



# FRUITA COLORADO

## Weekly Info Update



To: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
From: MIKE BENNETT, CITY MANAGER  
Date: MAY 29, 2020  
Re: WEEKLY INFORMATION UPDATE

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Public Works  
970-858-9558

Recreation Dept.  
970-858-0360

### Tuesday's City Council Meeting

On the agenda is one legislative hearing on a request to vacate a right-of-way and two quasi-judicial hearings on Cider Mill Preliminary Plan and a request for approval of a site design review for the Lithic Arts Building project. An overview of the Community Center Phase 2 Reopening Plan, consent agenda and general updates will also be covered.

### Coronavirus Update

Below are a few updates, but I would strongly encourage all to continue to follow [www.fruita.org/covid19](http://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 Transitioning to Second Phase of Reopening Plan** – Last weekend, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment approved Mesa County's variance and second phase of the reopening plan. Under this phase, most businesses will be able to reopen or expand operations, recreation activities may continue, and group gatherings are now limited to 50 people. More information can be found at this link, and here are a few highlights from the [order](#).
- **Fruita Community Center to Expand Operations** - On Wednesday, we submitted an application to MCPH to expand operations at the Fruita Community Center ("FCC"). With this application, the FCC can increase capacity, provide additional services, and can hold certain fitness classes and recreation programs. Below are a few of the changes that will be taking place throughout the month of June, and more information can be found at this [link](#). Additionally, we will provide a presentation to the Council at Tuesday night's meeting. FCC staff is also putting out a special activity guide just for June.
  - FCC Hours – Beginning June 14, FCC hours will be expanding and will now also be open on Sunday.
  - Billing – Billing for memberships will be reinstated on June 15, 2020. If guests would like to cancel or suspend their membership, they can contact Guest Services at the FCC.

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

- Masks are required in the facility. While guests are no longer required to wear masks or face coverings while exercising, guests must wear one when entering/exiting the facility, and when walking around.
- Guests are still encouraged to reserve a time slot to use specific areas/equipment at this [link](#) as only a limited number of walk ins will be allowed to ensure that the capacity of 50% is not exceeded.
- Guests will continue to be screened at the front-desk for any symptoms of COVID-19 and will be required to provide contact information in the event that contact tracing needs to be conducted.
- The indoor pool will open on June 1, 2020 for specific fitness activities.
- The outdoor pool is scheduled to open on June 13, 2020 for leisure swim within capacity constraints.
- Fitness classes and recreation programs will also begin in early June.
- The Senior Center, locker rooms/showers, common area, and the childcare program will remain unavailable.

## General Updates

- ***GVRTC Board Special Meeting.*** The GVRTC Board held a special meeting this week to discuss how to prioritize funding received for transit from the CARES Act. Most municipalities expressed interest in using the funds to reduce member contributions to cover the short-term revenue short falls while maximizing grant opportunities for GVT fleet needs. RTPO staff will be working with the City Managers to refine some of the financial scenarios for consideration at the June board meeting.
- ***Mesa County ED Partners Update.*** I have been meeting with the Mesa County Economic Development First Responders weekly during the pandemic. This group includes all chambers, all cities, Mesa County, GJEP, Business Incubator Center, Workforce Center, CMU, and the GJ DDA. Below you will see two documents the group has worked on: (1) Mesa County 2020 Infrastructure Priorities (being emphasized to state and federal legislators during stimulus package negotiations) and (2) Mesa County ED First Responders Policy Priorities (being emphasized to legislators during the session). Both documents are included below.
- ***Fruita Farmer's Market Schedule.*** The Chamber of Commerce has worked with other markets in the valley and Mesa County Public Health to identify a way for the market to operate this year. See the flier below for details. To meet requirements, they have changed the location to Reed Park this year.
- ***Alliance for Innovation Podcast and article.*** I had the opportunity to be interviewed for the Alliance for Innovation's podcast called the "Innovator's Journey". If you are interested you can read a summary [here](#) or listen [here](#).
- ***Council Workshop.*** Thanks to each of you for your participation and attendance in our team building session focused on the Meyers-Briggs Personality Profile assessment and facilitated discussion we had at the workshop Tuesday! As a reminder, you may contact the facilitator for an individual phone call to discuss your results on your own time in the next 30 days.
- ***City Newsletters.*** We are preparing the next edition of the City Link. We will save costs and be mindful limiting mail during this time and release this in an electronic version for this edition.

Recreation Staff will soon be releasing a special June e-version of the Activity Guide to assist in communicating the operations during Phase 2.

