



# FRUITA COLORADO

## Weekly Info Update



To: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
From: MIKE BENNETT, CITY MANAGER  
Date: MAY 21, 2021  
Re: WEEKLY INFORMATION UPDATE

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### Tuesday's City Council Workshop Cancelled – Moon Farm Visit Scheduled

As a reminder, our workshop on Tuesday has been cancelled and instead, the Council will be visiting Moon Farm at 6:30 pm to learn more about the Grand Valley Equine Assisted Learning Center Organization (GVEALC). GVEALC is purchasing Moon Farm, and the Board and President of the organization has invited the council to learn more about GVEALC's vision and efforts.

### 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.

- **COVID-19 Vaccination Update.** As always, here are a few updates from Mesa County Public Health's weekly update on COVID-19 Vaccinations. To view this week's full update, you can visit it [here](#).
  - The Mesa County Community Vaccination Site (CVS) is now located at the Mesa County Public Health (MCPH) building at 510 29 1/2 Rd.
    - Hours of operation are Wednesday through Friday from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
    - Next-day appointments are available for COVID-19 vaccination, visit the MCPH website for vaccine scheduling links available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).
  - The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is approved for 12 to 15-year-olds.
    - Mesa County Public Health administers Pfizer vaccine on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The scheduling website will only allow appointments for individuals age 12-17 on scheduled Pfizer days, and a parent or guardian must be present at the vaccine appointment.
  - Mobile vaccination clinics will return to Mesa County through the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's #PowertheComeback bus beginning May 25.
    - First and second doses of the Pfizer and single dose Johnson and Johnson vaccines will be available at locations across Mesa County. More information about dates and locations can be found [here](#).

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

## Fats, Oils, and Grease Issues

The City of Fruita continues to see a significant impact in its' collection system from FOGs. To help encourage the proper disposal of FOGs, staff is in the process of preparing educational materials for residents and business. Here is some information on FOGs and why it is important to dispose of them properly.

- **What are “FOGs”?** FOGs are fats, oils, and grease from food. Bacon grease, butter, margarine, lard, gravy, shortening, dairy products, fat scraps from meat, mayonnaise, cooking oil, fryer grease, salad dressing, milkshake mix and ice cream are All “FOG”.
- **How does FOGs get into the sewer system?** FOGs enter the plumbing system through your sinks and floor drains AND dishwashers. FOGs stick to and coats the inside of the sewer pipes as seen in the picture.
- **Why Should You Care?** FOGs can disrupt your home or business which costs you money if you cause or contribute to a grease blockage in the sewer system. Fats, oils and grease clogging up the sewer pipes cause sewer overflows and raw sewage is a health hazard. FOGs will further increase the costs of the City's sewer services.
- **How Can You Help?** Kitchen grease control Best Management Practices (BMP) are inexpensive alternatives that can drastically reduce the amounts of fats, oils and grease (FOG) that enter the sewer system. For home or business:
  - Do NOT pour any grease, dairy products, milk shake syrups, cake icing, batters or gravy into sinks, floor drains or mop sinks. Instead, dispose of to an approved container, and do not dispose of to any storm water grate, drain or conveyance.
  - Use strainers in sink drains and floor drains to prevent large food particles from going into the sewer line.
  - Manually scrape and/or wipe off into a trash receptacle all visible accumulations of fat, oil, grease, and food residue from dishes, cookware and utensils.
    - In addition, businesses can:
      - Post “**NO GREASE**” signs above all kitchen sinks to remind employees.
      - After wiping, hot-rinse with a sprayer all dishes, cookware and utensils in a sink compartment that is plumbed to a grease interceptor before handwashing with detergent or placing in the dishwashing machine.
      - Do not allow an exhaust hood cleaner to discharge greasy water into your floor drains or outdoor drains.
      - Use paper towels to wipe down work areas. Use food grade paper to soak up oil and grease under fryer baskets.
      - Be sure you have a contract for grease interceptor cleaning and keep a file of all receipts.

