



FRUITA COLORADO

Weekly Info Update



To: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
From: MIKE BENNETT, CITY MANAGER
Date: FEBRUARY 3, 2023
Re: WEEKLY INFORMATION UPDATE

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Tuesday's City Council Meeting

Our meeting on Tuesday will begin with recognizing the Students and Teachers of the month at Monument Ridge Elementary School. After that, there is one Proclamation and then the Council will receive an update from the Downtown Advisory Board on goals for 2023. The Council will then consider several items on the consent agenda before moving on to updates (there are no public hearings scheduled for this meeting). We will conclude our meeting with an Executive Session. See you on Tuesday night!

School District 51 Fruita Reconfiguration Survey

For decades, Fruita has had a different grade level configuration than the rest of District 51. As Mesa County Valley School District 51 continues to see a decline in enrollment, they are seeking student, family, and community input on exploring the possibility of reconfiguring Fruita schools to be consistent with the rest of D51. This is an important topic for our community, and we encourage you to engage in conversation and provide your input. Take a few minutes to complete the survey here: www.surveymonkey.com/r/Fruita. More information about the survey can be found on Mesa County Valley School District 51's website here: bit.ly/creatingasustainable51.



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

Reed Park Skate/Wheel Park Conceptual Design Meeting Recap

On Tuesday night, community members gathered at the Fruita Civic Center and online to review the conceptual design of the proposed skate/wheel park at Reed Park. It was a great meeting where we were able to show the community the renovation plans for all of Reed Park (playground, shelters, horseshoe pits, electricity, restrooms, Mini Pitch) as well as the designs for the skate park which is an addition to Reed Park on the south/west corner near the playground. The community was excited to see the skate/wheel park design and had some great comments that the designer is working to incorporate into the concept design.

- [Learn more about the Skate/Wheel Park project.](#)
- [Learn more about the Reed Park renovations.](#)



New Playground at Prospector Park

The new playground at Prospector Park opened to the public earlier this week. The playground is a Play On Playground that has been designated as a project of excellence for meeting best practices in youth fitness through sliding, swinging, spinning, climbing, brachiating, and balancing. The playground features two new swings, two slides, an overhead climber, a climbing wall, musical instruments, a spinner, balance pods, and other climbing structures. Last week, parks staff helped install the playground and moved 107 cubic yards of safety surfacing material. We are excited to have this new playground available for the community to enjoy!



Fruita Building Inspections Mixer Event Next Week

The new Building Inspections Division is hosting a mixer event on Thursday, February 9 from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at Base Camp Provisions (155 N. Mulberry Street). This is an opportunity for the community to meet the team, ask questions, and learn about the new building process. The team will be hosting other events throughout the year which will be posted on [fruita.org](https://www.fruita.org). Learn more about the team in [this recent article](#).



COME MEET THE TEAM!

NEW FRUITA BUILDING INSPECTIONS TEAM

Ask questions and learn about the new building inspections process.

Thursday, February 9, 2023

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Base Camp Provisions
(155 N. Mulberry Street)



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 sell old cars or equipment?
- **Answer:** Yes, our Fleet Division will share vehicles and other equipment up for auction online through a third-party site at govdeals.com. Our Fleet Division maintains over 125 different pieces of equipment. Learn more about the team and information on auctions at <https://www.fruita.org/publicworks/page/fleet-services>.

General Updates

- **Meeting with the Colorado Department of Transportation.** On Wednesday morning, Sam Atkins (City Engineer), Kimberly Bullen (Public Works Director) and I had the opportunity to meet with Shoshana Lew, the Executive Director for the Colorado Department of Transportation (“CDOT”), and other CDOT staff. We shared our key transportation projects in the Fruita Strategic Plan and learned how to prepare these projects to be eligible for state funding in the future. We also discussed regional updates, partnerships, and other CDOT projects.
- **Partner Learning Shares.** This week I was able to spend time in three separate (additional to the CDOT meeting) settings with other organizations to learn and share: with the Town of Gilbert, AZ focused on innovative budget processes and even shadowing part of their process, with Montrose, CO regarding successful economic development practices, and with the Fruita Area Chamber of Commerce to coordinate upcoming work in the community.
- **FARM Grand Opening.** Don’t miss this community event! Celebrate the grand opening of FARM on February 10-11. There will be a variety of events all weekend long showcasing the different artists and services at the FARM. Enjoy art workshops, retail specials, kid's activities, ribbon cutting, live music, food trucks, and more. Learn more about the event at farmfruita.com. Scroll down to see the flyer below.
- **Correction on MMOF Grant.** In last week’s update, we reported that the City of Fruita received a \$150,000 grant from the Multi-Modal and Mitigation Options Fund (MMOF) program for the design of the Hwy 340 Riverfront Trail Connection. The City was actually awarded a grant of \$160,000 to help with the project.
- **State of the State Highlights.** This afternoon, staff will be attending a State of the State Highlights presentation from Governor Polis. We will provide a recap of the highlights of the event in the update next week.

Administration

- **Current Job Openings.** We are currently accepting applications for several positions at the City of Fruita. There are many openings at the Fruita Community Center for part-time staff, and we are also recruiting for a Automotive and Equipment Technician for Fleet Maintenance, a Wastewater Operator at the Wastewater Reclamation Facility, and an Executive Assistant for the City Manager’s Office. To learn more about these positions, you can visit our website [here](#).

