](#)
- [Local 24-hour drive-up ballot drop box in the works.](#)
- [What to expect ahead of Memorial Day.](#)

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.):*

- No upcoming events currently.

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



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.



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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.