



# FRUITA COLORADO

## Weekly Info Update



To: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
From: MIKE BENNETT, CITY MANAGER  
Date: JULY 21, 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

### **Tuesday's City Council Workshop**

Tuesday night's City Council meeting will begin with a discussion with the Historic Preservation Board and the Fruita Tourism Advisory Board. We will then review the City Charter and discuss the CML Conference from last month. See you on Tuesday!

### **City Council Meeting Recap – July 18, 2023**

The second reading for the Ordinance regarding Enoch Lake was held this past Tuesday. During the regular City Council meeting on July 18, 2023, the agenda consisted of the second reading for Ordinance 2023-07, Ordinance 2023-08, and Ordinance 2023-09. Each ordinance went through the public hearing process, and Fruita City Council listened to every public comment received about each ordinance. After public comment and discussion, the Fruita City Council decided to continue the public hearing for Ordinance 2023-07 (Enoch Lake) and Ordinance 2023-08 (2 Acre Parcel on Pinon Mesa) until the meeting scheduled on Tuesday, August 29, 2023. The Fruita City Council decided to continue the hearing to allow more time to receive community feedback. The Fruita City Council did approve Ordinance 2023-09, an Ordinance authorizing the conveyance of real property of the City referred to as 4.05-Acre Parcel located on Pinon Mesa. The approval of Ordinance 2023-09 moved forward the sale of the 4.05-acre parcel, which has no water rights and is completely surrounded by private property. We encourage everyone interested in this manner to please visit [fruita.org/mountainproperties](https://fruita.org/mountainproperties) to learn more about the history, challenges, and upcoming meetings regarding Enoch Lake. If you have questions or comments about Enoch Lake, please contact us at [communications@fruita.org](mailto:communications@fruita.org).

### **Chipseal Project Starts Monday**

Starting next week, the city will begin the chip sealing project in coordination with Mesa County. The community can expect a few minor traffic inconveniences. For example, minor amounts of dust, loose gravel, and one-way traffic during the operation. We recommend traveling at a reduced speed until all the loose gravel has been removed from the roadway. City maintenance crews will sweep excess gravel

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

off the road in one to two working days. In approximately one week, the road will again have the texture of a paved road.

Crews will begin work on the north side of I-70 first, and work will continue for two weeks. After the north side of I-70 is complete, crews will begin the process on the south side of I-70. Maps of work areas are listed below. Visit [fruita.org/projects](http://fruita.org/projects) for a list of work areas and project updates.

### Stage 1 Fire Restrictions Beginning Today

Starting today, Mesa County has entered into a stage 1 fire restriction. In a stage 1 fire restriction, the following is prohibited for use: personal fireworks, campfires outside of fire pits or rings, agricultural issued burning without a burn permit from the Mesa County Sheriff, use of explosive targets, smoking outside near combustibles, operating a chainsaw without a spark-arresting device, Welding or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame except in cleared areas of at least 10 feet in diameter and in possession of an unexpired chemical pressurized fire extinguisher. Learn more about the restriction on the [Mesa County Sheriff's Office website](http://mesacountysheriff.com).



### Stage 1 Fire Restrictions Fact Sheet

  
**Allowed**

  
Fires in permanent fire pits, fire rings at private residences or within developed recreational sites such as a campground, or picnic area.

  
Fire features, chimineas and tiki torches at private residences supervised by a responsible adult.

  
Fires contained within liquid fueled or gas fueled stoves, lanterns, or heating devices.

  
Agricultural burns with SHERIFF'S OFFICE ISSUED PERMIT ONLY! Mesa County Fire Marshal will do a safety inspection prior to issuing permit.

  
Only PERMITTED PROFESSIONAL FIREWORKS displays are allowed.

  
**NOT Allowed**

  
The personal use of all fireworks are prohibited during fire restrictions.

  
Any fire or campfire, not within a permanently constructed fire grate in a developed park, campground, private residence, or picnic area.

  
Smoking, EXCEPT within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area of at least six feet diameter that is barren or cleared of all combustible material.

  
Operating or using any internal combustion engine, such as chainsaws, without a spark-arresting device properly installed, maintained, and in effective working order.

  
Welding or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame EXCEPT in cleared areas of at least 10 ft in diameter and in possession of a chemical pressurized fire extinguisher.

  
Target shooting with explosive targets is not permitted.