### **Administration**

- Finance staff were busy working with the auditors this week, who are conducting their field work for the annual audit.
- Staff is preparing the plan for reopening the Civic Center to the public on June 8, while adhering to Public Health requirements and safety of employees and patrons. Coordination with Agape Food Bank, Fworks and the Fruita DMV has been key. Agape will continue food distribution on Wednesdays outside the building. The Fruita DMV plans to reopen June 16 on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

### **Engineering**

- Fremont Street, north of Aquarius/Meyers, will be closed to through traffic until improvements are made to Fremont Street south of K.4 Road.

### **Human Resources**

- The St. Mary's Bloodmobile will be in the Civic Center Parking lot on Tuesday, June 2, 2020 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. accepting blood donations. If you are interested in donating, you need to schedule a time at this [link](#).

### **Parks and Recreation**

- The key focus and work of the entire staff has been on the reopening plan for the Community Center, parks and recreation programs, mainly highlighted above. We truly appreciate the efforts to reopen safely while adhering to Public Health requirements. Staff are leading the way across the state for opening such a facility as the Community Center!
- We are pleased to announce that the playgrounds at Fruita Parks have reopened for general use. Signage regarding closures has been removed. Cleaning and sanitizing of the playgrounds and equipment will happen once per week, but it is recommended that you bring your own supplies to sanitize surfaces prior to and after use, and to maintain social distancing.

### **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**

- Officer Moody has completed his field training program and will begin solo patrol next week. That leaves us with two current staffing shortages – one due to a vacancy and one due to an officer on extended restricted duty for medical reasons.

### **Public Works**

- Michael Roberts joined our team this week and filled a much-needed maintenance worker position on our sewer crew.
- The Glade Park Water Users Association replaced 1,740 feet of pipe below Reservoir #3 over the Memorial Day weekend and City road crews replaced 500 feet this week near Enoch Lake. These repairs helped dramatically in fixing the leaks along the pipeline and we are now able to resume normal delivery of water. It's still pretty dry though and the reservoir levels will likely continue to be lower than normal.
- A due diligence application was filed this week for the water rights associated with the mountain pipeline. This is required every 6 years and the City has been able to show continued use of the absolute irrigation rights. However, the City also continues to claim additional conditional rights for future demand, which will be under review.
- The contractor, COBLACO, is scheduled to start on the concrete rehabilitation and coating project next week at the WWRF.

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

- [Honoring Fallen Soldiers – the Grand Valley's Memorial Day.](#)
- [State OKs Mesa County phase 2 reopening plan.](#)
- [BLM says it has seen an uptick in vandalism on local cultural resources.](#)
- [Mesa County to open motor vehicle offices.](#)
- [Mesa County jobless rate spikes.](#)
- [Search and Rescue stayed busy during stay-at-home.](#)
- [BLM limiting group sizes at camp sites on Colorado River.](#)
- [School District 51: Budget Cuts and Grants.](#)
- [Boy Scout leads efforts to clean BLM land.](#)
- [Legislature returns after COVID-19 hiatus.](#)
- [Palisade Plunge work continuing.](#)
- [Fruita Farmers Market to run from June 20 – September 19](#)
- [District 51 hopes to start student activities before July.](#)
- [Local researcher co-authors paper on cannibal dinosaurs. Congrats Dr. Julia McGugh!](#)
- [Mesa County Libraries reopening on June 8.](#)

**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.):*

- **June 2, 2020**, we are hosting the St. Mary's Mobile Blood Drive in the Civic Center parking lot from 1:30-3:30 pm. See flier below.
- **June 20 – Sept. 19**, the Fruita Farmer's Market will be every Saturday from 8:30 am – 12:00 pm at Reed Park during these dates.
- *Due to Public Health Orders in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, most events remain cancelled for the time being.*

CC. Department Directors

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

**From:** Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce  
360 Grand Ave.  
Grand Jct. CO 81501  
(970) 242-3214 fax: (970) 242-3694



**Contact:** Diane Schwenke, GJ Chamber 970.250.6461

For immediate release

May 27, 2020

## **Mesa County Economic Development First Responders Compile List of Public Policy Priorities to Help Our Economy Begin to Recover**

The Mesa County Economic Development First Responders is a group of senior leaders representing 15 different government, quasi government, educational and nonprofit organizations in Mesa County dedicated to ensuring the continued vitality of the local economy through a number of economic development strategies. Impacts of COVID 19 on small businesses, local governments and educational entities will significantly impact our ability to continue our goal of a strong diverse economy. As state and federal lawmakers consider moving forward and as regulators look at how to safely reopen our businesses and schools the ED First Responders have established a list of three major priorities, listed below in order of importance that will have the most impact in moving our economy forward. This list was developed based upon feedback from community leaders and others on what we need in order to begin our economic recovery.

