



FRUITA

COLORADO



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Weekly Info Update

To: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
From: MIKE BENNETT, CITY MANAGER
Date: May 10, 2024
Re: WEEKLY INFORMATION UPDATE

2024 State of the City Video Premiere

We had a wonderful evening Wednesday night at Rocky Mountain PBS showcasing this year's State of the City video! Thank you to everyone who joined us and to Rocky Mountain PBS for hosting! In this year's video, we highlight initiatives from the City of Fruita while also showcasing the people who bring these projects to life. You will hear from five speakers who will highlight different areas of the City of Fruita. Each of these stories reflects our cover values, community values, and our progress toward the Fruita Strategic Plan. [Watch the State of the City on our YouTube!](#) Learn more about these initiatives at fruita.org/2024stateofthecity.



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

Downtown Restroom Construction Update

The building has been prepared for transit and will be arriving next Monday, May 13th. Installation will begin on the morning of Tuesday, May 14th. During installation, the parking lot on the corner of Aspen Avenue and Peach Street will be closed. After the building is placed, the contractor will pour concrete around which will result in a temporary sidewalk closure on Aspen Avenue.



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: Where can I find the schedule for the Mike the Headless Chicken Festival?

Answer: Mike the Headless Chicken Festival is only 21 days away! You can learn more about the festival including the schedule for the two day event at miketheheadlesschicken.org.

General Updates

- **State of the Valley.** On Wednesday, Mayor Breman and I participated in the State of the Valley hosted by the Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce. Local government leaders represented the panel discussion. We answered questions related to affordable housing initiatives, mental health

services, and economic development projects.



- **Summer City Link Mailer.** The [Summer City Link is now available online](#) and residents will receive a copy of the newsletter through the mail in the next week. This edition has information on the recent City of Fruita Municipal Election, the Thursday Night Concert series, Mike the Headless Chicken, 19 Road construction notice, and more.

Engineering

- **19 Road Bid Opening.** The bid opening for the 19 Road Expansion project is scheduled for this afternoon at 1:30 p.m. Staff will evaluate the bids and provide an update at our next City Council meeting.

Parks and Recreation

- **Reed Park Update.** The Northern Pavilion was delayed a week due to ground water, footers will be poured next Tuesday and then prepping for the slab, flatwork, and ADA ramp will take place after. The wheelpark is progressing with forms, fine grading, and rebar for the mini bowl, brick stamp area, and staircase. The first concrete pour for the wheelpark will take place next week. The landscaping contractor has repaired the irrigation and started irrigating the park.
- **Community Center Waterslide Update.** The waterslide plumbing is almost complete and we are currently working on foundation support.
- **Upgrades to FCC Guest Services.** If you've been to the Fruita Community Center recently, you may have noticed changes to the check in area. Implementing stanchions at the front desk to control the speed and volume of guests has allowed staff to maintain and improve customer service. For security, membership ID cameras have been set up at the three front desk stations. Photo identification allows the staff to know who is entering, to ensure the barcode scan

belongs to the correct individual, and to identify someone for safety or emergency reasons. All three Guest Services point of sale stations also have credit card swipers in addition to new cash drawers. One last addition and improvement to Guest Services, which was inspired by the free lock rental for personal items, is to offer free bike and board lock rentals for our guests and patrons.

- **Hot 90 Days of Summer Membership.** Due to the generous donation of a Western Slope organization, we promoted FREE youth and child memberships for youth 3 – 17 who live in Fruita. We had a limited number of passes and sold out in the first day!
- **Fishing is Fun Update.** The weather was perfect for Fishing is Fun last Saturday. There were approximately 65 participants, and each kid received a free fishing pole and lures. We had a fun time and Colorado Parks and Wildlife educated our participants on fishing safety and the importance of our ecosystem.
- **Fruita Community Center 2024 High School Graduates.** Congratulations to our graduates, Anastacia Shaw, Audrey Smith, Austin Strain, Dani Chamberlain, Emily Veek, Jake Hancey, Jeremy Heer, Leyton Pinedo, Luke Frazho, Madison Harlow, Magdalene Schermerhorn, Noah Pudlewski, and Trevor Heer! Your hard work and dedication have paid off, and we're excited to see all the amazing things you'll accomplish in the future.
- **Fruita Community Center upcoming indoor pool/hot tub closure.** On Friday, May 24th, the indoor pool and hot tub will be closed for a full staff lifeguard recertification course. This will help wrap up National Water Safety month and will ensure that our lifeguard staff is fully prepared to keep everyone safe, while having a great summer in the sun!