## **Mesa County Exploratory Scenario Planning**

Earlier this year, Public Works Director Kimberly Bullen participated in an Exploratory Planning Process (XSP) guided by the Mesa Conservation District. Community Members from all over Mesa County came together to plan for how the county can have a more resilient future. The XSP process helps communities prepare for probable, desired, and uncertain futures while pursuing an overarching community vision. The video linked below showcases Mesa County's experience through this planning process and will be shared with other communities to help share the importance of planning for a resilient future. The video was shown in Denver this week at the American Water Resources Association conference. [Sowing Seeds: How Scenario Planning Can Help Agricultural Communities Plan for a Resilient Future](#)

## **Tabor Review Committee**

We are looking for community members to serve on the Tabor Review Committee. This committee will meet three to four times over the next few months to review and analyze the potential impacts the TABOR amendment has on the City of Fruita. Visit [fruita.org/bc](http://fruita.org/bc) for more information and to apply.

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

Next Week (Week of July 24, 2023), Clearnetworkx/Deeply Digital, an internet service provider, will be constructing along Pine Street, Cotton Woods, Grace Park, Canterbury Park, Aspen Village, K Road, J 2/10 Road, Grand Valley Estates. For questions and comments on fiber internet, please call Clearnetworkx/Deeply Digital at 970-240-6600. Learn more about fiber internet in Fruita at [fruita.org/fiberinternet](http://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](mailto:communications@fruita.org).

- **Question:** Does the City of Fruita offer any volunteer programs?
- **Answer:** Yes! If residents are interested, the City of Fruita offers a few ways for residents to volunteer around town. The City of Fruita has an Adopt a Street/Trail program, where residents or groups can sign up to adopt a short section of a trail or road and clean it up two to four times a year. The City provides all materials needed for the clean ups, including vests, gloves, trash bags, and also picks up the trash once bagged. This program was launched last year, and seven sections have already been adopted. Additionally, our Parks and Recreation Department hosts a Trail Host program, where residents can volunteer to be trail hosts along the Co. Riverfront Trail and other regional trails. To learn more information about the Adopt a Street/Trail program, you can [visit our website](#). For more information on all volunteer programs, you can email [communications@fruita.org](mailto:communications@fruita.org).

## General Updates

- **Financial Reports.** The Financial Reports for May 2023 were included in the packet for the July 18, 2023, meeting. The full report can be found here, but below is a summary:
  - **City Sales Taxes** – Sales tax collections were up 7% in May of 2023 when compared to the prior year and is trending at a 9% increase year-to-date.
  - **Use Taxes on Motor Vehicles** – Decrease of 14% in May, trending at a decrease of 6% overall when compared to 2022.
  - **Use Taxes on Building Materials** – Was down 45% in May 2023, year-to-date is a decrease of 27%.
  - **Lodging Tax** – The City’s lodging tax decreased 12% compared to the previous May, trending at a decrease of 3% overall.
  - **County Sales Tax** – Increased 2%, year-to-date is at a 1% increase.
- **Fruita Academy.** This week was week two for our Fruita Academy students! It was a packed week that started with a tour of the Fruita Community Center on Wednesday. The group was able to see and hear about the services offered at the facility. The most interesting part of the tour was definitely the pump room, where the mechanics for the pool are managed. Thank you to Tina Ross (FCC Supervisor) and Marc Mancuso (Parks and Recreation Director) for the great tours! On Thursday, the group met back at the Fruita Civic Center for regular class. Class started with Chief Krouse and Lieutenant Peck from the Fruita Police Department and ended with Marc Mancuso from the Parks and Recreation Department. Next week, the class will hear about Engineering and Public Works.



- **City Engagement Event Recap.** We had a fantastic turnout at this month’s engagement event. The event focused on our strategic outcome of Fruita’s lifestyle. Parks and Recreation Director Marc Mancuso joined me for this event to share parks and recreation projects that fall under the lifestyle value. The group also discussed opportunities at the old Fruita Lagoons property, short-term rentals, and composting. Join us at our next event on August 17 at 5 p.m. in Civic Center Park.



- **Colorado Tourism Office Panel Discussion.** On Wednesday, I spoke on a panel for the Colorado Tourism Office’s Leadership Journey event. The panel discussion focused on Fruita’s tourism partnership with Palisade and how we collaborate on joint marketing efforts. We have worked with Palisade on multiple projects including the recent completion of the Gravel Adventure Guide, created responsible messaging around recreation on public and private lands, and have developed many itineraries that promote both destinations. It is a great partnership, and we look forward to collaborating more with Palisade!
- **Mesa County Weekend of Service and Understanding.** HomewardBound, along with other community partners, are facilitating the Mesa County Weekend of Service & Understanding Friday, Aug. 4<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, Aug. 5<sup>th</sup> . Community members will come together for a series of events, including community service projects and courageous conversations around housing and people experiencing houselessness in Mesa County. Their goal is to bring the community together for greater connection and understanding, and it's a wonderful opportunity to learn more about houselessness and share your perspective. More information and registration can be found on the flyer below.
- **Discover Fruita Podcast/Radio.** On this week’s episode of Discover Fruita, Lieutenant Nick Peck and Officer Dillon Chilcote shared about the Fruita Police Department including an overview of the Junior Citizen Police Academy, the upcoming Cops and Cars Show, and how to keep yourself safe from fraud. The episode will be available online at [bit.ly/discoverfruita](https://bit.ly/discoverfruita).

