



FRUITA COLORADO

Weekly Info Update



To: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
From: MIKE BENNETT, CITY MANAGER
Date: MAY 26, 2023
Re: WEEKLY INFORMATION UPDATE

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City offices will be closed on Monday, May 29, 2023, in observance of Memorial Day. Trash and Recycling will be delayed by one day for the remainder of the week.

Mulberry Celebrations Continue Tonight & Tomorrow

Last night was the kickoff of the Three Nights on Mulberry celebrating the new plaza. The festivities will continue tonight and tomorrow. Stop by the Mulberry Plaza tonight anytime between 5 pm – 7 pm to participate in a community mural. Make sure to stop by Fruita Fourth Happenings happening from 5 pm – 8 pm at the FARM (160 S Square). On Saturday, enjoy live music from three local bands presented by the Vintage Common. Music will start at 6 pm.



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

THREE NIGHTS ON MULBERRY

Celebrate the new Mulberry Plaza with three nights of fun community activities! Located in downtown Fruita.



THURSDAY, MAY 25
6:00 PM
Fruita Trivia
7:00 PM
Cavalcade Open Mic Night in the Mulberry Plaza
Fruita Giveaways, Ice Cream Sandwiches



FRIDAY, MAY 26
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Community Mural Painting in the Mulberry Plaza
Stop by Fruita Fourth Fridays at the FARM (160 S. Square) from 5 pm - 8 pm



SATURDAY, MAY 27
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Music on Mulberry
Enjoy local bands presented by the Vintage Common

FRUITA.ORG | 970.858.3663 | COMMUNICATIONS@FRUITA.ORG  FRUITA COLORADO

RSVP to Fruita Films Event – June 7

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.



FRUITA FILMS
RSVP online at [BIT.LY/FRUITAFILMS](http://bit.ly/fruitafilms)
or by calling 970.858.3663
Any open seats will be opened on a first-come, first-served basis.



5:30 PM
FREE EVENT



JUNE 7TH
ROCKY MOUNTAIN PBS
158 S. PARK SQUARE



FRUITA STATE OF THE CITY VIDEO
Be the first to watch the Fruita State of the City video followed by a premiere of local Fruita stories presented by Rocky Mountain PBS.

Civic Center Closed Next Friday for Mike the Headless Chicken Festival

The Mike the Headless Chicken Festival kicks off in Downtown Fruita next Friday, June 2, and Saturday June 3. On Friday, the Fruita Civic Center will be closed to the public next Friday 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

Fiber Construction Update (Continued)

Next Week (Week of May 29, 2023), Clarnetworx/Deeply Digital, an internet service provider, will continue construction in Fruita in the Legacy Subdivision and along Pine Street. For questions and comments on fiber internet, please call Clarnetworx/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:** What is Fruita's leash law when it comes to dogs?
- **Answer:** Dogs must be leashed at all times in public spaces in Fruita. This includes local parks and downtown Fruita. However, there are a few exceptions if the dog is well-behaved, and they can be controlled verbally. Dogs are allowed off leash at Snooks Bottom Open Space, the new Fruita Bark Park, and on the nearby Bureau of Land Management (BLM) trails. When hiking, enjoying Snooks Bottom, or at the dog park, dogs need to be leashed in the parking lot and at the trailhead. Learn about Fruita's leash law from our Animal Control Officer in this recent video from the Fruita Police Department - <https://fb.watch/kLC51n7AWI/>

General Updates

- **Fifth Tuesday.** As a reminder, there is no City Council meeting next Tuesday, as it is a fifth Tuesday. Hope that everyone enjoys their Tuesday off!
- **State of the Valley.** On Wednesday afternoon, Mayor Pro Tem Breman and I had the opportunity to join representatives from Mesa County, the City of Grand Junction, and the Town of Palisade at the Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce State of the Valley Luncheon. We answered questions about economic development, housing, growth, and land use code changes. It was a great discussion, and we were excited to share recent success stories in Fruita. Thank you to the Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce for hosting the event and including us.
- **CML Spring Outreach Meeting in Fruita.** Next Wednesday afternoon, we are hosting the Colorado Municipal League's Spring Outreach meeting at the Fruita Community Center. The meeting is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. If you would like to attend and have not registered, please let me know and we will get you registered.
- **Public Works Week.** I had a great time celebrating Public Works Week in Fruita this week! To celebrate and thank our employees, Public Works Director Kimberly Bullen and I served lunch (pb&js to start off the week) to our employees on Monday. And today, we were able to join our employees for a Public Works employee appreciation barbeque at the City Shops. Thank you to all of our Public Works employees for all of their hard work on behalf of Fruita – it was great to celebrate the week with them.

Administration

- **Annual Financial Audit.** The auditors that complete an annual review of the City's financial statements were on site last week and have wrapped up their fieldwork. Staff will present an overview of the financial statements to the City Council at a future meeting this summer, and that will be accompanied by a presentation from the accounting firm on any findings from the audit.

