



FRUITA COLORADO

Weekly Info Update



To: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
From: MIKE BENNETT, CITY MANAGER
Date: AUGUST 11, 2023
Re: WEEKLY INFORMATION UPDATE

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Tuesday's Housing Authority Meeting at 5:30 p.m.

We have three items on the agenda for our Housing Authority meeting on Tuesday, and those items include approving the minutes from our previous meeting, a supplemental budget amendment for the reimbursement of legal expenses related to the Fruita Mews Development and reviewing a pass-through grant/loan from the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority for the Fruita Mews.

Tuesday's City Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Our regular meeting on Tuesday will begin with two presentations, the first recognizing the graduates of the Fruita Academy and the second from the Dark Sky Committee. We have no public hearings on the agenda, and after the two presentations and the consent agenda, we will jump onto the Administrative Agenda for a presentation on the Financial Reports, a discussion on the 2024 Budget Calendar and then an update on the drone ordinance. As a reminder, we will be hosting the graduates of the Fruita Academy at 6:30 for refreshments. See you on Tuesday!

EV Fast Charging Stations Now Available (Continued)

The new electrical vehicle charging stations are now available for use at the Fruita Civic Center! In 2022, the City of Fruita was awarded a grant from the Colorado Department of Transportation to install two fast charging stations for electrical vehicles. After many months of working with contractors for installation and activation, we are happy to have these available for the community and visitors. Users can generally charge their vehicles in less than an hour, as the two chargers have the ability to charge at around 400 miles per hour. These are the first two DC Level III Chargers in Fruita.

Cops and Cars Show Tomorrow (Continued)

The Cops and Car Show is back and is happening next Saturday at Little Salt Wash Park from 7 am – 2 pm. All proceeds from this event will benefit Special Olympics Colorado. In addition to some amazing cars, there will be food trucks and t-shirts available for purchase.



WE ARE BACK **COPS AND CARS SHOW**

Presented By: **Alpine Bank**

Gold Sponsor: **RRGJO**

FRUITA POLICE DEPT.
ENHANCING THE FUTURE

Special Olympics
All proceeds go to Special Olympics

SATURDAY AUGUST 12, 2023

7 AM - 2 PM
LITTLE SALT WASH PARK
651 NORTH PINE STREET
FRUITA, CO

The poster features a white classic car on the left and a blue classic truck on the right. Logos for the FrUITA Police Dept., Alpine Bank, and Special Olympics are included.

Fruita Game Nights

Summer isn't over yet! The last Thursday Night Concert of the season was last night, but we want to continue the fun! The community can now enjoy game nights at Civic Center Park this month. From volleyball, cornhole, Spikeball, and more, there will be a game you won't want to miss! Grab your friends and family and enjoy the end of summer. These events are FREE. We will also be hosting two movie nights on September 15 and October 6 at Civic Center Park.



FRUITA
GAME NIGHT
IN THE PARK

FREE

FAMILY FUN

FRUITA COLORADO

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17 & THURSDAY, AUGUST 31	FRUITA CIVIC CENTER PARK 5:30 PM TO 8:00 PM
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The poster features an illustration of two people playing volleyball on a grassy field. A cornhole board and various sports balls (soccer, basketball, football) are also shown. A large sun is in the background.

Fiber Construction Update (Continued)

Next Week (Week of August 14, 2023), Clearnetworx/Deeply Digital, an internet service provider, will be constructing along Wildcat Boulevard/J Road, Catalina Avenue Subdivision, Aspen Village, and Canterbury Park. 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.

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:** Can we swim at Snooks Bottom Open Space?
- **Answer:** Snooks Bottom Open Space is operated by the City of Fruita and is free to use by the community. The body of water at Snooks Bottom is not designated or intended as a swimming facility. However, it is a popular destination for kayaking and paddle boarding. Please use caution when recreating at Snooks Bottom Open Space. Learn more about Snooks Bottom Open Space and other rules of the park at fruita.org.