## General Updates

- **Co2UT Race.** Heads up Fruita! Tomorrow, is the first Co2UT (Colorado to Utah) gravel bike race. There are 1,200 riders signed up for the event for five different races (ranging from 30 miles to a 185 miles). Each race starts in downtown Fruita, and riders will be heading up Maple Street (17.50 Road) before riding north on 18 Road to the desert. If you heading to downtown Fruita

tomorrow morning, expect delays due to the event. Good luck to the riders! More information on the races can be found [here](#).

- **SOTC Video.** The 2021 Fruita State of the City video is complete, and we are excited to share it sometime early next week. The video highlights several stories to celebrate some of the community's accomplishments during the past year. Make sure to follow our City of Fruita Facebook page [here](#) for the release of the video and where to find more information.
- **Class of 2021.** Congratulations to all of the D51 students that graduated this week!
- **Community Survey.** The 2021 Community Survey has closed. Thank you to all that participated in the survey! ETC Institute, the consultant administering the survey, is still scheduled to present the results to the City Council at the June 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.
- **Coffee with the City Manager.** Thank you to Dr. Korrey Klein for joining me at the Coffee with the City Manager on Thursday morning. We had a small group join us for coffee and discussed many of issues facing Family Health West and the current projects for the City of Fruita, as well as a detailed discussion on COVID-19 moving forward. Thank you to all who came out for the discussion! Our next event with on June 10, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. at the Copper Club Brewery, and I will be joined by Assistant Superintendent of School District #51, Dr. Brian Hill.
- **State of the Grand Valley.** On Wednesday, Mayor Kincaid and I joined several of our partner agencies as speakers at the Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce State of the Grand Valley Luncheon. We discussed the economic outlook of Fruita during the pandemic and looking ahead, affordable/attainable housing, the progress of our long-term planning efforts, and current projects to implement the goals and values identified in those master plans.
- **Summer Bus Pass Program for High School Students.** The Mesa County Workforce Center and Grand Valley Transit (GVT) are partnering this summer to help teens go to work, classes, camps, or spend time with friends. D51 high school students can ride a GVT-Fixed Route free from May 21, 2021 to August 31, 2021, all that is required is a GVT sticker on their school student ID. GVT stickers are available at D51 High School Officers and at the D51 Administration office.
- **Continued Decline in UIB Claims and Return to Work Incentive.** On Thursday, the Colorado Dept. Of Labor released a press release announcing a continued decline in initial unemployment claims and a return-to-work incentive. The release can be found at this [link](#).
- **REDI Grant.** Today, staff submitted a REDI (rural economic development initiative) grant application through the Department of Local Affairs to help fund a process to determine what it would take to transition the temporary outdoor space on Mulberry St. into a permanent plaza. This would include engaging the public and having the information necessary to make decisions on whether or not to keep such a space long-term. Awards for the grant will be announced mid to late July. The City recently received a REDI grant to help with the maintenance costs of the two outdoor dining spaces over the winter.

## Engineering

- **Mesa County Chip Seal Project.** Next week, May 24 to 28, the Mesa County chip seal project will take place at the following four locations: US highway 6 from Mile Point 11 to MP 20, CO Highway 190 from MP 0 to MP 6, US 50 Frontage Road from MP 33.8 to 36.2, and CO 141 from

MP 120 to 154. For the week, motorists should plan for alternating traffic and minimal delays. Work will consist of removing the old epoxy striping and replacing it with a temporary paint during construction. For more information, you can visit the project website [here](#).

### **Parks and Recreation**

- **Outdoor Pool Update.** The Outdoor Pool at the Fruita Community Center has been losing water over the day / night. Staff has been troubleshooting to determine where the leak is occurring. At this point, the leak has not been found and a Leak Detection company out of Cederedge is scheduled to come in on Tuesday next week to find it. While there is a leak, we are still able to open the pool tomorrow, on Saturday for the community to enjoy.
- **Presentation to FYAC.** Staff presented the PHROST Master Plan to members of the Fruita Youth Action Council. The intent was to get the students thinking about the issues and plans that Parks and Recreation has for the coming years and helping us determine solutions. The main take away was that the youth would help determine potentially successful programs and activities for middle and high school students.

