



FRUITA COLORADO

Weekly Info Update



To: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
From: MIKE BENNETT, CITY MANAGER
Date: JANUARY 13, 2023
Re: WEEKLY INFORMATION UPDATE

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City offices will be closed on Monday, January 16, 2023, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Trash and recycling services are not impacted by the holiday.

Tuesday's Fruita Housing Authority Meeting – 6:30 pm

At 6:30 pm there will be the first Fruita Housing Authority meeting with two items on the agenda: first, to consider approval of the bylaws for the Fruita Housing Authority and second, to consider the required certificate of commissioners to be filed with the Department of Local Affairs as part of the creation of the Housing Authority.

Tuesday's City Council Meeting—7pm

We have two guest speakers from Ute Water and the Grand Junction Economic Partnership providing updates to begin the meeting. Following the Consent Agenda is a supplemental budget amendment public hearing, a capital projects schedule overview and updates prior to concluding with an executive session to review refining language in the City Manager's contract.

City Hosted Fruita Chamber Business After Hours Event

We had a blast hosting the Fruita Chamber's Business After Hours event last night! It was great to connect with local businesses. Attendees enjoyed networking, appetizers, light refreshments, and Fruita trivia! The City of Fruita and Fruita Chamber have a strong partnership and we are delighted to host the January Business After Hours event each year.

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



Fruita Building Division

This was an exciting week with the full team up and running. John Anderson (Building Official), Mike Mossburg (Sr. Building Inspector), Jen Wooten (Sr. Electrical Inspector) hit the ground running this week. The Home Builder's Association (HBA) is scheduling a mixer with the development industry in the valley to meet the team in early February—more details to come when that is set.

Fruita Permitting Software Training & Energy Code Training w/ Shaunna Mozingo

The Fruita Building Division will be hosting a handful of in-person/online training courses for those who want to learn about the new Fruita permitting software. These trainings are relevant for developers, builders, and anyone interested in learning more. If you would like to attend in-person, the trainings will be held at the Fruita Community Center (324 N. Coulson Street). You can also join online; times and dates are the same. All trainings will be recorded. The first training session will be held on January 25 at 10 am. [Visit our website](#) for more training dates and the links to the online option.

North Mulberry Street Outdoor Plaza Update - Week of January 13

Demolition of the seat walls slated for removal has occurred. Storm Drain work began this week and utility work will continue in the coming weeks.

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 purpose do City Boards and Commissions serve? How can I learn more about the different types?
- **Answer:** City Boards and Commissions are made up of residents and provide recommendations to Fruita City Council on a wide range of topics and issues. Boards and Commissions were created to help facilitate communication and idea-sharing and there are a number of boards to get involved in. There are currently vacancies on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Planning Commission, Tourism Advisory Board, Downtown Advisory Board, Livability Commission, and the Board of Adjustments. Learn more at fruita.org/bc.

General Updates

- **Financial Reports.** Tax collections for November of 2022 are now available and can be found in this week's City Council packet. When comparing to November of last year, we continue to see increases in City sales taxes, use taxes on building materials, and County sales taxes. In November, City sales tax collections were up 12%, and are trending at an increase of 10% year-to-date. Use taxes on building materials were up 4% (up 34% year-to-date), and County sales taxes were up 9% (trending at an increase of 9% overall). Use taxes on motor vehicles decreased 6% when compared to November of 2021 but is even with collections from last year. Finally, lodging tax collections decreased 3% from the prior year, but are still at an increase of 6% and has exceeded last year's totals.
- **City of Fruita 2023 Budget.** The final 2023 City of Fruita budget is available online and can be found at this [link](#).
- **Reed Park Skatepark Design Follow-Up Meeting.** We invite residents to join us on Tuesday, January 31, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the Fruita Civic Center to review the conceptual design of the future skate/wheel park at Reed Park. In November 2022, we held the first community meeting on this topic to collect feedback on what the community would like to see in the design. Now, it is time to review the design and gather any last-minute feedback the community might have.
- **Adopt a Street/Trail Program Update.** The Elmwood Heights HOA will be completing their first Adopt a Street clean up tomorrow (weather permitting). Elmwood Heights adopted N. Mesa Street from Ottley Avenue to K 6/10 Road. Thank you to Elmwood Heights for your participation in the program! Thus far, five sections have been adopted for the program, and participating groups include the Family Health West Wellness Department, the Fruita Seniors, the Fruita Livability Commission, the Rodwicks, and the Elmwood Heights HOA. We have seen great participation in this program and are thankful for everyone donating their time to help clean-up Fruita.
- **Mesa County Public Health Trends.** Every two weeks, Mesa County Public Health will be sharing trends with the public regarding COVID-19, influenza, and RSV. To see these updates, visit their new webpage called [What's Going Around](#).

