



FRUITA

COLORADO



Weekly Info Update

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To: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
From: MIKE BENNETT, CITY MANAGER
Date: MARCH 1, 2024
Re: WEEKLY INFORMATION UPDATE

Tuesday's City Council Meeting

Tuesday's City Council meeting will start with recognizing the students and teachers of the month from the Fruita 8/9 School, followed by a presentation from the Fruita Area Chamber of Commerce and the Fruita Youth Action Council. After the consent agenda, there are two quasi-judicial public hearings for a new liquor license application and the second reading for the Geode Flats Rezone to PUD and preliminary PUD. After that, there are three legislative hearings before going into Council reports and actions. We will conclude the nights with an Executive session. See you all on Tuesday!

2024 Regular City of Fruita Municipal Election – April 2, 2024

The City of Fruita regular municipal election will be held on April 2, 2024, and will be conducted by mail ballot. Ballots will be sent out to registered voters in mid-March 2024, and residents can mail their completed ballots or turn them in at the drop-off box at the Fruita Civic Center parking lot (325 E. Aspen Ave.). The ballot will include the election of one Mayor for a two-year term and three City Council members for four-year terms each. Learn about the [City Council Candidates online at Fruita.org](https://www.fruita.org/city-council-candidates).

Presidential Primary Election Drop-Off Location – March 5, 2024

Residents can also drop-off their completed ballots for the Presidential Primary Election at the drop-off box at the Fruita Civic Center parking lot (325 E. Aspen Ave.). The Presidential Primary Election will be held next Tuesday, March 5. Ballots need to be turned in by 7 p.m.

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

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:** How can I get more involved with the City of Fruita?
- **Answer:** One way to get involved with the City of Fruita is by joining a board or commission. Boards and Commissions play a vital role here at the city as they recommend policies to the City Council and staff. Learn more about Boards and Commission at fruita.org/bc. Another great way to get involved is by signing up for the free Fruita Academy class, where students learn firsthand from city leaders about the operations of each city department. Learn more about the Fruita Academy online at fruita.org/academy.

General Updates

- ***Congratulations Wildcats!*** Although last night did not end up the way that we wanted, we want to congratulate the Fruita Monuments Boys Basketball Team on an incredible season. 25-1 is an amazing season, and we know that they will back next year. Go Wildcats!

Marketing and Promotion

- ***Mike the Headless Chicken Art Contest.*** New this year, we asked the community to participate in designing the official Mike the Headless Chicken Festival artwork. Last Friday was the deadline for submissions and we received 34 designs! To help pick the winning design, staff reviewed each submission anonymously and rated each design with criteria outlined in the contest guidelines. Ultimately, local resident Abby Meisen's design was the finalist! Abby's design fits within the criteria needed to use the design for the festival's merchandise, and it also represents the quirkiness of the festival theme. Congratulations, Abby!



Engineering

- **Highway 340 Trail Connection.** We received four proposals for the Highway 340 Trail Design. The proposals will be evaluated in the upcoming weeks.
- **CDOT Meeting.** This week, the engineering department met with CDOT to discuss the right-of-way for the S. Mesa Street project.

Parks and Recreation

- **Waterslide Construction.** Exciting changes are happening at the Fruita Community Center! Later this fall, the community can enjoy a brand-new waterslide. The slide will be an enclosed tube that will run outside of the Fruita Community Center building and end on the pool deck (inside). We are happy to see this addition, but as with any project, we first have to work through construction. Starting next Monday, March 11, a portion of the indoor pool deck area will be blocked off for construction. Don't worry! The construction will not impact the actual pool. In addition, you will see a few parking spots blocked off on the north side of the building. This portion of construction is anticipated to last through May. The second phase of the project will take place during the annual FCC maintenance week in September.
- **Reed Park Update.** Sheathing for the building has begun and the building should be dried in by early next week. The plumber has started the plumbing rough in and should be completed mid-next week. 970 Excavation is working on the remaining stormwater and sanitary sewer. The mechanical rough in should be taking place next week followed by electrical rough in the following week. The wheelpark rough grade should be starting in Mid-March.
- **Youth Activities.** Dino Mites Spring Break Camp is approaching quickly; March 14- March 22. Fruita Parks and Recreation will keep your kids moving and engaged during spring break from Arts & Crafts, games, swimming and so much more.
- **Back to Summer Fair.** Back to Summer Camp Registration Fair is March 25! In Person Only on March 25 from 4-6pm at the Fruita Community Center. Space is limited!
- **FCC Attendance Recap.** February marked another record month for paid attendance at the FCC that saw 3,000 more people than this time last year. The facility also hosted new activities that brought in new users including: youth sport practices and games; a Daddy Daughter Dance; Movie in the Pool; the Sweetheart Run.
- **FCC Projects and Fixes.** The second phase of the re-tile project was completed in mid-February. The final phase, which includes the Family Changing Rooms is under way allowing these areas to reopen the first week of March. While retiling, the existing ADA accessible shower configuration in the Family Changing Rooms was highlighted as problematic. The aging mechanics of the current system have resulted in substantial water leaks between the wall of the shower and the Women's locker room in addition to broken handles making them inoperable. Staff is working with a local mechanical company to rectify the problem and secure a long-term solution. Additionally, leaks due to cracked Schedule 40 pipes have been located in the ground water removal system. The pit allows ground water to collect versus flooding into the building. Once

the water reaches its maximum level, the pumps expel the water. It is currently disabled not allowing the water to be properly extracted, which puts the building at risk.