### **Planning & Development**

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

### **Land Use Code Amendments:**

- Vested Right Code Amendment (Approved)
- Development Agreements Code Amendment (Approved)
- [Zoning and Density Bonus Code Amendments](#). (Approved)
- Short Term Rental Code Amendments can be found as this [page](#).(Approved)
- [Parking Standards](#) (Approved)
- Design Standards: The links to the Code Amendments can be found at this [page](#). (Approved)

### **Major/ Minor Subdivisions:**

- Dwell PUD Preliminary Plan (Approved) (1136 17 ½ Road, Fruita CO 81521)
- Grand Valley Estates 3 (Approved) (1848 J Road, Fruita CO 81521)
- Rose Creek Preliminary Plan (Under Review) (1892 K Road, Fruita CO 81521)
- Patron Annexation and Zoning (Under Review) (1123 19 Road, Fruita CO 81521)
- VACC Final Plat (Under Review) (1176 18 Rd)
- Epic Minor Subdivision (Under Review) (192 Wallace St)
- Cider Mills Rezone (Under Review) (960 Stone Mt Drive)

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

- Monument Powder Coating (1596 Cipolla) (Under Construction)
- Pediatric Dental Specialist (197 & 101 Jurassic) (Finished)
- Raptor Crossing Concept Plan (853 Raptor Rd) (Under Review)

## Police Department

- **Phoenix Award.** Congratulations to Sgt. Coughran for receiving the Phoenix award this week. The award is presented when someone suffers a cardiac arrest and is resuscitated, returning to their previous quality of life. Great job!
- **Professional Development.** Chief Krouse completed the FBI National Command Course. Only one member of law enforcement from each state was selected to participate in the program. Congratulations to Chief Krouse for being selected for this training!

## Public Works

- **Potential Adopt a Street Program.** Public Works Director Kimberly Bullen attended the Livability Commission meeting on Thursday to discuss a potential Adopt a Street Program.
- **Hwy 340 Lift Station.** Crews repaired culvert near 340 lift station.
- **Drought Preparedness.** Staff attended the Colorado Municipal League “Drought Preparedness for Colorado” webinar this week. The webinar was focused on the impacts of drought throughout the state, the state-level response, and lesson learned from Aurora Water and Denver Water.

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

- [A Perfect Summer Road Trip in the Rocky Mountains.](#)
- [Exploring Extinction: The Dodo.](#)
- [The Colorado Department of Local Affairs wants public input on Colorado Main Streets.](#)
- [Gov. Polis rules with CDC, fully vaccinated no longer have to wear masks in most cases.](#)
- [Increased COVID-19 hospitalizations in Mesa County, health leaders encourage vaccine.](#)
- [Mesa County surpasses 15K COVID-19 cases.](#)
- [The Palisade Plunge, a new mountain biking trail in Mesa County, expected to open in July.](#)
- [Mike the Headless Chicken hatches festival promo shoot with Wheels West Car Club.](#)
- [Age-Friendly Network Welcomes 3 Colorado Cities.](#)
- [Crews Begin Refilling Mack Mesa Lake Near Grand Junction.](#)
- [India COVID variant cases nearly triple.](#)
- [Housing study: costs up, wages lagging.](#)
- [Fruita Monument High School Class of 2021 Graduates at Stocker Stadium.](#)
- [Docket announced for Fruita Fall Fest 2021.](#)
- [State of the Valley luncheon held Wednesday.](#)
- [District 51 high school students getting free bus passes.](#)
- [COVID-19 infections outpace new vaccinations.](#)
- [A New Mesa County Mountain Bike Trail is Opening in July.](#)
- [Kids Dominate New Colorado COVID-19 Outbreaks.](#)
- [CDC: Colorado has highest COVID-19 case rate in the country, 70% of cases stem from variants.](#)
- [India variant continues spread in county.](#)
- [Support grows for BLM to stay put.](#)
- [Running its course: New bike race runs from Fruita, Colorado, to Utah.](#)