### **Priority 1: Education and Workforce Development**

While recognizing that there will be funding cuts to programs and institutions that prepare our students for the future of work and help upskill our current workforce, funding cuts to this sector at all levels of government should be minimized in order to maximize our future economic development efforts. These include:

- Minimize funding cuts to all K-12 Schools Serving Mesa County
- Minimize funding cuts to Colorado Mesa University
- Support Relaunching America's Workforce Act to fund workforce development activities through the Mesa County Workforce Center
- Minimize funding cuts to Collbran Job Corps
- Support Relaunching America's Workforce Act to fund workforce development activities through the Mesa County Workforce Center
- Support and advocate for safe, science-based reopening plans at the local, state and federal level to reinstate in-person learning at all levels of education

### **Priority 2: Infrastructure Development**

It is anticipated that there will be funding for infrastructure in future federal legislation and the MC ED First Responders have developed a list of 20 projects that will assist us in making this area even more attractive for existing business expansions and new business locations. Specifically, our priorities will include:

- Advocating that as many of the 20 projects jointly compiled be funded as possible
- Support CMU infrastructure projects that will aid in developing a skilled workforce in health sciences
- Supporting efforts to get those projects that are funded under construction as soon as possible to stimulate economic activity

360 Grand Avenue, Grand Jct., CO 81501, Phone: (970) 242-3214, FAX: 242-3694, [www.gjchamber.org](http://www.gjchamber.org)

### **Priority 3: Incentives and Regulatory and Business Environment**

There is no doubt that there will be significant cuts to cash incentives in the State of Colorado. Additionally, some regulatory relief issued under the Governor's Executive Orders should be continued in order to help businesses survive economically. Other efforts have also been identified that can aid in business recovery. Specifically, priorities include:

- Reauthorization of Rural Jump Start (passage of HB20-1003)
- Maintaining and possible expanding tax credit programs that do not require cash to incentivize private investment in communities
- Support legislation that gives local counties more flexibility with deadlines in collecting property tax payments
- Examine potential for allowing voters to significantly amend the Gallagher Amendment
- Making alcohol takeout a permanent option for restaurants
- Oppose legislation that adds additional burdens on businesses at this time (i.e. HB 1025 requiring third party verification of utility usage in manufacturing in order to claim tax exemption)
- Support local tourism development with funding for a statewide marketing campaign
- Support funding for REDI Grants and allow access to businesses directly

Members of the Mesa County Economic Development First Responders include: Grand Junction City Manager, Fruita City Manager, Palisade Town Manager, Debeque Town Manager, Collbran Town Manager, Grand Junction, Palisade and Fruita Chambers, Business Incubator Center, Grand Junction Economic Partnership, Colorado Mesa University, Mesa County, Mesa County Workforce Center, Grand Junction Regional Airport and Grand Junction Downtown Partnership.

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MESA COUNTY  
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**  
 FIRST RESPONDERS

**Honorable Michael Bennet**  
 United States Senator  
 261 Russell Senate Building  
 Washington, DC 20510

**Honorable Cory Gardner**  
 United States Senator  
 354 Russell Senate Building  
 Washington, DC 20510

**Honorable Scott Tipton**  
 U.S. Representative  
 218 Cannon HOB  
 Washington, DC 20515

Senators Bennet & Gardner & Congressman Tipton:

Thank you for the work you are doing to represent and advocate for our communities during the unprecedented global COVID-19 pandemic. This is clearly a trying time and we greatly appreciate the open communication, overtures for information and accessibility you all have shown over the past number of weeks. We feel fortunate to be represented by you all in Washington, D.C.

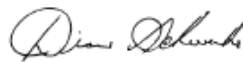
During a recent meeting of our Mesa County Economic Development First Responders group, we discussed the likelihood of further legislative measures designed to stimulate economic activity and aid in recovery once we get through the COVID-19 crisis. As a coalition of organizations in Colorado's Grand Valley focused on enhancing economic vitality, expanding employment opportunities and improving workforce development, we see value in communicating in one voice with your offices about crucial capital and infrastructure projects we know will greatly enhance our region and State. Accordingly, our coalition has developed the *20 for 2020* list of crucial infrastructure projects we believe are vital to our success in the near and long term. While we understand how large this ask is, we wanted to clearly communicate the needs of our communities to ensure your offices are armed with shovel-ready projects as negotiations and legislative drafting efforts continue.

We would welcome the opportunity for a more in-depth conversation about each of these projects in the near future. Please let us know when we can convene such a briefing.

