



FRUITA

COLORADO



Weekly Info Update

To: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
From: MIKE BENNETT, CITY MANAGER
Date: NOVEMBER 17, 2023
Re: WEEKLY INFORMATION UPDATE

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City offices will be closed next Thursday and Friday for Thanksgiving.

Tuesday's Regular City Council Meeting

For Tuesday night, we do not have any proclamations or presentations scheduled for the beginning of the meeting. Following the consent agenda, we have two public hearings - the first is a supplemental budget amendment for Reed Park and a few other smaller items, and the second item is the first public hearing on the draft 2024 Budget. Staff will provide an overview of the All-Funds Summary/Budget Overview, and then present on highlights from the economic health and development sections of the budget. On the Administrative Agenda, we will go over the MOU with the Business Incubator Center and report from CEO Dalida Bollig, and then move into an Executive Session (following reports and actions) for the formal review of the Municipal Judge and preparation for the City Manager's review. See you all on Tuesday night!

Enoch's Lake Update

During the regular City Council meeting on September 19, 2023, the Fruita City Council decided on a process for moving forward with putting Enoch's Lake up for sale. Enoch's Lake was listed on the real estate market in early October 2023, and was listed for 40 days until November 8, 2023. After the listing ended, Fruita City Council reviewed the one offer submitted during the City Council meeting on Monday, November 13, 2023. After reviewing the offer, the Fruita City Council decided to move the offer forward to the next steps, which include Ute Water's first right of refusal and the City's ordinance process with two public hearings. Ute Water has refused the offer.

- **Upcoming Public Hearings on the offer reviewed on November 13, 2023:**
 - 1st Reading - Tuesday, November 21, 2023
 - 2nd Reading - Tuesday, December 19, 2023

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

Recap of DOLA Resiliency Workshop – Fruita Won the Resiliency Crown!

On Wednesday, Public Works Director Kimberly Bullen, Parks and Recreation Director Marc Mancuso, Assistant City Manager Shannon Vassen, Communications and Engagement Specialist Ciara DePinto, and I, participated in a resiliency workshop led by the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), hosted here in Fruita at the Community Center. The workshop focused on creating values that foster adaptability, collaboration, preparedness, and optimism. The group identified shocks and stressors the community could face and then applied these scenarios to a project we are currently working on – The Beach Property Development. It was a fun workshop and helped our team think outside the box. Below is our Public Works Director wearing the Resiliency Camp Crown!



Fruita Leaf Pick Up Program (Continued)

During the following weeks, 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.

- November 13 - 16
- November 27 - 30
- 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.

Fiber Construction Update (Continued)

- Next Week (November 20, 2023 and November 27, 2023), Clearnetworx/Deeply Digital, an internet service provider, will be constructing along Cotton Woods, Grace Park, McCune Avenue, 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, Agate Court, Pioneer Drive, Silver Plume Drive, Comstock Drive, Wildwood Estates, Wildwood Acres, Sabil Drive, Doug Drive, Ed Court, Vintner's Farm, 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. 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.

- **Question:** When is the next municipal election?
- **Answer:** The next regular municipal election for City Council candidates will be held next year, 2024, on April 2, 2024. You can learn more about the election, including candidate qualifications at fruita.org/citycouncil.

General Updates

- **Financial Reports.** Sales tax collection reports for the month of September and are now available and can be found in the packet for next week's meeting here: [City Council Meeting Packet – November 21, 2023](#). Below is a quick overview of the report:
 - **City Sales Tax** – City sales tax collections were up 10% in September compared to the prior year and are trending at an increase of 7% overall. September was the second highest month ever for City sales tax and economic activity in Fruita (only slightly behind May of this year).
 - **County Sales Tax** - Decreased 1% compared to the prior September, and is flat year-to-date.
 - **Use Tax on Building Materials** – Use tax collections on building materials were down 24% in September and is at an 8% decrease overall for the year.
 - **Use Tax on Motor Vehicles** – Were down 10% in September and are at a decrease of 7% year-to-date.
 - **Lodging Tax** – The 3% lodging tax collections were up 24% in September and are up 11% this year compared to 2022, and are already ahead of the 2023 Budget estimate.

