



# FRUITA

## COLORADO



## Weekly Info Update

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To: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
From: MIKE BENNETT, CITY MANAGER  
Date: DECEMBER 1, 2023  
Re: WEEKLY INFORMATION UPDATE

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

Tuesday night will begin with a presentation recognizing the Public Works Employees who completed the 2023 Public Works Supervisor Training Program, followed by two public hearings for a liquor license change and the second reading for ordinance 2023-14. After public hearings, there's one item on the administrative agenda for an overview of the Pavement Assessment Project. The meeting will end with Council reports and actions where the City Council will adjourn and convene as the Fruita Housing Authority to consider recommending a 2024 budget for the Housing Authority then reconvening at the Fruita City Council for an executive session. See you on Tuesday!

### **Reed Park Redesign Underway**

The community can expect to see construction begin at Reed Park in the next couple of weeks. The park is fenced off, and access to the basketball court, horseshoe pits, shelter, restrooms, playground, and south parking lot are closed. The grass area is available for public use. The fenced area will remain closed to the public until the project is completed in June 2024. Crews will begin work on renovations to the bathroom facilities first. We will have more information and timelines on the renovation next week and will share them in the weekly update, [on the project page](#), and on social media.

### **Fruita Leaf Pick Up Program – ONE MORE WEEK**

There is one week left in the leaf pick up program! Fruita residents can place bagged leaves next to their trash can on their regular trash service day. Waste Management will dispose of bagged leaves in addition to regular trash service during these three weeks throughout the fall season. Please bag leaves in a plastic trash bag. Waste Management will only pick up bags of leaves.

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

- Final Week: December 11 – 14

### **Reminder – 2024 Trash and Recycling Changes (Continued)**

Starting next year, all Fruita households will be transitioned to an automated collection system. There are also a few exciting new additions, like the leaf pick-up program, a holiday trash drop-off location (dates coming soon), and single-stream recycling. Learn more about this change in services online at [fruita.org/trashcollection](https://fruita.org/trashcollection).

### **Fiber Construction Update (Continued)**

- Next Week (December 4, 2023), Clearnetworx/Deeply Digital, an internet service provider, will be constructing along Cotton Woods, Grace Park, McCune Avenue, North Maple Street, Kiefer Avenue (to US-6&50), Grand Avenue (to US-6&50), US-6&50, Red Rocks, Sunflower Estates, Pinewood Estates, Holly Park, Evening Breeze, Santa Fe Ranch, Amethyst Drive, Comstock Estates, Espirit Lane, Monument Glen, K Road, 18 Road, East Columbia Avenue (between North Maple Street and 18 Road, including all cul-de-sacs between K Road and East Pabor Avenue). For questions and comments on fiber internet, please call Clearnetworx/Deeply Digital at 970-240-6600. Learn more about fiber internet in Fruita at [fruita.org/fiberinternet](https://fruita.org/fiberinternet). Below is an example of some of the communications residents can expect from Clearnetworx/Deeply Digital. Residents should receive a door hanger prior to construction beginning in their neighborhood.

### **Weekly FAQ**

In every weekly update, we will be answering one question we get asked often from the community. These questions will cover a variety of topics from all city departments. If you have any questions, you think would be valuable for us to share, let us know by emailing [communications@fruita.org](mailto:communications@fruita.org).

- **Question:** Where can I learn more about current city construction projects?
- **Answer:** By visiting [fruita.org/projects](https://fruita.org/projects), you will find a list and map of current city construction projects. The map displays where in Fruita the construction is taking place and by clicking on the project title, you can view more information about the construction such as timelines, when construction began, and updates along the way.

### **General Updates**

- ***Fruita Building Code Trainings.*** On Thursday and Friday, the Fruita Community Development Department hosted the first Fruita Building Code Training. Two classes were offered to the development community, CMU students, and employees. The classes were taught by professionals in the building industry, and attendees had the opportunity to obtain continued education credit.
- ***Annual Department Budget Meetings.*** This week, I had the opportunity to meet with each department to present the 2024 budget and review our core values and the Strategic Plan.
- ***Update on 2024 Budget.*** With the recent state legislation dealing with property taxes for next year, the City of Fruita has postponed the proposed adoption of the 2024 Budget to the second

meeting of this month, December 19<sup>th</sup>. The reason for continuing the public hearing to that date (as opposed to the normal time, the first meeting in December) was to receive updated property tax information for Fruita from the Mesa County Assessor. With the new law that was approved, organizations have until January 10, 2024, to adopt budgets for the upcoming year.

- **2024 Fruita Academy.** The next Fruita Academy is scheduled to take place from April 11 – May 2, 2024. This class will be held in the evening from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. This will be our second time hosting the Fruita Academy, which provides interested community members the opportunity to learn in-person about Fruita’s local government, tour facilities, and spend time with local leaders. Registration is free and available online at [fruita.org/academy](https://fruita.org/academy).
- **All Kids Bike Event.** On Wednesday, Shelledy Elementary School invited Mayor Kincaid and the Fruita School Resource Officers to join in celebrating the donation of 24 new strider bikes! Thank you for the invite and congratulations! We can't wait to see so many kiddos learn how to ride bikes in P.E. class.



## Engineering

- **Maple Street Bridge.** The design of the Maple Street Bridge has been awarded to SGM with contracts under negotiation.
- **Rose Creek Subdivision.** Anticipate the beginning of construction for Rose Creek Subdivision beginning in the coming weeks. This will affect Ottley Ave between Brandon Estates and 19 Road.

- **Greenway Drive.** A preconstruction meeting was held for the Fruita RV Resort Project to get the roadway improvements completed for Greenway Drive.
- **Copper Creek West Subdivision.** Sewer line installation within the subdivision continues to progress.