## Administration

- **IIJA and IRA Summit.** On Wednesday, Assistant City Manager Shannon Vassen and Public Works Director Kimberly Bullen traveled to Rifle to attend a full-day summit on upcoming grant opportunities from the Infrastructure Investment Act (“IIJA”) and the Inflation Reduction Act (“IRA”). The summit included speakers from most state agencies and a few federal departments, and focused on potential federal funding opportunities for road and bridge infrastructure, water and wastewater projects, broadband projects, energy, and more. The summit was hosted by the Co. Department of Economic Development and International Trade (“OEDIT”), and OEDIT staff estimate that the state of Colorado will receive \$7 billion between the two programs. Staff will evaluate potential IIJA and IRA grant opportunities and see if the

new programs align with projects in our strategic plan. The summit was also an opportunity to connect with our regional partners and discuss issues across Western Colorado.

## Engineering

- **2023 Sidewalk Replacements.** The City has a sidewalk replacement program that incentivizes replacing sidewalks that have tripping hazards and do not meet current ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) standards. Staff has evaluated locations currently in the core of downtown this year and has \$100,000 budgeted for these replacements. Bidding for this project is slated to close on August 18, with various concrete replacements scheduled for construction this fall. Per the municipal code, the maintenance of sidewalks is considered the responsibility of the adjacent property owner. In an effort to soften that responsibility, the City has developed an 80/20 program where the property owner is responsible for 20% of the cost and the City takes on the other 80%.
- **Pine Street Bridge Update.** Xcel Power completed work for the permanent power lines across the Little Salt Wash on the west side of the new bridge. The work included trimming existing trees to ensure the safety of the new power lines. While it may appear the bridge is complete and ready to open, work still remains to complete this project, with several different contractors and subcontractors having to mobilize and demobilize. The work to complete the project includes the following steps:
  - Telecommunication companies and their subcontractors install their permanent facilities across the Little Salt Wash.
  - Roadway and sidewalk excavation to subgrade
  - Base coarse installation and compaction
  - Guardrail Installation
  - Adjustment of storm drain inlets and manhole covers to finish grades
  - Finish grading of base coarse for sidewalk construction
  - Concrete sidewalk construction
  - Sandblasting the concrete deck
  - Application of two layers of epoxy coating and chips on the bridge deck
  - Finish grading of base coarse for roadway
  - Asphalt paving of the road
  - Striping the asphalt and bridge
  - Project cleanup and demobilization

Many of the items remaining are specialized tasks with different contractors and subcontractors responsible for completing the work. That means coordination and logistics to schedule each group. There will be periods when it appears no work is being accomplished due to the completion of one task early one week and the subsequent contractor/subcontractor being scheduled to start the following week. The anticipated completion date for the project is mid-September. We appreciate the community's patience as we work to finish the final pieces.

## Parks and Recreation

- **Youth Activities: DinoMites Summer Camp had a busy week.** They had a guest speaker from Colorado Parks and Wildlife come in and talk on Wednesday. They also took a walk to Dan Williams Park. Camp is preparing to make the move from Shelledy to the FCC for the remainder of summer since Shelledy needs the space back.

- **Track and Field Camp ends Friday 21<sup>st</sup>.** The local fire station is bringing out a firetruck to have a water day with all the kids to celebrate the completion of camp. Challenger Soccer Camp is running this week with over 20 participants.
- **100 FCC Passes Purchased for Kids.** A YouTube Channel, Driver's Therapy, bought 100 Fruita Community Passes as part of a celebration on reaching 50,000 subscribers on YouTube. The YouTube Channel owner will be sharing the passes for free with kids in the community. It is always great to see businesses supporting the FCC!
- **Aquatics closures this week.** Our aquatics team has been working diligently to regulate the chemicals in the indoor pool and eliminate any closures. We have had some problems with the new chemical feeders that were installed in March and needed the contractor who installed them to complete warranty work on the system. The contractor was able to regulate the system and verify that the system was operating properly. Our goal is to keep the closures to a minimum and understand how the closures this week have negatively impacted daily workouts. Thanks for your understanding and look forward to seeing you at the pool.

## 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)

## Public Works

- **H2S Project.** The H2S project was set back to the first week of September.

