



# FRUITA COLORADO

## Weekly Info Update



To: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
From: MIKE BENNETT, CITY MANAGER  
Date: AUGUST 14, 2020  
Re: WEEKLY INFORMATION UPDATE

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### **Tuesday's City Council Meeting**

The City Council meeting on Tuesday night will begin with a presentation from Family Health West by Dr. Korrey Klein. After that update, there are three items on the consent agenda and no public hearings scheduled. There is one item on the administrative agenda, and that is an update and discussion on the Gallagher Amendment. The Council will wrap up the meeting with an Executive Session for a formal review of the City Attorney.

### **Update on the Pine Gulch Fire**

Staff continues to follow the Pine Gulch Fire, which is burning just north of Grand Junction in the Bookcliffs. This week, the fire continued to be active and is advancing north and east along North Dry Fork road. As of Thursday night, the fire has grown to 73,381 acres and is 7% contained. Garfield County has issued an evacuation order for residents near the fire. The fire is causing air quality issues in Mesa County, Garfield County, Eagle County, and several other counties.

Mesa County Public Health (MCPH) recommends that if smoke is thick or becomes thick in your neighborhood, that people remain indoors. This is especially true, MCPH states, for those with heart diseases, respiratory illnesses, the very young, and the elderly. It is recommended that people limit outdoor activity when moderate to heavy smoke is present. For current air quality conditions, you can visit MCPH's website [here](#). For all updates on the Pine Gulch Fire, you can visit their Facebook page [here](#).

### **Mesa County Moving to Stage Two Fire Restrictions**

Also, to limit the impacts of wildfires and because of drought conditions, Mesa County is moving to stage two fire restrictions beginning today (August 14, 2020). Unlike previous restrictions, stage two restrictions prohibit the use of anything that produces an open flame that is not liquid fueled, or gas fueled. Full information on what is and is not allowed can be found below. You can visit the Sheriff's website [here](#) for additional details.

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

## 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.

- **Statewide Mask Order.** Today it was announced that the statewide mask order, for indoor public spaces, has been extended an additional 30 days. The amended Executive Order can be found [here](#).
- **Guidance for Schools Reopening.** With schools resuming this week and next, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (“CDPHE”) released updated guidance for detecting, reporting, and responding to cases and outbreaks of COVID-19 in schools and childcare settings. The new guidance includes information for childcare and Pre-K settings, and tools that can help parents, students, teachers, and staff determine who may need to stay home from school. All of this information can be found at CDPHE’s website at this [link](#).
- **Live Q&A.** On Tuesday, our Planning and Development Director Dan Caris participated in a Live Q&A on COVID-19 changes with Mesa County Public Health and the Fruita Chamber of Commerce. Dan shared our plans for downtown development and answered questions from the business community. The Live Q&A can be found [here](#).
- **West Slope Recovery Webinar.** If you are interested in attending, the Department of Local Affairs is hosting a webinar next Tuesday to discuss creating a long-term recovery roadmap for the Western Slope. Feel free to let me know if you would like to attend, and I will send you over the link.

## General Updates

- **Financial Update.** In June, City sales taxes were up 16% from the previous year, bringing our year to date total to an increase of 25% overall. Use tax on motor vehicles was also up in June. The City’s lodging tax continues to be impacted by the pandemic (down 62.07% in June from the previous year) and use tax on building materials was also down.
- **State of the Valley Event.** Next Tuesday, Mayor Kincaid and I will be speaking at the Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce State of the Valley event. This event is an opportunity for local governments to provide updates to the business community and answer questions. For the first time, this event will be virtual. To find out more information or to register for the event, you can visit this [link](#).
- **GJEP Article.** Great article from the Grand Junction Economic Partnership this week in ColoradoBiz Magazine on the reasons why a business should relocate to the Grand Valley, even during a pandemic. You can read it [here](#).
- **Recycling Update.** In July, Fruita residents recycled 56 tons of cans, bottles, paper, and cardboard. Great job Fruita! The full report can be found below.
- **Hospital Parking.** Family Health West will be crack sealing and coating the hospital parking lot over the weekend. The asphalt maintenance will be completed in 2 phases to minimize impacts to parking in surrounding areas but may require visitors to the hospital or Community Center to park in alternate areas. The areas will be coned off to reduce confusion.
- **Tourism Newsletter.** The newest edition of the GoFruita Newsletter is now available! You can view it [here](#).

- **2021 Budget.** We have all been working tirelessly on preparing the budget for 2021 and continue to do so.
- **Special Council-Planning Commission Workshop.** A heads up that we are planning a special joint workshop with City Council and the Planning Commission to discuss short term rentals and affordable housing on Tuesday, September 8 at 7pm. The Planning Commission has been working with staff and the Land Use Code consultants on this and we want to revisit with City Council. This subject was the most split feedback we received from the community during the comprehensive plan and will take much work. We plan to have a special guest speaker in addition to our consultants who is an expert in affordable housing.
- **Imondi Wake Zone.** Congrats to our local cable wakeboard park for not only being a great setting for this week's Business After Hours event, but also receiving [Men's Journal's](#) number one spot for best socially distanced adventures to experience in the west.
- **Monument Ridge Ribbon Cutting.** I was able to join Mayor Kincaid, Mayor Pro-Tem Buck and Councilors Leonhart and O'Brien today at the ribbon cutting and also take a tour of this new elementary School ready for students Monday. The learning spaces and everything about the school was inspiring. Here is a photo of the Monument Ridge Elementary team.