Engineering

- **North Mulberry Street Outdoor Plaza.** The storm drain is complete, and more sidewalk demolition has been going on this week in preparation for the installation of shade sail structures and planter curbing. Construction crews will be continuing sidewalk and asphalt removal next week and expect to begin construction on foundations for shade sails, a small irrigation system and electrical upgrades towards the end of the week. The City asks that pedestrians please use the sidewalk along the east edge of Mulberry Street during this phase of construction and to refrain from entering the fenced area around the project. We thank you for your patience during construction.
- **Pine Street Bridge Update.** Forms and reinforcing steel were completed for both the north and south abutments and wing walls. Concrete is being placed for these abutments on Friday, February 3, 2023. The next big step is the placement of seven (7) girders to support the bridge deck. The girders are concrete boxes 68-feet long, 4-feet wide, and 3-feet deep and will require pilot vehicles for delivery. The current schedule for girder delivery and setting is Friday, February 17, 2023. The route for these oversized trucks has not been established at this time but will be included in next week's update.

Parks and Recreation

- **January FCC Attendance.** The FCC had a busy January with 16,725 visits. This leaves just 19,850 visits to reach our 2,000,000th visit count!
- **FCC All Staff Meeting.** We had our annual all-staff meeting last weekend! This focus of the meeting was COMMUNICATION with staff learning new tools to improve communication and playing games to highlight its importance. Fruita Community Center staff are the reason that our facility runs so smoothly, and our community has a welcoming place to enjoy. We are thankful for all the hard work and care they have for their jobs!



- **FCC Monthly Staff Spotlight.** Our staff spotlight for February is Peter Gewont, Sports Official. You can learn more about Peter by stopping by the board located by the FCC front desk or seeing our post about him on our [social media](#) accounts.
- **Dinomites Days Off has a new day on February 20.** We have added an additional day camp day on February 20, 2023. This care is for children ages 5-10 years and must be registered for through our Youth Programs Coordinator. Please contact mcarrithers@fruita.org to learn more.
- **Sweetheart Run a Week from Tomorrow!** The Sweetheart 5k/10k will be held a week from tomorrow, Saturday, February 11, on the Colorado Riverfront Trail. The 10k will begin at 10:00

a.m. and the 5k will begin at 10:30 a.m. Grand Valley Bank has donated several prizes for the best costume in the race. If you are interested in learning more or signing up, you can visit this [link](#).

- **Fruita Community Center Court Update.** The flooring for the gym at the Fruita Community Center arrived last week! The contractors have installed the sub-floor system and are now spreading out the flooring for acclimation. Next steps for the floor installation are to install/nail down floor before standing and applying sealer coats. The Fruita Parks and Recreation Department will continue to update guests about the status of the gym floors through this weekly update, [social media](#), the biweekly Parks and Rec newsletter, and by emailing members. Thank you for your patience with this project!

Planning & Development

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

Major/ Minor Subdivisions:

- Cider Mill Estates Final Plan (Under Review) (960 Stone Mountain Drive) (47 Lots)
- Dana Minor Subdivision (Approved) (317 Pine Street) (3 Lots)
- 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)

Site Design Review/ Other Applications:

- 111 S. Mesa Street Site Design Review (Under Construction) (111 S. Mesa St)
- 204 S. Mulberry Street Site Design Review (Under Construction) (204 S. Mulberry St)
- North Mulberry Street Conceptual Street Design (Approved/Under Construction)
- The FARM Fruita Arts Recreation Marketplace (Under Construction) (158 Park Square)
- 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)

Public Works

- **Grease Treatment.** Wastewater staff continue to use grease additive for the I-70 lift station. Estimated 130 gallons of biological treatment has been added.
- **Wastewater Update.** As part of the compliance schedule for the city's discharge permit, the city is required over a four-year period to provide information to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment on progress the city is making to reduce inflow and infiltration (I/I) into the sewer system. The City has established a collection system database regarding materials and age, performs routine physical condition assessments, has identified loc locations that seem to be more vulnerable to I/I, and developed a risk assessment with detailed scoring that provides guidelines for rehabilitation and replacement. The city has completed the yearly inflow and infiltration information and will be reporting to the State of Colorado.

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

- [Bill calls for five commissioners elected by districts.](#)
- [Introducing the 2023 BEACON Best winners!](#)
- [Fruita Monument hockey players part of Glenwood Springs surge.](#)
- [Colorado boasts one of the most beautiful small towns in the U.S., says Travel + Leisure.](#)
- [Fruita girls cruise past Grand Junction.](#)
- [Films, presentations, discussions planned for Black History Month in Grand Valley.](#)

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

- **February 11, 2023** – Sweetheart 5K/10K Run, Fruita Community Center, 10:00 a.m.
- **February 24, 2023** – City Engagement Series, Coffee with the City Manager, Aspen Street Coffee, 8:00 a.m.
- **April 14-16, 2023** – Desert RATS Trail Running Festival, Kokopelli Trailhead, Open Venue
- **May 5-6, 2023** – 18 Hours of Fruita, Highline Lake State Park, Open Venue
- **May 5-6, 2023** – Adventure Fest, 18 Road Trailhead, Open Venue
- **May 12-14, 2023** – Fruita Fat Tire Festival, Downtown Fruita and 18 Road Trailhead, Open Venue
- **May 14, 2023** – Co2uT, Downtown Fruita, Open Venue
- **June 2-3, 2023** - Mike the Headless Chicken Festival, Downtown Fruita, Open Venue

CC. Department Directors

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

GRAND OPENING



FEB. 10TH
4PM - 8PM

AND

FEB. 11TH
10AM - 4PM

Art workshops, retail specials,
kid's activities, Fruita Chamber
ribbon cutting, live music, food
trucks, and more: farmfruita.com



SCAN ME

SUPPORTED BY:

160 S. PARK SQUARE FRUITA, CO



FRUITA | ARTS | RECREATION | MARKETPLACE



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.