- **Updated Draft 2024 Budget.** An updated copy of the proposed 2024 Draft budget is available online and can be found here: [City of Fruita Municipal Budgets](#).
- **CDOT 20 Road Project Update.** The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) continues work on US 6 & 20 Road. The project is anticipated to wrap up in late 2023. [For project updates, visit the project webpage online.](#)
- **Construction Closures on 19 Road and 20 Road.** 19 Road at Iron Drive has been closed to traffic since Thursday and will be closed until November 22 at the latest. This closure is for construction of a sewer line extension for the Copper Creek and Iron Wheel subdivisions. During the closure, city crews will take this time to repair potholes and conduct soil testing for the 19 Road project next year. In addition to this closure, the community can expect to see intermittent one lane closures in the near future on 19 Road and 20 Road for gas and power projects by Xcel Energy and Grand Valley Power.
- **Letter to the D51 Board of Education.** On Tuesday, November 14, Mayor Kincaid on behalf of the Fruita City Council shared a letter to the District 51 Board of Education outlining the City Council's concerns regarding the proposed school boundary changes and long-term planning. The full letter can be found below. The Board did approve the boundary changes for Wingate and Appleton Elementaries from Fruita Monument High School to Grand Junction High School.
- **Mountain Properties Resolution.** During the Special City Council Meeting on Monday, City Council approved the resolution for the Fruita Mountain Properties. The resolution provides clarity on the history, challenges, and why the City Council desires to divest the City's interest in owning and maintaining the Fruita Mountain Properties. The resolution can be found online at fruita.org/mountainproperties.
- **Monthly Report from Waste Management.** In October, Fruita residents recycled 35 tons of bottles, cans, paper, and cardboard. The full report can be found below.
- **COVID Tests Availability at Mesa County Health.** Mesa County Public Health is offering free COVID-19 test kits at the Human Service Building in Grand Junction located at 510 29 ½ Road. Tests are limited to two per person while supplies last. [Learn more on the Mesa County website.](#)
- **Senior Potluck.** We were honored to be invited to help serve at the annual Senior Thanksgiving potluck on Thursday. We look forward to this every year and can't wait for the next one!



- **City Engagement Event Recap.** We had a fun group at the City Manager engagement event on Tuesday morning! We had about 14 people attend, with our Police Chief and Police Lieutenant there as well. The group had great discussions on current development projects, the City's funding sources, 19 Road construction, and broadband. Our last event of the year will be on Wednesday, December 20 at 4 pm for afternoon hot cocoa at Starbucks Coffee.



Engineering

- **Maple Street Bridge.** Responses to the request for qualifications are due at the end of the day Friday for the design of the Maple Street Bridge. More information will be provided in next week's Weekly Information Update.
- **Engineering Intern.** Greyson Wagner wraps up his time with us in the coming weeks. He was a great asset to the team.

Parks and Recreation

- **Groundwater pipe repairs.** GMMI was out earlier this weekend fixing the groundwater pump system at the Fruita Community Center. This pump removes any excess groundwater from the exterior of the pool.
- **Charter Update.** We completed a site survey yesterday and working on a solution to get the tv back to all the fitness equipment at the Fruita Community Center. The upgrade to the Charter plant has created some challenges at facilities that require multiple televisions with separate controls.
- **Night at the FCC Tonight!** All youth in 5th-7th grade can take part in swimming, dancing, photo booth, concessions, and more. The event kicks off at 7:00 pm through 10:00 pm. Cost is \$15.00.

New this season is online registration. All prepaid students will move to the front of the line for entry!

- **New Guest Services Fitness Coordinator.** Benjamin Booth will be joining the Fruita Community Center Team on Monday, November 20th. Ben joins us with an expansive lineup of experience. Ben has a Bachelor of Science in Public Administration from Roger Williams University as well as an Associate of Science Degree in Paralegal Studies. In addition, he has a Master of Science in Human Resources from Temple University. With this experience, he traversed the Navy for 20 years as a Paralegal Manager and worked for the office of the Texas Governor. After leaving the service, Ben has enjoyed more jovial positions in Lake Powell and Crested Butte. Most recently, he worked with Rimrock Adventures as a Raft Guide. Please welcome Benjamin to the team!
- **Staff Pumpkin Challenge.** Fruita Community Center staff competed in a friendly competition in creating turkeys from pumpkins. We had 390 votes from patrons and visitors with Kimberly Preisser, Senior Services Coordinator, winning with 84 total votes. There will be more community competitions and contests coming up in 2024!



Planning & Development

To see active reviews of current projects, you may visit 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)

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)

Police Department

- ***Calls for Service Statistics.*** In October 2023, the Grand Junction Regional Communications Center logged 990 calls for service for the Fruita Police Department. This compares with 942 calls for service in October 2022, showing a 4% increase. Year to date, we are at 9,296 calls for service in 2023 compared with 7,348 this time last year, showing a 27% increase. It should be noted that the majority of that increase results from a change in the way we are tracking officer initiated activities.
- ***Now Hiring.*** We are currently accepting applications for POST certified and lateral police officers. Interested applicants can learn more at fruita.org/jobs.

Public Works

- ***Aeration Grid.*** Wastewater Reclamation staff completed the oxidation ditch cleaning to allow construction on the aeration grid to continue. **The aeration system passed both the wet and dry tests and has been completed!!**



- **Crack Sealing.** Streets Crew continues to crack seal roads as long as the weather holds out.
- **19 Road Potholing.** Street Crews and Utility Crews are assisting the Engineering Department with potholing on 19 Road to test soils.
- **Utility Training.** Utility Crews are training additional Public Works staff on utility locating.
- **Mountain Water Properties Brainstorming.** Public Works Director met with representatives of Mesa Conservation District, NRCS, Rivers Edge West, and Ute Water to brainstorm ideas concerning Mountain Water properties.