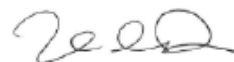
With thanks,



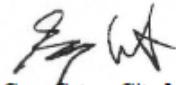
Tim Foster, President  
 Colorado Mesa University



Diane Schwenke, President & CEO  
 Grand Junction Area Chamber



Robin Brown, CEO  
 Grand Junction Economic Partnership




Greg Caton, City Manager  
 City of Grand Junction



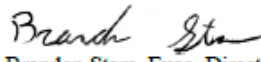
Peter Baier, County Administrator  
 Mesa County



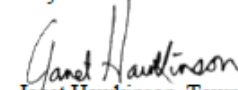
Mike Bennett, City Manager  
 City of Fruita



Jon Maraschin, Exec. Director  
 Business Incubator Center



Brandon Stam, Exec. Director  
 Downtown Grand Junction



Janet Hawkinson, Town Manager  
 Town of Palisade





## Colorado's Grand Valley 20 for 2020 Capital & Infrastructure Priorities

<u>Agency/Organization</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>	<u>Shovel Ready Y/N</u>
Colorado Mesa University	PA/PT/OT Academic Bldg	\$10,695,107	Yes
City of Grand Junction	Riverfront at Dos Rios	\$10,000,000	Yes
City of Fruita	K.4 Rd Improvements	\$1,500,000	Yes
Mesa County	MC Jail Pod Expansion	\$24,000,000	Yes
GJ Regional Airport	Customs Office/FTZ	\$2,500,000	Yes
Town of Palisade	Kluge Road Improvements	\$1,500,000	Yes
Business Incubator/RTC	Water Line Replacement	\$900,000	Yes
Downtown Grand Junction	Alley, Breezeway Improvements	\$500,000	Yes
Colorado Mesa University	Electric/Computer Engineering Academic Bldg	\$23,851,365	Yes
City of Grand Junction	24 Road Improvements	\$13,500,000	Yes
City of Fruita	Maple St Bridge	\$2,000,000	Yes
Town of Palisade	Water Line Replacement	\$3,000,000	Yes
Mesa County	E Road Expansion	\$8,000,000	Yes
Colorado Mesa University	Kinesiology Facility	\$28,886,536	Yes
City of Grand Junction	Street Maintenance	\$4,300,000	Yes
City of Fruita	Greenway Drive Bridge	\$2,000,000	Yes
School District 51	Grand Junction High School	\$95,000,000	Yes
Downtown Grand Junction	7 <sup>th</sup> Street Art Line	\$100,000	Yes
Colorado Mesa University	Brownson Arena Expansion	\$25,456,000	Yes
CDOT/City of GJ/ Mesa County	I-70 29 Road Interchange	\$60,000,000	Yes



Save a life. Donate blood.

# BLOOD DRIVE

## City of Fruita

325 East Aspen Avenue,  
Fruita

**Tuesday, June 2**

1:30 - 3:30 pm

**BY APPOINTMENT ONLY, MASKS ARE REQUIRED**

We are only taking appointments for our blood drives to help us maintain social distancing.

Please visit [www.stmarysbloodcenter.org](http://www.stmarysbloodcenter.org) to make your appointment today.

**ARE YOU IN THE CLUB?**

Donate blood 5 times in 2020,  
and receive a special gift.



If you have any questions about the upcoming blood drive  
please call St. Mary's Blood Center at **970-298-2555**.



# 2020 Fruita Farmers Market

June 20 - September 19

*Saturday Mornings*  
8:30 AM - 12:00 PM  
*Reed Park*

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The Fruita Farmers Market adheres to public health guidelines put forth by Mesa County Public Health and the Colorado Farmers Market Association.

SNAP & Double Up Food Bucks Accepted!

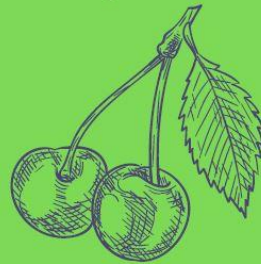
**LEARN MORE AT:**

[FRUITACHAMBER.ORG/FRUITA-FARMERS-MARKET](http://FRUITACHAMBER.ORG/FRUITA-FARMERS-MARKET)

**NOW AT A  
NEW LOCATION!**

Find the Farmers Market at  
**Reed Park**  
**250 S. Elm St.**  
**Fruita, CO 81521**

In an effort to promote social distancing and help future market growth, the Fruita Farmers Market will be moving to Reed Park.



**Fruita Area  
Chamber of Commerce**  
[events@fruitachamber.org](mailto:events@fruitachamber.org)  
**970-858-3894**



**MESA COUNTY  
PUBLIC HEALTH**  

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**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.