



FRUITA COLORADO

Weekly Info Update



To: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
From: MIKE BENNETT, CITY MANAGER
Date: JUNE 2, 2023
Re: WEEKLY INFORMATION UPDATE

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Tuesday's City Council Meeting

We will begin our meeting on Tuesday night with three proclamations and a presentation on an award that the City of Fruita received. After that, and our normal agenda items, we will move on to four public hearing items on planning and development items. On the Administrative Agenda, staff will present the first reading of an ordinance amending the land use code, specifically regarding the POST (Parks, Open Space and Trail) Impact Fee and Transportation Impact Fees. No formal action is needed on this, as the first reading just sets a hearing date for the amendments for a future meeting. On the Council Reports and Actions, the Council will rescind the Local Disaster Emergency Declaration (the COVID-19 Emergency Declaration) and will participate in three Executive Sessions. See everyone on Tuesday night!

Busy Weekend in Fruita! Mike the Headless Chicken Festival and the Colorado Riverfront Concert Series.

The Mike the Headless Chicken Festival kicks off tonight! We are excited to celebrate our local celebrity once again today and tomorrow. Festival activities include live music and vendors throughout the weekend, our 5k Run and Walk, the Peep and Wing Eating competition, Car show and more. New this year is the "Chicken Dance in honor of Ellen Roberts" and the Fruita History tent. [Find more information on the festival.](#) Additionally, the first Colorado Riverfront Concert Series is tonight at the state park and is featuring Tab Benoit. This is one of two concerts that the Riverfront Foundation is hosting this year in Fruita. For more information on both concerts, you can visit the [One Riverfront website.](#)

Mulberry Celebrations Recap

Last Thursday through Saturday, we hosted three events at Mulberry Space to celebrate the grand opening of the plaza. On Thursday night, staff hosted Fruita Trivia, gave away ice cream sandwiches and other Fruita gear, and joined Open Mic Night at the Cavalcade at the Plaza. On Friday, we had great participation for the community mural painting and at Fruita Fourth Friday. The mural turned out great! A

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

few pictures of the final mural are provided below. And on Saturday, Vintage Common hosted Music on Mulberry. Overall, the three nights on Mulberry was a great celebration and we are excited for the space to be complete and used by the community. Thank you to everyone that joined us for the celebration!



Civic Center Closed Today for Mike the Headless Chicken Festival

Today, the Fruita Civic Center will be closed to the public due to the festival events in the surrounding area. Access to the Fruita Civic Center and parking will be limited and we can provide a better customer experience via phone or email during this event. Our offices will still be available by phone or email, so please reach out if you need anything! Regular in-person hours will resume on Monday, June 5, 2023. This closure does not impact the Fruita Community Center, the Fruita Police Department, or Fruita City Shops. Thank you, Fruita!

- Administration, Phone: 970 - 858 - 3663
- Community Development, Phone: 970 - 858 - 0786
- Engineering, Phone: 970 - 858 - 8377
- Human Resources, Phone: 970 - 858 - 3663
- Email: communications@fruita.org

Fruita Films Event – RSVP (Continued)

Be the first to see this year's State of the City video! We are teaming up with Rocky Mountain PBS to host a Fruita Film night in their new space located at 158 S Park Square. Be the first to watch the Fruita State of the City film followed by a premiere of local Fruita stories presented by Rocky Mountain PBS. This event is FREE but an RSVP is required. Any open seats will be opened on a first-come, first-served basis. Please RSVP online at bit.ly/fruitafilms or by calling 970-858-3663.



Fiber Construction Update (Continued)

Next Week (Week of June 5, 2023), Clearnetworx/Deeply Digital, an internet service provider, will be constructing along Pine Street, in the Cotton Woods and Grace Park subdivisions. 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.



Avoid River Recreation. High Water Dangers. (Continued)

Extremely high river levels are expected over the next few weeks. Please avoid recreation on the river and stay away from high moving water. [Learn more about safety tips in Mesa County Sheriff's Office recent news statement.](#)

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:** Does the City of Fruita spray for mosquitoes?
- **Answer:** No, but the Grand River Mosquito Control District does. To help protect the honeybee population and for increased public acceptance, the district only sprays after dark when honeybees have returned to their hives. This is why you might see or hear their fog truck late at night. For more information and for notifications on upcoming services, please visit the Grand River Mosquito Control District's website at grmcd.org.