- **Retirement.** After 14 years, Cheryl Bellow, an original member of the FCC Guest Services staff retired from her post at the front desk. Cheryl was a fixture in this department and known by members old and young, especially those who braved the 5:30am workouts. While she did not want a sendoff, staff quaintly celebrated her departure with hundreds of flowers and endless boxes of Pop Tarts, her favorite breakfast treat.

Planning & Development

To see active reviews of current projects, you may visit fruita.org/projects.

Major/ Minor Subdivisions:

- Copper Creek West Final Plan, Filing 1 (Under Construction) (954 19 Road) (48 Lots)
- Iron Wheel Filing 2 Final Plat (Approved) (19 Road) (46 Lots)
- Adele's Acres Subdivision (Approved) (1024 19 Road) (48 Lots)
- PSE Minor Subdivision (Approved) (1558 River Road) (2 Lots)
- LaPointe Minor Subdivision (Under Review) (1050 E. Ottley Avenue) (4 Lots)
- Sunset Pointe Preliminary PUD Plan (Approved) (Parcel # 2697-091-80-001) (122 Lots)
- North Mesa Minor Subdivision (Approved) (155 N. Mesa Street) (2 Lots)
- Weston Estates Preliminary Plan (Under Review) (1877 J 2/10 Road; Parcel # 26997-164-00-050 & 2697-164-00-074) (109 Lots)
- West Canyon Preliminary Plan (Under Review) (Parcel #2697-162-21-001) (50 Lots)
- Gear Estates Preliminary Plan (Under Review) (1156 18 Road) (8 Lots)

Site Design Review/ Other Applications:

- The Fruita Mews (Under Construction) (1138 18.5 Road)
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Site Design Review (Under Construction) (417 E Ottley Ave)
- A Storage Place Site Design Review and Minor Subdivision (Approved) (1960 & 1966 Hwy 6 & 50)
- My Storage Fruita (Approved) (1930 Highway 6 & 50)
- 535 W. Aspen Apartments (Under Construction) (535 W. Aspen Avenue)
- Wildcat Residences (Approved) (1807 Wildcat Avenue)
- City Market Fueling Station Appeal Hearing (Project Approved) (437 W Aspen Avenue)
- Geode Flats Preliminary PUD Plan (Under Review) (614 Raptor Road) (City Council 3/5/24)

Public Works

- **Trainings.** Congratulations to Jesse McClaskey for successfully completing his Collections II exam. Public Works staff are working on completing the National Incident Management System IS-700 and Incident Command System – 100 training.
- **Streets Division Work.** Streets Division continue assisting Engineering with utility potholing on S. Mesa St. Assisted the Parks Department with locating and exposing electrical service at Civic Center for an electrical upgrade project.

- **Wastewater Treatment Facility.** Bearing Assemblies were installed on the oxidation ditch mixers. This was a project carried over from 2023 due to long lead times on equipment.

RESOURCE LINKS

- [Community Resources](#)
- [City Project Updates](#)
- [Fiber Internet Construction Updates](#)
- [Trash and Recycling Services](#)
- [Stay Informed](#)
- [Fruita City Council](#)

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

- [Getting outdoors is easier than you think.](#)
- [The many impacts of Mesa County Public Health.](#)
- [Shoshone water rights deal could harm Roaring Fork.](#)
- [What would happen without a Leap Day? More than you might think.](#)
- [Fruita Monument Boys Basketball locks in ahead of Great-8.](#)
- [Population trends could be a concern for local workforce.](#)
- [Fruita Municipal Election on April 2.](#)
- [Immerse Yourself in Colorado's charming small towns.](#)
- [Meet the supporting cast for Fruita's Great Eight Team.](#)
- [Fruita candidates talk growth, affordable housing at forum.](#)
- [Fruita rally comes up short in 6A basketball tourney.](#)
- [Behind the 'back-breaking' work of building new mountain bike trails.](#)

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

- **March 28, 2024** – Easter Egg Scramble, 4:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Fruita Community Center backyard.
- **April 12, 2024** - Desert Rats Race, Open Venue, Trails around Fruita
- **April 12, 2024** – Youth Scholarship Golf Tournament, 9:00 a.m., Adobe Golf Creek Course
- **April 12, 2024** - Lower Valley Professional Firefighters Tournament, 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., Civic Center Park
- **April 13, 2024** – Fruita Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet, Absolute Prestige Ranch, 5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
- **April 20, 2024** – Fruita Spring Clean Up, City Shops (900 Keifer Ave), 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- **April 27, 2024** – Fishing is Fun at Snooks Bottom, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- **May 4, 2024** – 18 Hours of Fruita, Open Venue, Highline Lake State Park
- **May 4, 2024** – Co2uT, Open Venue, Downtown Fruita

- **May 3 – 5, 2024** – Fat Tire Festival, Open Venue, Downtown Fruita
- **May 11, 2024** – Adventure Fest, Open Venue, 18 Road Trailhead
- **May 31 – June 1, 2024** – Mike the Headless Chicken, Open Venue, Downtown Fruita.
- **June 25, 2024** – State of the Community Breakfast hosted by the Fruita Area Chamber of Commerce, Absolute Prestige Ranch, 8:30 a.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.



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.