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 (Under Construction) (19 Road) (46 Lots)
- Adele's Acres Subdivision (Approved) (1024 19 Road) (48 Lots)
- LaPointe Minor Subdivision (Approved) (1050 E. Ottley Avenue) (4 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)
- 535 W. Aspen Apartments (Under Construction) (535 W. Aspen Avenue)

Public Works

- **Certifications.** Congratulations to Branden Heath and Lynn Reynolds for successfully completing their Sewer Collections 1 exam. Branden was promoted to Maintenance Worker II after completing his exam and obtaining his CDL.
- **Welcome Tristan!** Welcome Tristan Wachholtz as a Heavy Equipment Operator. Tristan's first day was May 6th.
- **Trainings.** Public Works staff has completed ICS 100 and NIMS 700 Training.
- **Streets Division Update.** The Streets Division completed 31 locates. Two employees went to the Mountain Water properties to install meters and check reservoir levels. Reservoir 2 level is low at this time and siphon is not required but weekly monitoring is required by the State Dam Safety Engineer.
- **Wastewater Reclamation Update.** The variable frequency drives (VFDs) replacement project was completed at the WWRF. WWRF staff partially filled the aeration basin on the north side to cover the dissolved oxygen membrane preventing UV light degradation and to also push downward on the basin floor and walls. This keeps groundwater from heaving and cracking the concrete basin structure as groundwater levels increase. Approximately 66 buckets of biosolids have been distributed to members in the community.

RESOURCE LINKS

- [Traffic Impacts](#)
- [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):

- [Improvements to 18 Road will offer safer access to recreation area.](#)
- [County crew kooks after trail health for sake of public health.](#)
- [Project in the works to pave 18 Road.](#)
- [Crime rates down compared to rest of state.](#)
- [Landfill's minimum disposal fee decreases to \\$10.](#)
- [United Way of Mesa County to host inaugural day of action.](#)
- [District 51 Foundation celebrates Teachers Appreciation Week.](#)
- [Project in works to pave 18 Road.](#)
- [Grand Junction Regional Airport growth and development.](#)
- [Why has crime gone down in Mesa County?](#)
- [Local woman set to run 200-mile course around the Grand Valley.](#)
- [One-on-One with Kevin Stanfield: Fruita Parks and Recreation Director Marc Mancuso.](#)

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

- **May 11, 2024** – Adventure Fest, Open Venue, 18 Road Trailhead
- **May 22, 2024** - Colorado Municipal League District 11 Spring Meeting, 5:00 p.m. in Palisade
- **May 24, 2024** - Fruita Fourth Fridays, Mulberry Plaza, 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- **May 31 – June 1, 2024** – Mike the Headless Chicken, Open Venue, Downtown Fruita
- **June 15, 2024** – Tab Benoit with special guest Larry McCray, James M. Robb State Park in Fruita, 6:00 p.m.
- **June 25, 2024** – State of the Community Breakfast hosted by the Fruita Area Chamber of Commerce, Absolute Prestige Ranch, 8:30 a.m.
- **June 28, 2024** - Fruita Fourth Fridays, Mulberry Plaza, 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- **July 26, 2024** - Fruita Fourth Fridays, Mulberry Plaza, 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- **August 23, 2024** - Fruita Fourth Fridays, Civic Center Park, 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- **September 7, 2024** – Firefall with special guests The Dubious Brothers, James M. Robb State Park in Fruita, 6:00 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.



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.