General Updates

- ***CML Spring Outreach Meeting.*** On Wednesday afternoon, we hosted the Colorado Municipal League's Spring ("CML") Outreach Meeting for our district at the Fruita Community Center. CML provided a recap of the legislative session, an overview of upcoming CML events, and then each agency provided an update. It was great to hear from the CML staff and our partner organizations throughout the valley. CML staff also stopped by after the meeting to celebrate their 100-year anniversary of the organization.
- ***Government Affairs Committee.*** On Tuesday, Planning and Development Director Dan Caris, Parks and Recreation Director Marc Mancuso, and I provided a City update to the Fruita Area Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee. We provided an update on the Building Inspections Program, changes to the Land Use Code, potential changes to the POST (Parks, Open Space, and Trails) Impact Fee, and discussed Enoch Lake and the Mountain Properties. The committee members asked some great questions, and it was a good discussion.
- ***Presentation to One Riverfront Foundation Board.*** Marc and Dan joined me again to present to the Foundation board to update them on the Highway 340 connection design project (Received a CDOT grant to match with the Foundation's funds and awaiting our CDOT contract) and begin discussing possible ways the Foundation can partner with the Lagoon Redevelopment in the future.
- ***Presentation to the Associated Members for Growth and Development (AMGD).*** Planning and Development Director Dan Caris and I presented our upcoming code and impact fee changes to the AMGD group in Grand Junction Thursday morning. The code changes were highly welcomed.
- ***Property Taxes and Rising Values.*** Mesa County Commissioners released a letter explaining the increase in property values over the past few years. On average, property values have risen 39% and many residents have concerns about the impact this has on property taxes. [To view the letter please visit Mesa County's website.](#)

- **Community Hospital Public Meeting.** Provide your feedback to community hospital at their upcoming community benefit public meeting on June 20 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Legacy Conference Room at 2351 G Road.



You're invited!



Community Benefit Public Meeting

June 20, 2023 | 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Community Hospital | 2351 G Road
Legacy Conference Rooms

Please join Chris Thomas, President & CEO for Community Hospital updates. We appreciate the valuable feedback from our community!



- **Family Health West Donut Eating Contest.** Today is National Donut Day and to celebrate Family Health West hosted a friendly competition! Myself, Fruita Police Officers, Fire Fighters from Lower Valley Fire, Family Health West CEO and staff went head to head to see who could eat the most donuts! Dr. Korrey Klein won with nine donuts! What a fun way to bring local partners together for a fun Friday morning.



- **Pinochle at the Fruita Senior Center.** Today, Councilmember Amy Miller and I learned from and played with the weekly pinochle crew at the Fruita Senior Center—we appreciate them taking the time to let us join in.

Engineering

- **Pine Street Bridge Update.** Black Eagle, the contractor responsible for the Xcel high-pressure gas main installation, continued work on the 4" steel pipeline across the bridge. The pipeline has been hung on the bridge with sections welded together to extend to the final connection locations on each end of the bridge. A high-pressure test is currently being completed to verify the adequacy of welds and construction. Black Eagle intends to work this Saturday to keep their work schedule intact and ensure they are prepared for the permanent main tie in on Thursday of next week. The high-pressure gas main installation is scheduled for completion on Friday, June 9, 2023. The Engineering Department would like to remind the public that the bridge remains closed to all modes of transportation including vehicular, bicycles and pedestrians. Public safety is a primary concern and hazardous conditions remain and will continue to change in location and severity in the construction zone.



- **2023 Road Overlays.** Milling will begin Friday June 9, 2023, with paving beginning on June 13. It is anticipated that paving will take 3-4 days. Locations identified can be found [here](#).

