



FRUITA COLORADO

Weekly Info Update



To: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
From: MIKE BENNETT, CITY MANAGER
Date: AUGUST 4, 2023
Re: WEEKLY INFORMATION UPDATE

325 E Aspen
Suite 155
Fruita CO 81521

Phone:
970-858-3663

Fax:
970-858-0210

E Mail
fruita@fruita.org

Web Site
fruita.org

City Manager's Office
970-858-3663

City Clerk/Finance
970-858-3663

Community
Development
970-858-0786

Engineering
970-858-8377

Human Resources
970-858-8373

Public Works
970-858-9558

Special Night at City Council Meeting

In late June, the unthinkable happened; we had an employee collapse while unloading equipment. Luckily, three individuals took quick action and saved the life of one of our own. Starting CPR and utilizing an AED before emergency medical services arrived was vital in this situation. Doctors said without the quick action performed, we wouldn't have this individual with us today. City of Fruita employee Jacob Atkins and United Rentals employees Shane Watson and Darren Thomason were recognized last night for their efforts by the City of Fruita Public Works Director, [Lower Valley Fire District](#) Fire Chief and Fire Marshal, and the [Grand Junction Fire Department](#) Fire Chief. These individuals from various backgrounds demonstrated extraordinary courage, quick thinking, and teamwork. We are extremely lucky to be surrounded by so many incredible individuals!



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

EV Fast Charging Stations Now Available

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 Next Saturday

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.



Fiber Construction Update (Continued)

Next Week (Week of August 7, 2023), Clearnetworx/Deeply Digital, an internet service provider, will be constructing along Pine Street, Cotton Woods, Grace Park, Canterbury Park, Aspen Village, K Road, J Road, J 2/10 Rd, and Grand Valley Estates. 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 I have an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) on my property?
- **Answer:** There are multiple variables to review to determine if a property can have an accessory dwelling unit (ADU). The first variable to be considered is what zoning area the property falls under. Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) are permitted on property with a single-family detached house in the following zones: Rural Estate (RE), Large Lot Residential (LLP), Community Residential (CR), South Fruita Residential (SFR), Monument Preservation (MP), Neighborhood Commerical Overlay, Downtown Mixed Use (DMU), and Commerical-1 (C-1). If you don't know what zoning district your property is located in, take a look at the [City's GIS Map](#). In the map's "Layer List," make sure the "Existing Zoning District" option is selected. In addition to meeting zoning requirements, an ADU must meet setback requirements, height requirements, and lot coverage requirements. Property owners looking to have an ADU need to know where

easements are on the property and follow HOA guidelines if in a neighborhood with an HOA. To learn more about ADUs in Fruita, [visit our Community Development Department.](#)

General Updates

- ***Last Week of the Fruita Academy.*** This week was the last week for the Fruita Academy. The program ended with a tour of the Wastewater Treatment Facility and an overview of the Community Development Department and Building Division. We had so much fun running this program and can't wait to welcome a new class next year! Participants will be recognized at the next City Council meeting on August 15, 2023, for graduating from the Fruita Academy!
- ***Welcome Kaydee!*** Our Communications Intern started this week, and we are so excited to welcome her! Kaydee is a senior at Colorado Mesa University pursuing a political science degree. This internship is being funded by the Mesa County Workforce Center and will run for the next few months.
- ***GVT Free All August!*** The last edition of the Mobile Mesa County newsletter is now available and can be found here: [July Mobile Mesa County Newsletter](#). It includes updates from the Grand Valley Transit, information on Grand Valley Bike Month, and regional planning efforts updates. For the month of August, residents and visitors can ride the Grand Valley Transit for free!
- ***GoFruita Newsletter.*** The latest edition of the GoFruita newsletter is now available and can be found here: [August Newsletter: Splash and Pedal to Beat the Heat](#).
- ***Fire Mitigation Project.*** This week, in collaboration with the Lower Valley Fire District and Upper Colorado River Interagency Fire Management, crews worked along the Little Salt Wash Trail in the Creekside Subdivision to remove overgrown vegetation to help with fire mitigation.
- ***Tour with Congresswoman Boebert.*** On Thursday, Mayor Kincaid, Mayor Pro Tem Breman, Shannon, and I met with Representative Boebert and her staff to provide an overview of the Fruita Strategic Plan and our current and future priority projects. We also gave Representative Boebert a tour of Fruita and showed her a few of our recent successes throughout the city. We had a great discussion and also discussed the Congressional Directed Spending process and how we can prepare for those next year.
- ***Mesa County Joint Information Center Meeting.*** Communications and Engagement Specialist Ciara DePinto, and Police Lieutenant Nick Peck attended the monthly Mesa County JIC meeting. These meetings are composed of agencies throughout the valley, including the Mesa County Health, Sheriff's Office, Grand Junction Police and Fire, Lower Valley Fire, School District 51, and more. The group discussed future training opportunities for the group and started working on a communications campaign for Suicide Prevention Month in September.

Administration

- ***Blood Drive.*** The City of Fruita will be hosting the Bloodmobile on Tuesday, August 16, 2023, from 12:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Everyone that donates blood throughout the month of August will be entered into a drawing to win a \$5,000 prepaid gift card, and there are five available. If you are interested in donating, you can sign up at this link: [Book an Appointment for Blood Drive](#). Thank you for helping save lives!