## Parks and Recreation

- **Fitness Equipment TV's.** Staff at the FCC are closer to rectifying the issues that have prevented continuous service on the treadmill TVs as well as the wall TVs. Charter Spectrum was able to reset the connection, which will temporarily provide the necessary frequency for cable access. The current equipment is obsolete and will not work with the major video upgrade Charter is implementing in our region. Further investigation into this situation has generated discussion about a fiber connection into the facility to aid in permanently resolving this issue.
- **Holiday Craft Fair.** On Saturday, December 9 from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm the Fruita Community Center will host the annual holiday craft fair. A total of 113 applicants submitted with a total of 64 vendors approved to participate. Items to be sold include a wide variety of handmade goods including jewelry, soap, candles, wall art, glasswork, clothing, and much more. The fitness areas, pool, and library will maintain regular operational hours, however, please note the traffic will be heavy and the parking lot is predicted to be full most of the day. Overflow parking is offered on the street and at Shelledy Elementary School. Admission to the fair is FREE.
- **The first-annual Gingerbread House Contest.** The FCC is hosting a Gingerbread House contest this season for any youth designer ages 4 – 16! Creations may be dropped off at the FCC starting December 1 through December 12. All contestants must complete the entry form available at the front desk. The public is encouraged to view and vote on their favorite structure. Prizes will be awarded to “Best in Show” and “Most Creative Design”. Winners will be notified on December 22, 2023.

## Planning & Development

To see active reviews of current projects, you may visit [fruita.org/projects](https://fruita.org/projects).

### Major/ Minor Subdivisions:

- Copper Creek West Preliminary Plan (Approved) (954 19 Road) (138 Lots)
- Iron Wheel 2 Final Plat (Under Review) (19 Road) (46 Lots)
- Adele's Acres Subdivision (Under Review) (1024 19 Road) (48 Lots)
- Kismet Minor Subdivision (Under Construction) (460 N. Mesa St) (3 Lots)
- PSE Minor Subdivision (Approved) (1558 River Road) (2 Lots)
- LaPointe Minor Subdivision (Under Review) (1050 E. Ottley Avenue) (4 Lots)
- Sunset Pointe Preliminary PUD Plan (Approved) (Parcel # 2697-091-80-001) (122 Lots)
- North Mesa Minor Subdivision (Approved) (155 N. Mesa Street) (2 Lots)
- Weston Estates Preliminary Plan (Under Review) (1877 J 2/10 Road; Parcel # 26997-164-00-050 & 2697-164-00-074) (109 Lots)
- Berg Minor Subdivision (Under Review) (1806 J 3/10 Rd) (2 Lots)

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

- Ottley Suites Site Design Review (Approved) (722 Ottley Avenue)
- Pediatric Dental Specialists Site Design Review (Approved) (101 Jurassic Avenue)
- The Fruita Mews (Under Construction) (1138 18.5 Road)
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Site Design Review (Under Construction) (417 E Ottley Ave)
- A Storage Place Site Design Review and Minor Subdivision (Under Review) (1960 & 1966 Hwy 6 & 50)
- My Storage Fruita (Approved) (1930 Highway 6 & 50)
- Raptor Crossing (Under Review) (853 Raptor Road)
- 535 W. Aspen Apartments (Under Construction) (535 W. Aspen Avenue)
- Wildcat Residences (Under Review) (1807 Wildcat Avenue)
- City Market Fueling Station Conditional Use Permit (Under Review) (437 W Aspen Avenue)
- 1873 K Road Annexation & Rezone (Under Review) (1873 K Road)

### **Police Department**

- **Operation Porch Pirate.** For the month of December, Fruita residents can choose to have packages delivered to the Fruita Police Department instead of their homes. All they need to bring is a valid ID that matches the name on the package and the Fruita Police will keep your gifts safe.



### **Public Works**

- **Biofilter Training.** Start-up of the biofilter equipment for the H2S project was completed this week. The Wastewater Treatment staff worked with the biofilter manufacturer and Hensel Phelps to complete training on equipment.



- **New Snowplow.** Fleet took possession of the City's new plow/sander/mag chloride dump truck that has been on order for over two years. Crews are excited to put this to work.



- **Trainings.** Building Maintenance attended the Building Code class hosted by the Fruita Building Division. Dylan Baumgartner, Branden Heath, and Kevin DeLong completed CDL Training.
- **Pothole Locates.** Utility staff and Road Maintenance staff assisted the Engineering Department with pothole locates on 19 Road.
- **Utility Locates.** Staff completed 451 locates for the month of November.
- **Sewer Line Repairs.** Utility staff responded and coordinated sewer line repair from fiber bore damage.

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

- [From the Continental Divide to Utah, or somewhere else? Where is the Western Slope in Colorado?](#)

- [Mesa County elementary school to receive bicycle donation.](#)
- [Broadband efforts moving forward, but there's more work to be done.](#)
- [7 Most Underrated Towns in Colorado to Take a Trip to.](#)
- [Two dozen bikes donated to Shelledy Elementary kindergarteners.](#)
- [Cities, towns navigating budgets through property tax changes.](#)
- [County eyes property tax impacts.](#)

**UPCOMING EVENTS** (*Please let Jennifer Cupp know if you plan to attend so we can RSVP for you*)

- **December 7, 2023** – Grand Junction Economic Partnership Holiday Party, Timberline Bank in Grand Junction.
- **December 9, 2023** – Holiday Arts & Craft Fair, Fruita Community Center, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- **December 9, 2023** – Fruita Parade of Lights, Downtown Fruita, 5:30 p.m.
- **December 13, 2023** – Cookies & Claus, Fruita Community Center, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- **December 20, 2023** – Hot Cocoa & Chat with City Manager, Starbucks Coffee, 4:00 p.m.

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 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.