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

- [Fruita coffee shop makes Top 10 on USA Today list.](#)
- [Food Bank of the Rockies preps for holiday season.](#)
- [Mesa County: Significant strides made in Japanese beetle eradication.](#)
- [Fruita receives one offer to buy Enoch's Lake.](#)
- [Fruita did right by Enoch's Lake.](#)
- [D51 board approves changes for Appleton and Wingate boundaries.](#)
- [D51 school board hears updates on strategic, long-range facility plans.](#)
- [Free COVID-19 tests available at Mesa County Public Health.](#)

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

- **November 25, 2023** – Small Business Saturday and Holiday Lighting Event, Downtown Fruita
- **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.

CC. Department Directors

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

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November 13, 2023

Board of Education
Mesa County Valley School District #51
2115 Grand Avenue
Grand Junction, CO 81501

Re: Concerns Regarding Proposed School Boundary Changes and Long-Term Planning

Honorable School Board Members,

On behalf of the Fruita City Council, I would like to express our gratitude for the longstanding partnership between our city and School District #51. Our collaboration has played a pivotal role in fostering a thriving educational environment for our residents.

The City of Fruita is proud to be a pro-planning community that diligently employs land use best practices. Our commitment to planning is evident in the recent update of our Comprehensive Plan and subsequent master plans, which involved the engagement of over 4,000 residents in a year-long process. We value community engagement and use sophisticated, statistically valid survey results to inform our decisions that significantly impact residents. Additionally, the City of Fruita collects \$920 in school land dedication fees per housing unit developed within our boundaries, demonstrating our dedication to supporting our schools.

We appreciate the positive collaboration with School District #51, and it is in this spirit of partnership that we wish to express our concerns regarding the proposed boundary changes affecting Wingate Elementary and Appleton Elementary, particularly the shift from FMHS to GJHS. Our concerns stem from the perceived lack of public engagement in the decision-making process.

As recently as the Spring of 2023, Fruita residents were invited by the District to engage in meetings and surveys related to grade reconfiguration of Fruita schools. Participation was not high in numbers with the short notice provided for the meetings; however, these discussions and survey questions tied Fruita grade reconfiguration to the need of voter-approved funding to expand FMHS to accommodate grades 9-12. Approximately six months later, the Wingate and Appleton boundary change is proposed with a possible Board decision November 14th raising our concerns on timing, rationale, and potential negative impacts on FMHS and its community.

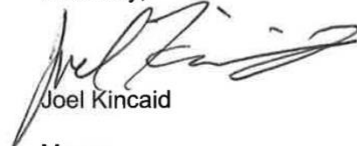
The District's engagement with families in the FMHS boundaries and staff impacted by this boundary change resulted in less than 60 responses. If community engagement was sought as a basis to consider for making the decision, then this low response is not enough.

The Council is concerned with how this boundary change will fully impact Fruita Monument High School in the future related to its culture, educational standing, extracurricular activities, sports, arts, staffing, and funding in addition to the families who will now travel further to GJHS than to FMHS.

The Fruita City Council requests a delay in the Board of Education's proposed Wingate and Appleton Elementary Schools FMHS boundary change until more community engagement and feedback has occurred, until the District Wide Facilities Master Plan is complete, and until more thorough information on other impacts such a boundary change will have on FMHS.

In conclusion, we value the collaboration between the City and the District. We realize the challenges facing the district with declining enrollment and funding. The Fruita City Council is dedicated to working together to ensure the continued success of our educational institutions and the well-being of our residents. Thank you for your attention to these matters. We look forward to a constructive dialogue and collaborative solutions that prioritize the best interests of our community.

Sincerely,



Joel Kincaid
Mayor



CITY OF FRUITA

OCTOBER 2023 RECYCLING BENEFITS

35 tons of bottles, cans, paper and cardboard were recycled by the community this month.

This month's recycling efforts saved the following resources:

570 Mature Trees

Represents enough saved timber resources to produce 9,681,800 sheets of printing and copy paper!

82 Cubic Yards of Landfill Airspace

Enough airspace to fulfill the annual municipal waste disposal needs for 104 people!

82,022 kWh of Electricity

Enough power to fulfill the annual electricity needs of 7 homes!

Avoided 97 Metric Tons (MTCO₂E) of GHG Emissions

This GHG reduction is equivalent to removing annual emissions from 20 passenger vehicles!

173,437 Gallons of Water

Represents enough saved water to meet the daily fresh water needs of 2,312 people!

To learn more about recycling, visit [WM.com/RecycleRight](https://www.wm.com/RecycleRight).

Always remember to Recycle Right



Recycle clean bottles, cans, paper, and cardboard.



Keep food and liquid out of your recycling.



No loose plastic bags and no bagged recyclables.

PREPARED BY WM

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 WM.

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Notes: GHG = Greenhouse Gas; MTCO₂E = Metric Tons of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent



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.