- **Reservoir #2 Update.** On June 1, 2023, the Emergency Action Plan was activated at the lowest level for Fruita Reservoir Dam #2 due to an unplanned infilling of the reservoir. This reservoir has been on a no-fill order by the state due to structural issues with the dam. The City of Fruita Public Works Department has been lowering the reservoir by a combination of siphon and open outlet as required by the state. The city has also tracked reservoir levels and provided routine observations during the dewatering process. As of July 19<sup>th</sup>, the reservoir is essentially back to zero storage and the Emergency Action Plan activation has been terminated.
- **Utility Locates.** Utility staff completed 81 utility locates this week.
- **CIRSA Training.** Public Works and Parks staff completed a two-day CIRSA training that covered Flagger Certification, Safe Driving Strategies, Forklift Operations, and Hazardous Operations.
- **Welcome Lynn!** Lynn Reynolds joined the Public Works Utilities division on Monday. Welcome to the crew, Lynn!

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

- [Moon Farm memories: Pictorial book shares history of Grand Valley's favorite farm.](#)
- [Wildland fire danger rising in Colorado as monsoon runs late.](#)
- [Keeping athletes safe during the summer heat.](#)
- [Home sales and building permits down substantially from this time last year.](#)
- [Different tips to be water efficient during the summer season.](#)
- [Fruita City Council considering selling lake.](#)
- [Fire restrictions begin July 21.](#)
- [Fruita delays decision on Enoch Lake sale.](#)
- [Grand Valley Transit will be fare-free in August.](#)
- [County Clerk to conduct Grand Junction's 2025 election.](#)
- [Fire restrictions taking effect in Mesa County.](#)
- [Blue-green algae discovered at Vega Reservoir.](#)
- [Free college in Colorado.](#)

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

- **July 26, 2023** – The Fruita Mews Groundbreaking Ceremony, 1138 18 ½ Road, 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- **July 28, 2023** – Fruita Fourth Fridays – FARM (160 S. Park Square), 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- **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 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 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](mailto:communications@fruita.org)



Friday, Aug. 4th-Saturday, Aug. 5th, 2023

# MESA COUNTY WEEKEND OF SERVICE & UNDERSTANDING

## Volunteer Your Time & Perspective for Community Connection & Personal Growth

Community members will come together for a **series of events**, including **community service projects** and **courageous conversations** around **housing** and **people experiencing houselessness** in Mesa County. Our goal is to **bring the community together** for **greater connection and understanding**.

THE VISION



## VOLUNTEER

Sign up for volunteer opportunities with local service organizations such as **Roice-Hurst Humane Society** and **Pathways Family Shelter (Homeward Bound)**.

## LEARN MORE ABOUT HOUSELESSNESS AND SHARE YOUR PERSPECTIVE



## LEARN MORE & REGISTER

Talk to us at the GJ Market on Main Thursday, August 3 (5:30-8pm)  
Or click the QR Code/register here: [bit.ly/mesacountyservice](https://bit.ly/mesacountyservice)



# MESA COUNTY WEEKEND OF SERVICE & UNDERSTANDING

FRI., 8.4

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**Friday, August 4th from 10AM-2PM:**

### **Volunteer at Roice-Hurst Humane Society**

- *Assist with cleaning, exercising and walking dogs - working with cats and kittens and assisting the adoption team in working with new clients.*
- **Location: Roice-Hurst Grand Junction Facility (362 28 Road, Grand Junction, CO 81501)**

**Friday, August 4 at 6:30pm:**

### **Community Conversation: Housing and Houselessness in Mesa County**

- *Panel Experts | Bill Wade, Homeward Bound; Ashley Chambers, GJ Housing Manager; Stephania Vasconez, Mutual Aid Partners*
- **Location: Grand Junction Senior Rec Center (550 Ouray Avenue)**



## **LEARN MORE & REGISTER**

Talk to us at the GJ Market on Main Thursday, August 3 (5:30-8pm)  
Or click the QR Code/register here:  
[bit.ly/mesacountyservice](https://bit.ly/mesacountyservice)



# MESA COUNTY WEEKEND OF SERVICE & UNDERSTANDING

SAT., 8.5

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**Saturday, Aug. 5th from 10AM-3PM:**

### **Volunteer at Pathways Family Shelter (Homeward Bound)**

- *Help prepare food and work with children on various art & creative projects at the shelter.*
- **Location: 562 29 Rd, Grand Junction, CO 81504**

**Saturday, Aug. 5th at 6:30PM:**

### **Community Dinner: Understanding Houselessness through Lived Experience**

- *Dinner provided by Pathways (Donations Accepted)  
Talk with individuals at dinner with lived experiences of houselessness.*
- **Location: Grand Junction Senior Rec Center  
(550 Ouray Avenue)**



## LEARN MORE & REGISTER

Talk to us at the GJ Market on Main  
Thursday, August 3 (5:30-8pm)  
Or click the QR Code/register here:  
[bit.ly/mesacountyservice](https://bit.ly/mesacountyservice)





# 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.