- **Open Positions.** We continue to recruit for a number of full-time and part-time positions. We are currently accepting applications for a Marketing and Communications Coordinator, an Aquatics Supervisor, a Maintenance Worker in Streets, and several part-time recreation positions. All of the City's open positions can be found here: [City of Fruita Job Openings](#).

Engineering

- **Pine Street Bridge.** GA Western returned to the site and completed work on erosion control measures by placing rock riprap at the outfall of irrigation drainage pipes. A riprap channel was completed on the north side of the wash where Xcel had located their temporary bypass pipeline during the construction of the bridge. Xcel had a power linemen crew remove the last remaining power pole after the telecommunication companies completed their work. Ben Dowd Construction had a crew that excavated the disturbed roadway area to subgrade elevation 22" below the proposed finished grade. The subgrade was recompact, and 17" of base course material was installed and compacted. Gonzales Construction is scheduled to begin work on the guardrails on Monday, August 7.



Parks and Recreation

- **Drinking fountain at Circle Park repaired.** The drinking fountain at Circle Park was repaired earlier this week. The plumbing contractor found two curb stop valves that were rusted out, causing the leak. They were able to make the repairs and turn the fountain back on. There is another drinking fountain at Reed Park that is currently off as they wait for parts to repair.
- **July Fruita Community Center (FCC) Visitors.** In July, the FCC saw 21,071 visits compared to 19,420 visits last July. Of the 21,071 visits, 9,255 visits were a one-time day-use visit.
- **Fall Registration and Activity Guide.** Fall registration and the Activity Guide became available on Tuesday, August 1. On top of the programming staples in youth and adult sports, fitness, and aquatics, new Adult 55+ activities were added, expanding our Recreation portfolio. The community can now sign up for fall activities, including aquatics, fall sports, and more. [Check out the guide online](#) or at the front desk at the Fruita Community Center.

- **Front Desk Concessions.** Concessions at the front desk continue to grow and have become a cornerstone of front desk operations. July retail and concessions sales totaled \$6,600.
- **New Faces at the FCC.** Several new staff joined the FCC team at the front desk, RecRats, within fitness, and with facility maintenance. Welcome to the team!

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

- **National Night Out.** Our Police Officers had a great time at National Night Out. We are so lucky to serve this wonderful community! Thank you to the neighborhoods who invited us to participate. These events are a great opportunity for neighbors to come together while also getting to know local officers. We hope to see you next year!



Public Works

- **Chipseal Project.** Crews will continue sweeping the chipsealed roads to pick up loose chips in preparation for the final fog coat seal that is scheduled for the week of August 21st.
- **H2S Project.** The first shipment of fiberglass manholes was delivered on Thursday. Hensel Phelps staff were on site to meet with sub-contractors to discuss the project. Additional manholes are expected towards the end of the month with project expected to begin early September.
- **Utilities.** Utility staff completed 41 locates this week and continued with irrigation monitoring and headgate cleaning. Staff also continued with sewer line cleaning, lift station inspections, and CCTV software training.
- **WWRF Tour.** Utility staff and Wastewater Treatment Staff gave a tour of the Wastewater Reclamation Facility to the Fruita Academy participants. Staff also met with Hensel Phelps and Rain for Rent to discuss H2S project.
- **Water Quality Meeting.** Public Works Director attended a Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment Water Quality meeting to discuss Water Quality Fees.
- **FOGs Collaboration.** Public Works, Community Development, and Building Division staff met to discuss the Fats-Oils-Grease program.
- **Pavement Assessment.** Preliminary data has been received from the pavement assessment project, and Public Works staff and Engineering staff met to review the data in preparation for a meeting to discuss treatment options.
- **Growing Water Smart Application.** Public Works Director submitted a City of Fruita application for the Growing Water Smart Workshop. This workshop utilizes a range of public engagement, planning, communication, and policy implementation tools to help community teams realize their water efficiency, watershed health, and water resilience goals.

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

- [Back to School Vaccine Clinic Tomorrow.](#)
- [Report: COVID, inflation still impacts tourism.](#)
- [Organizations put the work into workforce development.](#)
- [Bennet Announces \\$79.3 Million for Colorado Projects in Senate Appropriations Bill.](#)
- [\\$74 million headed to Colorado projects.](#)
- [Spend Colorado Day at Colorado state parks.](#)
- [Hickenlooper Announces \\$79.3 Million for Colorado Communities in 2024 Annual Funding Bills.](#)

- [On Colorado Day, 4 state historians share their favorite bits of Centennial State history.](#)
- [County continues efforts to battle Japanese beetle.](#)
- [Colorado Mesa to rebrand WCCC as CMU Tech.](#)
- [Hickenlooper includes local projects in earmarks request.](#)
- [Free state park passes for military members.](#)
- [Colorado Mesa University offers free application for Grand Valley residents.](#)
- [Fruita, Grand Junction opting in to state affordable housing initiative.](#)
- [Business Incubator Center receives congressional recognition.](#)
- [Mesa County: Spraying completed in Japanese Beetle hot zone.](#)
- [Colorado's Hidden Gems: Trails to Peace and Preservation.](#)

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

- **August 12, 2023** – One Riverfront Concert Series, James M. Robb State Park, 6:00 p.m.
- **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.