



MEET YOUR NEW CITY MANAGER



**MICHAEL BENNETT
BEGAN WORK AS THE
FRUITA CITY MANAGER
ON OCTOBER 27, 2014.**

Mike received his Master of Public Administration degree from Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. He also holds a Bachelor

of Science degree in Journalism, emphasis in Public Relations and Marketing, from Utah State University in Logan, Utah. As the son of a military officer, Mike grew up in Georgia, Texas, Kansas, Alaska and Wyoming. Mike comes to Fruita from North Carolina, where he worked for the city of Hickory

for over eight years. While in Hickory, Mike held various positions overseeing multiple departments, projects and regional efforts.

Mike is a member of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and recently graduated from Leadership ICMA in 2014. He also is a graduate of the Senior Executive Institute (SEI) at the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia.

Mike and his wife Tara have three young children and love community events, hiking, biking, fly-fishing, camping, skiing, spending time with family and friends and eating great food. So, Fruita is the perfect place for the Bennetts, who could not be more thrilled and grateful to make Fruita their home.

The City of Fruita is a home rule City and is governed by the Fruita City Charter as well as local ordinances and state laws. The City Charter designates the City Manager as the chief administrative officer of the City. This responsibility includes implementation of Council goals, policies and directives. The Manager is also responsible for the overall planning, coordination, and support for City operations overseeing the six major departments, including Administration, Community Development, Public Safety, Public Works, Human Resources, Engineering, and Recreation. You may contact the City Manager at 325 E. Aspen Ave., Fruita, CO 81521 or by phone at (970) 858-3663. For more information on city management and the council-manager form of government, visit <http://lifewellrun.org/>.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR TO RETIRE



After 38 years of working on improving public facilities, Fruita's Public Works Director Tom Huston has announced he is hanging up his hardhat to enjoy a well-deserved retirement. Huston's plans to retire on January 1, 2015 will end his 11 1/2 years of employment with Fruita, but we know his

accomplishments will continue to serve the community for years to come.

Tom Huston was hired by the City of Fruita as the Public Works Director in 2003 with 27 years of experience in management and operations of water/wastewater systems in Colorado. During his time here in Fruita, Huston has seen the City grow from roughly

7,900 residents to nearly 13,000 residents. This growth resulted in significant expansion to the City's infrastructure system and (even more challenging) a significant increase in the demands for maintenance. Tom was able to keep pace with the ever-changing needs and has increased the level of service provided in all 7 Divisions under the responsibility of the Public Works Director.

Among the extensive list of projects that were completed during Mr. Huston's tenure in Fruita, the largest single project included the planning and oversight for construction of a \$30 million Wastewater Reclamation Facility. Tom's expertise in the field of wastewater systems was a huge asset to the City in developing the plan for complying with the increasing environmental regulations for

sewer treatment and that will provide sewer service for the community as it expands.

Tom was also instrumental in implementing a pavement evaluation system for the City's streets that is used to assess the condition of the asphalt and prioritize maintenance repairs. This program demonstrated the need for increased routine maintenance on the streets, which has resulted in lower costs to rebuild roads once they have deteriorated too far. Tom has shared his knowledge with many employees and has continued to teach college level courses in wastewater while working at Fruita. The City of Fruita is grateful for his service and we wish Tom the best as he takes on a new adventure.

Fruita City Council *If calling City Hall at 858-3663 does not answer your questions, please feel free to contact any of your City Council Members.*

MAYOR LORI BUCK
858-7767

BOB FULLER
985-9497

MEL MULDER
858-9008

STACEY MASCARENAS
250-7525

BRUCE BONAR
858-4418

JOEL KINCAID
250-9557

KYLE HARVEY
435-724-7387





SEEMS LIKE THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING TO DO IN FRUITA...

This past fall, the Fruita Parks and Recreation Department has been busily providing events and activities for the whole family. Most recently, Truck-n-Treat was held the weekend before Halloween and it seemed like the entire community came out – of course you couldn't recognize your neighbors in the costumes, but fun was had by all in attendance. That was followed up by the Chamber of Commerce's Trick or Treat Street on Halloween.

More activities and events are planned for this coming winter. On December 13th, you can expect the Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair from 10 am – 3 pm at the Fruita Community Center. That evening, the Chamber of Commerce's Annual Parade of Lights will take place in historic downtown Fruita.