**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.):*

- **May 21, 2021** – How to be an Ally – Fruita for Equality Community Book Read and Discussion, Civic Center Park at 5:00 p.m.
- **May 22, 2021** - The Co2uT Desert Gravel Race in the Bookcliffs. <https://www.desertgravel.com/>.
- **May 26, 2021** – Fruita Chamber Member Appreciation Picnic, 432 E. Aspen Avenue, Fruita Co 81521, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. RSVP [here](#).
- **June 4, 2021** – Music & Mulligans Golf Tournament at Adobe Creek National Golf Course, 9:00 a.m. Co-hosted by the Fruita Chamber, more information [here](#).
- **June 10, 2021** – Beer or Rootbeer with the City Manager, Copper Club Brewery at 5:00 p.m. Grab a drink and join us outside!
- **June 10, 2021** – Fruita Chamber Business After Hours, hosted by Family Health West – 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- **June 10, 2021** – Thursday Night Concert – James Williams & the Faith Peddlers (Outlaw Country/Blues Rock), Civic Center Park at 7:30 p.m.
- **June 17, 2021** – Thursday Night Concert – Stray Grass (Bluegrass/Americana), Civic Center Park at 7:30 p.m.
- **June 24, 2021** – Thursday Night Concert - Frank Begar Orchestra (Big Band), Civic Center Park at 7:30 p.m.
- **July 1, 2021** – Thursday Night Concert – Centennial Band (American Classic), Civic Center Park at 7:30 p.m.
- **July 8, 2021** – Thursday Night Concert - Whiskey Stomp (Country Rock), Civic Center Park at 7:30 p.m.
- **July 14, 2021** – Coffee with the City Manager and guests, Einstein Bros Bagels at 7:30 a.m.
- **July 15, 2021** – Thursday Night Concert – Desert Flyer Band (Country), Civic Center Park at 7:30 p.m.
- **July 22, 2021** – Thursday Night Concert – Gerry Goodman Band (Blues/Rock), Civic Center Park at 7:30 p.m.
- **July 29, 2021** – Thursday night Concert – Michael Morrow & the Culprits (Rock-N-Roll), Civic Center Park at 7:30 p.m.
- **July 31, 2021** – Fruita Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet, “Welcome to Wonderland” at the Fruita Community Center, 5:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Additional information [here](#).
- **August 5, 2021** – Thursday Night Concert – Louie & the Lizards (Funky Jam Rock), Civic Center Park at 7:30 p.m.
- **August 12, 2021** – Thursday Night Concert – Great Western Heritage Show (Country & Western Bluegrass), Civic Center Park at 7:30 p.m.
- **Sept. 22-24, 2021** – The Colorado Municipal League will be holding the 2021 CML Annual conference in Westminster. More information is available at [www.cml.org/conference](http://www.cml.org/conference). Please let Deputy City Clerk Deb Woods know if you are interested in attending. CML will also hold a virtual conference on Sept. 29-30.
- **September 24-25, 2021** – Fruita Fall Festival, Downtown Fruita. The festival will include live music, food trucks, and variety of vendors. [Fruitachamber.org/fruita-fall-festival](http://Fruitachamber.org/fruita-fall-festival).

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)



## City Manager Event Series

These events are an opportunity for residents to have an open conversation with the City Manager and guests and discuss topics on their mind while exploring Fruita or enjoying a local business. These are casual, informal events that you are all welcome to drop in or out of at any time.

To find current information, including guests, visit [Fruita.org](http://Fruita.org) or [facebook.com/cityoffruita](https://facebook.com/cityoffruita)

### Upcoming Dates

**May 5, 2021 at 7:00 a.m.**

Bike to Work Day with the City Manager and Mayor Kincaid - Fruita Civic Center.

**May 20, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.**

Coffee with the City Manager at Bestslope Coffee

**June 10, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.**

Beer or Rootbeer with the City Manager at Copper Club

**July 14, 2021 at 7:30 a.m.**

Coffee with the City Manager at Einstein Bros. Bagels





**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.