## Human Resources

- The St. Mary's Bloodmobile was in the Civic Center Parking Lot on Tuesday, August 11, 2020. We had a great Blood Drive with 20 people donating blood. The next blood drive will be on October 20, 2020.
- We are currently accepting applications for several positions: Maintenance Worker – Collections and a Seasonal Custodian – Public Works, a Personal Trainer and Sports Officials for

Soccer, Flag Football and Basketball – Fruita Community Center and Seasonal Parks Workers – Parks. More information on these positions can be found [here](#).

### **Parks and Recreation**

- Just a reminder the Fruita Community Center Indoor Pool will be closing on Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup> and will remain closed until the pool re-plaster project is completed near the end of September. The Outdoor Pool will remain open while the indoor pool is closed.

### **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 (Approved)
- Bradyville Minor Subdivision (Approved)
- Cider Mills Preliminary Plan (Approved)

### **Site Design Review/ Other Applications:**

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

### **Public Works**

- Sewer crew finished up some work on the mountain this week, including having the vacuum truck clean out the vault toilets.
- All road projects were completed prior to the start of school except for some paint restriping on collector roads throughout town, which will be completed next week and will be coordinated to avoid interruptions to school traffic as much as possible.
- All school zone lights have been activated and are operational. Motorists are reminded to slow down in school zones and be aware of the increased number of pedestrians.

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

- [Gear Profile: Canfield Bikes.](#)
- [This giant climate hot spot is robbing the West of its water.](#)
- [The Best Socially Distanced Adventures to Experience in America's West.](#)
- [Fruita fire threatens buildings.](#)
- [Keeping the river clean is a priority for everyone.](#)
- [Interior finalizes public lands agency HQ move out West over congressional objections.](#)
- [Missing Colorado woman found safe.](#)

- [DeBeque residents rally around firefighters, each other as Pine Gulch Fire rages.](#)
- [CDOT provides updates on I-70 closure amid Grizzly Creek Fire.](#)
- [Grand Junction Chick-fil-a employees give back to the community during remodel closure.](#)
- [Wildfire deteriorates air quality; impacts outdoor recreation.](#)

**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 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).



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## What Stage 2 Fire Restrictions Mean

**Stage 2 Fire Restrictions prohibit** the use of anything that produces an open flame that is not liquid-fueled or gas-fueled on both public land and private residences. The general rule of thumb is if the fire can be "turned off," rather than "put out," it is allowed.

### **Prohibited:**

- Parking or driving a motor vehicle off established roads, motorized trails, or established parking areas unless the parking area has no vegetation within 10 feet of the vehicle.
- Building, maintaining, or using a fire, campfire, charcoal grill, coal, wood-burning stove, sheepherder's stove, tiki torches, fire pits, and chimineas including in developed picnic, camping areas, and at private residences.
- The use of ANY fireworks.
- Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building.
- Any unpermitted use of fire to burn debris or vegetation.
- Shooting tracer rounds or explosive type targets or the use of explosives including fuses, blasting caps, and rockets.
- Welding or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame EXCEPT in cleared areas of at least 10 ft in diameter and in possession of a chemical pressurized fire extinguisher. **Activity Prohibited on Federal Land.**
- Operating an internal combustion engine such as a chainsaw, generator or ATV, without a spark arresting device installed and working properly. Chainsaws also have to be operated with a chemical pressurized fire extinguisher and a shovel nearby.

### **Allowed:**

- Only devices that are liquid-fueled or gas-fueled are permitted. Gas grills, stoves or lanterns with shut-off valves may be used at least three feet away from flammable materials such as dry vegetation.
- Gas fire pits are allowed under a fire ban as the fire can be "turned off" rather than "put out."
- Agricultural burns only with a SHERIFF'S OFFICE ISSUED PERMIT. [Click here](#) for an application.

View Interactive Fire Restrictions Map at [bit.ly/Fire\\_Restrictions](http://bit.ly/Fire_Restrictions)



**Mesa County Fire Chiefs Association**



## July 2020 Recycling Benefits for the City of Fruita

In July 2020, we recycled 56 tons of cans, bottles, paper, and cardboard.

Recycling these materials will save the following resources:

### 683 Mature Trees

Represents enough saved timber resources to produce 11,605,900 sheets of printing and copy paper!

### 130 Cubic Yards of Landfill Airspace

Enough airspace to fulfill the annual municipal waste disposal needs for 147 people!

### 95,249 Kw-Hrs of Electricity

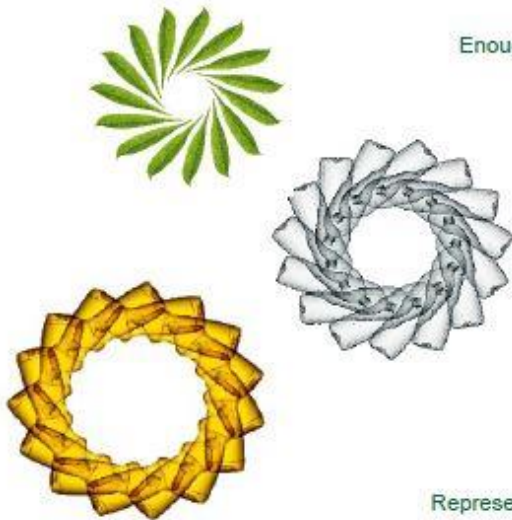
Enough power to fulfill the annual electricity needs of 8 homes!

### Avoided 122 Metric Tons (MTCO<sub>2</sub>E) of GHG Emissions

The recycling of these materials prevented these GHG emissions!

### 233,092 Gallons of Water

Represents enough saved water to meet the daily fresh water needs of 3,107 people!



PREPARED BY WASTE MANAGEMENT

Sources: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Energy Information Administration, Environmental Paper Network-Paper Calculator V4.0, Domtar Paper, Gaylord Corporation, U.S. Forest Products Laboratory, and Waste Management. © Waste Management 2019



**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.