Maybe you know a "Griswald Family" that just can't wait to break out the ladder and start hanging those glistening lights? If you have a favorite display in Fruita that truly captures the holiday spirit, nominate it by December 5th to win our 2nd Annual Holiday Lights Competition. Competition categories are: Traditional, Creative, and of course, most "Griswald-ish." Then, make sure the nominated light displays are in their full glory on December 10th and 11th, as Fruita's seniors will judge the participating displays during their Holiday Light Tour. Nomination forms are available at the Fruita Community (Recreation) Center or online at www.fruita.org and can be submitted at the recreation center or at recreation@fruita.org.

Look for these and other events, programs and activities in the Fruita Parks and Recreation Activity Guide, which will be available in early December.

REED PARK – FUTURE RENOVATIONS BEING PLANNED



REED PARK LOCATED AT 250 SOUTH ELM WAS OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED AND OPENED AS A PARK IN MAY 1983.

Interestingly, prior to becoming a park, the site was the location of Reed's Dairy from 1935 to 1979 at which time the land was donated to the City of Fruita. And prior to 1935, Reed Park was the site of Fruita Union High School until it burned down in 1934. The Reed Park site has a long history in Fruita's past and the City of Fruita would like to continue that history by maintaining, improving and upgrading the park in the next several years.

Playgrounds, bathrooms and the turf areas haven't changed much since 1983. Being over 30 years old and one of Fruita's most used parks, the amenities (playgrounds, bathrooms, etc.) are nearing their useful life. In addition, most of the park amenities do not meet American Disabilities Act (ADA) standards for accessibility. Several concepts were developed by City staff to initiate discussion on potential renovations and upgrades to the park. The City of Fruita held an open house on Monday, November

10th at the Fruita Community (Recreation) Center to obtain input and feedback on renovations and potential future park amenities. This input will be useful in further refining a park renovation concept and estimating costs.

As a result of the aging and non-compliant facilities, the City of Fruita has allocated capital funding in 2015 for renovations to Reed Park to bring it up to ADA standards and modernize the park amenities. The City will also pursue grant funds (namely Great Outdoors Colorado) to leverage dollars and make as many renovations as needed in the park. The initial budget for renovations and upgrades is currently estimated at \$450,000.

If members of the community have questions or did not make it to the Open House in early November but would still like their input to be heard, they can call the City of Fruita's Parks and Recreation Department at 970-858-0360 x6400. Park Concepts and other information are available for viewing on the City of Fruita's website, www.fruita.org, and comments may be e-mailed to recreation@fruita.org.

A LOOK BACK ON HALLOWEEN TRICK OR TREAT STREET





GET READY FOR SNOW REMOVAL

Property owners have the responsibility to keep all sidewalks adjoining their property (which can include sidewalks outside a backyard fence) free of snow, sleet, or ice. The snow, sleet and/or ice needs to be removed from the sidewalks within 24 hours after a snowfall.

If you are a business owner with a sidewalk outside your business, the snow, sleet or ice shall be removed within 2 hours after the storm stops. If the storm occurs during the night, the snow, sleet or ice needs to be removed by 10 a.m. the following day.



DON'T TEXT AND DRIVE

The Fruita Police Department wants you to know distracted driving is a serious problem on our roadways today. Texting and driving is especially dangerous. It involves all three types of distracted driving. First, there is the physical distraction from operating the cell phone. Second is the visual distraction by taking your eyes off the roadway to compose or read a message.

And third, there is the mental distraction of being focused on something other than the task of driving.

Texting and driving is illegal in Colorado and over 40 other states. If you are texting and driving you are four times as likely to be involved in an accident. Don't be a statistic, the message can wait. If it can't, pull over.



WINTERIZE YOUR IRRIGATION SYSTEM SAVE ON SPRINGTIME HEADACHES

To save yourselves a possible springtime headache, take a little time this fall/early winter and prepare your irrigation system for winter. When the City closes the canal head gate valves and drains the City's irrigation system, it does not drain or winterize your residential system. Here are a few suggestions to help you winterize your irrigation system and have a much easier spring irrigation system start up.

Check to make sure your system's main supply valve is closed.

If you have an underground system, connect an air compressor to your underground system to blow the existing water

out of the pipes and sprinkler heads. Blow air through the underground system until no more water or "mist" comes out of the sprinkler heads.

To winterize the pump, simply close your main supply valve, disconnect any hoses connected to the pump and open the plug on the bottom of the pump housing on the discharge side of the pump. This will allow water inside the pump to drain out. After this is done, open your water supply valve approximately half way. This allows any water in the valve to drain out and reduces the likelihood that the valve will freeze and crack.

Remember to reinstall the plug next spring before operating the pump or system.



BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS VACANCIES

The City of Fruita is looking for Fruita City Residents who are interested in serving on the following Boards and Commissions. Please contact the City Clerk's Office at 858-3663 for additional information concerning meeting dates and times and responsibilities for each Board and/or Commission or to obtain an application. Applications may be picked up at the Fruita Civic Center or downloaded from www.fruita.org and should be submitted to the City of Fruita, 325 E. Aspen, Fruita, CO 81521, Attn: Deputy City Clerk.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD - (2 VACANT SEATS)

Makes recommendations for the rehabilitation, modification or addition to historic properties and finds properties eligible for placement on the State of Colorado Register of Historic Places. Meets on the first Monday of the month at 5:30 p.m. at the Fruita Civic Center.

TOURISM ADVISORY BOARD - (1 VACANT SEAT)

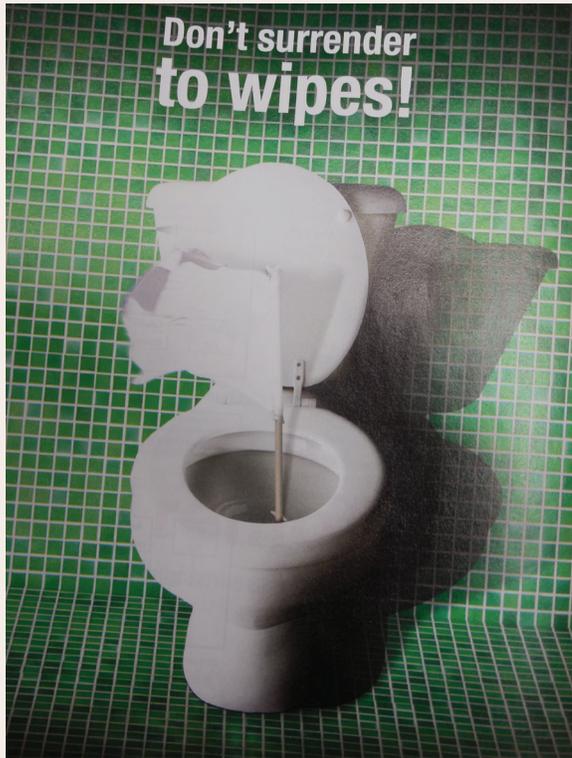
Representatives of the lodging industry, area attractions, retail businesses, and other involved parties with an interest in marketing and promoting the City of Fruita while advising and recommending budget and expenditures of lodging tax funds. Meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at 11:00 a.m. at the Fruita Civic Center.

ARTS AND CULTURE BOARD - (3 VACANT SEATS)

To create and enhance art and culture in the City of Fruita. Meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 5:00 pm at the Fruita Community Center.

SENIOR ADVISORY TASK FORCE - (2 VACANT SEATS)

Serves as advocates for the needs of the local senior citizens for events and projects. Meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 1:00 pm at the Fruita Community Center.



WTF! (WHAT TO FLUSH!)

Now that Fruita has successfully built a state of the art wastewater treatment facility to assure that the waters of the Colorado River are not polluted by its residents, new threats are being dealt with at the treatment facility.

In this day and age where convenience is always available, the use of “flushable wipes” has become an increasing treatment problem as are pharmaceutical byproducts containing estrogenic material or synthetic hormones.

Flushable wipes, as advertised, are not really all that flushable. They end up in the collection system lift stations where the sewage is pumped up to the collection line and goes to the wastewater facility. Unfortunately, the wipes collect grease, hypodermic needles as well as other undesirables and grow in mass until it clogs the lift station pumps. When this happens, the sewage backs up until it overflows the manholes in the street. This becomes a costly job that has to be corrected by hand-cleaning the pumps. If the sewage overflows the manholes, there

is always the potential of the sewage running to the local streams and rivers where many of us play. So, as you might expect, “flushable wipes” aren’t as flushable as we may think. This same scenario can happen in your sewer service line from your house to the street.

The two aforementioned pharmaceutical byproducts are commonly disposed of by individuals who no longer need the medication and use the convenient toilet for disposal. Others by virtue of taking the medication dispose of the excess medication from the body in a more natural human method.

Well, fortune is on our side for now. The advanced solids removal at the Fruita Wastewater Reclamation Facility is successfully able to remove the wipes if they make it to the treatment facility. The lift stations, however, are not so lucky. The endocrine disruptors disposed of via the toilet appear to be treated adequately by the advanced biological nutrient removal capabilities of the Fruita Wastewater Reclamation Facility.

325 E. ASPEN AVENUE
FRUITA, COLORADO 81521
WWW.FRUITA.ORG



PRESORT STD.
US POSTAGE
PAID
GRAND JCT., CO
PERMIT NO. 134