Marketing and Promotion

- **GoFruita Newsletter.** The latest edition of the GoFruita newsletter is now available and can be found [here](#).
- **Gravel Adventure Guide.** The Fruita + Palisade Gravel Adventure Guide is complete and has been sent to the printer. Creating a Mesa County Gravel Adventure Guide was one of the goals identified in the work plan for the Fruita and Palisade marketing partnership. The Gravel Guide includes information on Mesa County, 11 unique routes for gravel cyclists (both in print and online), spotlights on local businesses, historic information on the two destinations, and more. It is estimated that printing will be done either next week or the week after. The Fruita Tourism Advisory Council will be hosting a pickup party for the guide once complete, and copies will be available for free at our local businesses. We are excited for this project to be complete, and are thankful for the state's partnership in funding the guide (the Office of Outdoor Recreation is funding most of this project).



Parks and Recreation

- **Summer youth programs starting next week.** Tennis camp, Track and Field Camp, FutureCats Soccer Camp, Peewee Soccer, and June dance sessions are all starting next week. We have a full summer of youth activities for our community.
- **Aquatics Staff taught 2 courses certifying new Lifeguards and Swim Instructors.** 7 Red Cross Certified Lifeguards and 4 Water Safety Instructors completed their course last week which was taught in-house at the Fruita Community Center.
- **Fruita Bark Park Temporarily Closed.** Unfortunately, foxtail weeds have been identified throughout the dog park which can be dangerous to animals. Crews are working as quickly as possible to clear the park, but the park will be closed until it is safe for all users. Thank you for your patience as we work to clean up the park.

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

- ***Street and Pavement Evaluations.*** The city's contractor Roadway Asset Services (RAS) completed the data collection this week for the updated street and pavement evaluations. RAS will take the data files collected from the vehicle and link to the data provided by the city to begin the analysis.
- ***Mountain Water Properties Update.*** Public Works staff went to the Mountain Water properties to install a meter and check on conditions of Reservoir #2. Reservoir #2 is under a "No Fill" order by the State Dam Engineers due to dam structure. This reservoir inadvertently filled due to the amount of snowfall. Staff is currently syphoning water out of the reservoir to draw the water level down and empty the reservoir per the state order. Staff has contacted the State to inform them of the conditions and additional notifications have been made for emergency contacts. **Due to current conditions, the City of Fruita is warning recreation users to stay off the dam at Reservoir #2.**
- ***Utilities Updates.*** Utilities division completed 32 utility locates this week bringing the total number of locates for the month of May to 238. Crews continue to respond to irrigation issues due to the amount of sediment in the system. Public Works, Engineering, and Parks met earlier this week to discuss possible alternatives for irrigation water and will be looking to put together some information for budget season.
- ***Water Coordination Meeting.*** Public Works Director participated in the Western Slope Runoff/High Water Coordination meeting.

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

- [Grand Junction Airport sees busiest travel season in history.](#)
- [Entertainment calendar: May 31 – June 6.](#)
- [Counties with the warmest summers in Colorado.](#)
- [Mesa County seeking public feedback on trail masterplan.](#)
- [Things to do in Colorado this weekend.](#)

- [Weekend things to do around Denver and beyond.](#)
- [Speed of spring runoff can affect risk of seasonal landslides.](#)

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

- **June 2, 2023** – One Riverfront Concert Series, James M. Robb State Park, 5:00 p.m.
- **June 2-3, 2023** - Mike the Headless Chicken Festival, Downtown Fruita, Open Venue
- **June 7, 2023** - Fruita State of the City Screening, Rocky Mountain PBS, 5:30 p.m.
- **June 8, 2023** - Thursday Night Concert Series - The Drunken Hearts (Americana), Civic Center Park, 7:30 p.m.
- **June 15, 2023** – Thursday Night Concert Series – Wave 11 (R&B/Reggae/Funk), Civic Center Park, 7:30 p.m.
- **June 22, 2023** – Thursday Night Concert Series – Goodman Band (Blues/Rock), Civic Center Park, 7:30 p.m.
- **June 23, 2023** – Fruita Fourth Fridays, FARM (160 S. Park Square), 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- **June 25 – 28, 2023** - CML Annual Conference
- **June 29, 2023** – Thursday Night Concert Series – Centennial Band, Civic Center Park, 7:30 p.m.
- **June 29, 2023** – City Council Ice Cream Social, Civic Center Park, 7:30 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.

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.