Engineering

- **Welcome Greyson!** This week, Greyson Wagner started with the Engineering Department as the Engineering Intern. Greyson is going to be a Senior at Colorado Mesa University next year, and we are excited to have him on board for the summer. The Engineering Department has been hosting an intern for the past several years, and it has been very successful. Welcome Greyson!
- **Pine Street Bridge Update.** Ben Dowd Construction, the pipe subcontractor, extended a stormwater drain on the southeast corner of the bridge to mitigate erosion problems that developed during construction. They are also relocating an irrigation drain line on the northeast corner of the bridge to eliminate installation conflicts with the high-pressure gas main, distribution gas main and guardrail intended for that area of the bridge. Black Eagle, the contractor responsible for the high-pressure gas main installation, mobilized to the site and began excavating trenches for the final pipeline location and began preparing the 4" steel pipe that is being installed across the bridge. The high-pressure gas main installation is scheduled for completion on 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.



- **Mulberry Plaza Update.** Sparks Fly Studio added the finishing art pieces to the firepit this morning. The contractor is working on the set-up for turning on the flames during operating hours.



Parks and Recreation

- ***The HeART of Fruita Call for Artists.*** The Fruita Arts and Culture Board is now accepting applications from local artists to kick off the start of the new HeART of Fruita program. The program will pick three local artists to display their sculptures along Aspen Ave. Learn more about the program at fruita.org/art.
- **Outdoor Pool Opens Friday, May 26 at 12:30pm!** We are excited for patrons to get out and enjoy the sun at the outdoor pool. Full schedule can be found at [Pool Schedules](#).
- **Mike the Headless Chicken Festival next Friday and Saturday.** Please note that there will be traffic closures that impact residents for our festival on Friday, June 2 and Saturday, June 3. [View the full Mike Festival schedule online.](#)

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

- ***Junior Citizens Police Academy (JCPA).*** We are actively taking applications for our JCPA, which will be taking place in July.

Public Works

- **Road Assessment Project.** The Roadway Assessment project kicked off this week. Folks may see a van with various pieces of equipment driving the streets of Fruita over the next week. This project is a comprehensive objective approach in evaluating our road system. This service provides real time quality control in the field for system monitoring. Their system classifies and quantifies alligator/fatigue cracking using a crack density analysis of neighboring grids, all cracking is assessed, measuring each crack, and analyzing the geometry of the crack to assign proper classifications. The information we receive will give us a network average pavement condition index score, percent of good roads, and identifies the percent of backlog of very poor, serious, and failed roads. In addition, this program will conduct a curb and gutter inventory, sidewalk and sign inventory, and ADA curb ramp inventory. The city received an administrative grant from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs for this project.
- **Fiber Internet Construction Meetings.** Weekly construction meetings with Deeply Digital, Public Works and Engineering continue to discuss areas they will be working on and any construction issues that arise.
- **Wildfire Mitigation.** Public Works staff met with Lower Valley Fire Protection District and Parks to discuss assistance with wildfire mitigation efforts.
- **Chips for Chipsealing.** Streets crew began hauling chips from Whitewater to the Public Works facility in preparation for chipsealing and will continue hauling into next week. The picture below shows a little more than half of the amount of chips that will be needed for the chipsealing project.



- **Irrigation Update.** Utilities crew continues to respond to numerous irrigation calls due to the muddy condition of the water and completed an irrigation repair on N. Peach St. Utilities crew also responded to 41 utility locates this week.
- **Mountain Water Turn On.** Public Works staff are preparing for mountain water turn on. Staff will go to the mountain next week to evaluate the conditions of reservoirs and install a meter.

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

- [Thrifty giving: Fruita Thrift Shop volunteers turn donations into gifts.](#)
- [Miss hiking during mud season? These Colorado desert destinations are perfect for spring.](#)
- [Mesa County jobless rate retreat to near record low.](#)
- [Fiber Installation in Fruita.](#)

- [The 2023/24 HeART of Fruita Art Contest.](#)
- [Affordable housing, growth the focus of State of the Valley event.](#)
- [Mesa County sales tax collections hold steady.](#)
- [Boating, state park and wildlife safety tips for Memorial Day weekend.](#)

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

- **May 26, 2023** – Three Nights on Mulberry Celebrations – Community Mural Painting, Mulberry Plaza in downtown Fruita, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
- **May 27, 2023** – Three Nights on Mulberry Celebrations – Music on Mulberry, Mulberry Plaza in downtown Fruita, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
- **May 31, 2023** – FACC Membership Appreciation Picnic, Fruita Area Chamber of Commerce (432 E Aspen Ave), 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- **May 31, 2023** – Colorado Municipal League Spring Outreach Meeting, Fruita Community Center at 3:00 p.m.
- **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.