- **Palisade Public Event Safety Training.** Staff attended a training on event safety hosted by the Town of Palisade earlier this week. The Glenwood Springs Police Chief Joseph Dera shared his experience while working in Gilroy California during the Garlic Festival mass shooting. He shared how local municipalities can divert incidents like this with preventive strategies and how to be prepared to shut down such an incident if the unthinkable ever occurred.

Engineering

- **Pine Street Bridge.** Utility work is ongoing for extending the steel casing for the sewer line crossing.

Parks and Recreation

- **Sweetheart Race Registration is open!** The Sweetheart 5k/10k race will be held on Saturday, February 11, 2023, on the Riverfront Trail. The 10k will begin at 10:00 a.m. and the 5K will begin at 10:30 a.m. Both races will begin and end at the Fruita Community Center. Learn more and sign up today at <https://www.fruita.org/parksrec/page/sweet-heart-run>
- **Adult 55+ Potluck is back on January 19!** You are required to pre-register for this event by Monday, January 16 at noon. Please note that we do not allow day of registration. To register, visit the Fruita Community Center front desk or give us a call at 970-858-0360.
- **FCC Court Installation Updates:**
 - At this time, the upstairs track remains open to the public.
 - The basketball court wood floor is currently in production.
 - Staff are working on court boundary and lining features for when the court will be installed.
 - All court availability is subject to change at any time for construction or safety of our patrons. Please be patient with staff as we navigate the construction project while trying to accommodate a busy area with lots of needs. We will continue to update our patrons through social media, this newsletter, the biweekly parks and rec newsletter, and direct email to FCC members.

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)

Police Department

- ***Protecting Houses of Worship.*** Chief Krouse participated with other local law enforcement leaders as well as representatives from the United States Attorney’s Office, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Department of Homeland Security in a discussion panel and training presentation for local faith-based organizations regarding safety and security in houses of worship.

Public Works

- ***Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) in Sewer System.*** The city continues to see a significant amount of grease build up in our lift stations. Public Works is testing a product that will be added to the sewer collection system in an effort to reduce the amount of grease buildup. In 2021, City staff provided all restaurants with educational material on proper disposal of grease. Unfortunately, the city has not seen a significant decline in the amount of grease entering the collection system and continues to deal with disposal issues. Restaurants are encouraged to contact a Grease Hauler to remove and haul away grease. As a friendly reminder, residents should avoid putting grease down kitchen drains as it is harmful to their pipes and the city’s collection system. The image below is an example of what happens when grease is dumped into untreated sewer systems. Residents and business owners can find more information on [FOG \(Fats, oils, and grease\) on our webpage.](#)



- ***Flushable Wipes in Sewer Systems.*** In addition, the city continues to see issues with “flushable” wipes. While they are marketed as biodegradable, the majority of these wipes are made from polyester, a material that generally takes 20-40 years to break down. When wipes come into contact with grease in the collection system, they bind together to form mats and floating grease that can clog lift stations and collection lines. The city encourages residents to not flush any wipes and instead dispose of them in a trash can.

- **H2S Mitigation Project Update.** Staff met with CMAR and Engineering Team for an update on the project. Purchase Agreements have been sent to vendors for the biofilter equipment and fiberglass manholes.
- **Supervisor Training.** Succession planning is a deliberate and systematic effort by which an organization prepares for when key employees leave their positions. It is a process that ensures continuity in key positions, encourages individual development and performance, and is critically important to the organizations' continued and future success. For Public Works, one key element of succession planning is supervisor training and it is one of the best investments we can make in our employees. This week was the kick-off of the 2023 Public Works Supervisor Training. This training follows the American Public Works Association (APWA) Certified Public Works Professional Supervision (CPWP-S) credentialing process. We have seven employees enrolled in the program and they will be studying material that includes PW Administration – Supervision and Management, Operations, Public Finance for PW Professionals, and PW Communications.

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

- [Fruita, Central cruise to wrestling tournament titles.](#)
- [CPW to begin zebra mussel mitigation treatment at Highline Lake.](#)
- [Food Bank to the Rescue!](#)
- [New county officials sworn in, ready to get to work.](#)
- [Blue Angels visit GJ ahead of October Airshow performance.](#)
- [So much for kids to enjoy in the great outdoors.](#)
- [New discounted state park pass now available.](#)
- [NY Times includes Grand Junction on 2023's '52 Places to Go' list.](#)

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

- **January 26, 2023** – City Engagement Series with the City Manager & Fruita Police, Einstein Bagels, 8:00 a.m.
- **January 31, 2023** – City Council at Municipalities Dinner, 455 N. 22nd Street, Grand Junction, 6:00 p.m.
- **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



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.