General Updates

- **June Financial Reports.** At our City Council meeting next Tuesday, Finance Director Margaret Sell will provide an overview of financial reports for the first half of the year. Our June numbers are included in the packet for that meeting, and here is a summary of sales tax collections through June:
 - **City Sales Tax** – up 6% in June when compared to the prior June, trending at an increase of 9% year-to-date.
 - **Use Tax on Motor Vehicles** – Year-to-date is at a decrease of 6%, June use tax collections were down 14% from the prior year. Although at a decrease this year, is still trending above the budgeted amounts.
 - **Use Tax on Building Materials** – Was up 9% in June, still at a decrease of 21% overall when compared to 2023. Also still trending above budget.
 - **City Lodging Tax** – Lodging tax collections was down 12% in June, trending at a decrease of 3% year-to-date.
 - **County Sales Tax** – County sales tax collections were up less than 1% in June, still trending at an increase of 1% year-to-date.
- **Supervisor Training.** On Thursday, all supervisors and managers participated in Supervisor Training. These trainings are reoccurring meetings and are an opportunity to bring leaders within the City of Fruita together. The hour begins with quick updates from different departments and a training overview on various topics. I provided the group with a training overview of key takeaways from the books *How to Get to Yes* and *Crucial Conversations*. The topics in these books provide valuable tools for enhancing communications efforts which is part of our organization wide goal of increasing the number of employees who feel well informed on city matters.

- **Riverfront Concert Series Tomorrow Night.** The final Riverfront Concert Series is tomorrow night at the State Park in Fruita! Tomorrow night is the Bellamy Brothers with guest Dan Sheridan. These concerts are held each summer to raise money for trail building and maintenance projects along the Colorado Riverfront Trail. The concert is currently sold out, but there is a waiting list if you are interested in joining. To find more information, you can visit their website here: [One Riverfront Concert Series.](#)
- **Little Mesa Fire.** There is currently a 433-acre fire about 15 miles west, southwest of Delta in the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area. The cause of the fire was lightning, and crews are working daily to fully suppress the fire. Smoke is visible from surrounding areas and Highways 50, 550, 92, 65, 141 and C37 Road. The public is asked to stay away from the Pothole Recreation Area. [Learn more and find updates online.](#)
- **City Engagement Event Next Thursday.** Enjoy casual conversations with City Manager Mike Bennett with free ice cream! These events are an opportunity for residents to ask questions and learn about what's happening at the City of Fruita. This event will be held at Civic Center Park at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 17.

Administration

- **Audit Firm RFP.** The Requests for Proposals for a new audit firm closed last week and the City received five responses from qualified firms. Staff has evaluated the proposals and decided to conduct brief interviews with two firms next week or the week after. It is anticipated that an award will be given following the interviews. The City of Fruita is required to change audit firms every eight years per our charter.

Engineering

- **Pine Street Bridge.** Gonzales Construction mobilized to the site on Monday and began work on the guardrails. MA Concrete Construction provided potholing services for the guardrails on the east side of the bridge where the high-pressure and distribution gas mains are located. The potholing is a safe means of excavating next to the gas mains to ensure the safe installation of the guardrails. The guardrail installation was completed on Thursday. Dowd Construction continued work on the base course installation and preparation for concrete curb, gutter, and sidewalks to complete all sidewalks on each corner of the bridge. Mays Concrete is scheduled to begin work on the curb, gutter, and sidewalks next week.



- **2023 Sidewalk Replacement Project.** This year's sidewalk replacement project bid opening is scheduled for next Friday, August 18th at 1:30 pm.

Parks and Recreation

- **Little Salt Wash Park Irrigation Update.** On Thursday, August 3rd, parks crews found the 6" mainline had ruptured just outside of the pump house requiring the irrigation system to be shut down for repairs. The size of the pipe required parts to be ordered and crews were finally able to restore water on Wednesday morning.
- **Fire Mitigation Completed last week between Mesa and Maple on the Little Salt Wash Trail.** Lower Valley Fire Department, Bureau of Land Management, and the City of Fruita partnered together to complete fire mitigation along the Little Salt Wash Trail. The work removed invasive vegetation as well as clearing overgrowth.
- **Fruita Arts and Culture Board has selected the art for the HeART of Fruita rotating art exhibit.** On Wednesday, August 9th, the FACB board selected the three pieces that will be installed on Aspen Street the first week of September. More details to follow about the selected art and artists that will be featured.
- **Lifeguard Certifications.** Last weekend, we certified five new American Red Cross Lifeguard instructors (LGIs). This is a huge accomplishment for our staff! Certified LGIs play a big role in improving the safety of our facility, and these folks will now be able to assist in future Lifeguard training and in-services. A big shout out to Luke, Jeremy, Trevor, Maddison, and Leyton!
- **Parks and Recreation Newsletter.** On Wednesday, another edition of the [Parks and Recreation newsletter](#) was emailed to our list of subscribers. Learn about upcoming programs, important facility notices, and more.

Planning & Development

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

Major/ Minor Subdivisions:

- East Grand Townhomes Minor Subdivision (Approved) (600 Grand Avenue) (4 Lots)
- 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 Review) (460 N. Mesa St) (3 Lots)

Site Design Review/ Other Applications:

- Ottley Suites Site Design Review (Under Review) (722 Ottley Avenue)
- Pediatric Dental Specialists Site Design Review (Under Review) (101 Jurassic Avenue)
- 18 & K Road Rezone (Under Review) (Parcel #2697-162-21-001)
- The Fruita Mews (Under Review) (1138 18.5 Road)
- Berg Annexation & Rezone (Under Review) (1806 J 3/10 Road)

- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Site Design Review (Under Review) (417 E Ottley Ave)
- 616 E. Grand Avenue Conditional Use Permit (Under Review) (616 E. Grand Avenue)
- 1824 J 2/10 Road Annexation and Rezone (Under Review) (1824 J 2/10 Road)
- A Storage Place Site Design Review and Minor Subdivision (Under Review) (1960 & 1966 Hwy 6 & 50)

Police Department

- ***Calls for Service Statistics.*** In July 2023, the Grand Junction Regional Communications Center logged 873 calls for service for the Fruita Police Department. This compares with 781 calls for service in July 2022, showing a 12% increase. Year to date, we are at 6,277 calls for service in 2023 compared with 4,857 this time last year, showing a 29% increase. It should be noted that the majority of that increase results from a change in the way we are tracking officer-initiated activities.
- ***Back to School.*** This week, Fruita’s School Resource Officers were excited for the first day of school! Officer Sarah Young and Officer Ron Sharrar are pictured below, wearing their “Fruita Blue!”



Public Works

- **Oxidation Ditch Repairs.** WesTech was onsite at the Wastewater Reclamation Facility to remove two bearing assemblies in the southern oxidation ditch for repairs.



- **Funding Workshop.** Public Works Director attended a State Revolving Loan Fund Regional Workshop in Rifle, CO to identify opportunities for funding sewer capital projects.
- **Wildfire Protection Plan.** Public Works Director participated in the Mesa County Community Wildfire Protection Program meeting to discuss the Wildfire Protection Plan.
- **National Weather Service Meeting.** Public Works Director participated in the National Weather Service Western Slope Wildfire Drought Coordination meeting.

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

- [Fruita fire mitigation project clears out fuel near residential areas.](#)
- [Mesa County real estate activity lags.](#)
- [Three people honored for saving Fruita employee's life.](#)
- [Changes in store for D51 board.](#)
- [Best Bets: The Sentinel's picks for things to do this week.](#)
- [Happy trails? Lessons from Curt Gowdy on outdoor recreation design.](#)
- [Center of attention: Business services receive acclaim.](#)
- [Fruita Monument High School reveals new mascot.](#)
- [Group forms to preserve access to Enoch's Lake.](#)

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

- **August 11, 2023** – Grand Valley Food Truck Friday at Reed Park from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- **August 12, 2023** – One Riverfront Concert Series, James M. Robb State Park, 6:00 p.m. - SOLD OUT
- **August 12, 2023** – Cops and Cars Show, Little Salt Walsh Park, 7 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- **August 12, 2023** – Family Health West Foundation Ball, Grand Junction Convention Center, 5 p.m. - 11 p.m., RSVP Required.
- **August 17, 2023** – Family Game Night, Civic Center Park, 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

- **August 23, 2023** – Board and Commission Mixer Event, Fruita Community Center, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- **August 26, 2023** – From Soil to Supper Dinner by the FACC, Fruita Civic Center Park, 5:30 p.m., RSVP required.
- **August 31, 2023** – Family Game Night, Civic Center Park, 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- **September 9, 2023** – Tour of the Moon, Colorado National Monument, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- **September 15, 2023** – Movie Night at Civic Center Park, Movie will Start at Sunset.
- **September 21 – 24, 2023** – Fruita Fall Festival, Downtown Fruita, Open Venue.
- **October 6, 2023** – Movie Night at Civic Center Park, Movie will Start at Sunset.

CC. Department Directors

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



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.