



Upcoming City Projects



In the fall issue of the City Link, we covered in depth the City goals and efforts toward economic health. We are excited to follow up on that article with the news that the City was awarded all \$4.2 million in grants to fund the construction of the 4.5 mile Kokopelli section of the Riverfront Trail. This includes paved and single-track trail con-

necting Fruita to Loma from the existing Little Salt Wash Trail to the south side of the Loma exit via the City's Industrial Business Park. Funding match for these grants was made up from gifts from the Riverfront Foundation (\$160,000), Industrial land owners (\$10,000), the donation of lake valued at \$245,700 and lottery funds the City received (\$180,000) which

are required to be used on parks and open space.

We also thank all those who attended the City-Chamber Economic Development Summit October 26, who provided support and great ideas. The City's business prospect list continues to grow and we appreciate the positive response of our invite to all residents and businesses to be recruiters. Remember, information to assist in your efforts may be found in the Business Relocation tab on www.fruita.org.

Looking to 2017, the City is taking a conservative approach to capital projects in order to conserve and build reserves and focus on maintenance of existing infrastructure, including sidewalks, roads, sewer lines, parks, public spaces and existing facilities. In addition to these projects, some of the capital projects Fruitians can plan on include:

- Construction of the Kokopelli section of the Riverfront Trail. 4.5 miles of 10-ft. wide paved trail, with sections of dirt singletrack providing extended walking, running or riding

trail without intersections and connection through the business park to the Kokopelli mountain bike trailhead.

- ADA improvements to the pathway at Snooks Bottom.
- New swings and ADA improvements at Reed Park.
- Alley improvements to the high traffic alley between Peach and Mulberry north of Aspen Avenue will improve drainage issues in the alley and at the intersection of Mulberry and Aspen. The alley will be paved and underground utilities installed. This is funded in part with a \$185,000 grant from the Mesa County Federal Mineral Lease District the City was awarded recently.



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.



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Where Are You?

For the most part, your family and friends know where you live, but can someone who has never been there before find your house or business? Most importantly, can emergency personnel find you if you had an emergency? Valuable time may be lost trying to locate your home or business if the address numbers for your property are not clearly posted.

The Fire Code and Fruita Municipal Code require all buildings to have address numbers which are clearly visible from the public street. Residences with a shared driveway where the numbers for each residence are not visible from the public street must have a signpost placed at the intersection of the shared/private driveway and public street denoting the address numbers of all the structure(s) sharing the driveway. The same applies to any building use (residential, commercial or industrial) on any property where the numbers on the building can't be seen from the public street, whether or not the driveway is shared.

The design, style, and shape of the address numbers should be easy to read from

the street, day or night, and be of contrasting color to the building (gold or silver on white is not contrasting). The numbers must be at least four inches in size (but bigger is better) with a minimum stroke width of 1/2 inch to make the numbers easy to see from the public street. Standing six feet away, one-inch high numbers may seem just fine, but when an ambulance is rushing in at night to help a heart attack victim, one-inch letters are extremely difficult to see.

- Use Arabic numbers - don't spell out the address with letters or use Roman Numerals.
- Make sure that decorations, flags, bushes and tree branches do not obscure the numbers.
- For apartment buildings, townhouse or condominium buildings and mobile home parks, the specific unit, suite number or letter must be posted on the building.



Listed below are some suggestions to make sure your residence or building numbers are clear to first responders, utility companies, etc:

The Fruita Police Department (FPD) and Lower Valley Fire Department (LVFD) are partnering on a program to identify locations where addressing is absent, not visible or incorrect. If you receive a letter in the mail advising the addressing on your home or business is not adequate and have questions on how to correct the problem, call the FPD at (970) 858-3008 or the LVFD at (970) 858-3133 (select Fire Marshal Dick Pippenger).

When your address is visible, you're helping delivery services, postal services and utility service providers find you quicker. Not only will it increase your safety, but the pizza guy will thank you for it!

Feedback on Recreation Programs Needed

We want YOUR input on our Recreation Program offerings! This feedback will help the Recreation Department evaluate our current program offerings and determine what new programs we should offer in the future. Please go online to <http://www.fruita.org/parksrec/page/take-our-program-surveys> to take one or all of four different surveys about:

- Youth/Adult Recreation programs
- Senior Programs
- Fitness Programs
- Aquatics Programs

And, as a thank you for providing us with your input, the last question on each survey will give you the opportunity to be entered into a drawing for a 3-month membership at the Fruita Community Center!



FRUITA: Colorado's Top Adventure Town — AGAIN!

For the second year in a row, Fruita was voted Colorado's Top Adventure Town by Elevation Outdoors' readers in the large town category of 9,000+ populations!

#gofruita

Discovering Dinosaurs in Fruita's Backyard



At the end of spring, when the snows have melted and the ground has dried from the rains, paleontology crews at the Museums of Western Colorado explore the desert rocks for new fossil discoveries. Mygatt-Moore Quarry in Rabbit Valley has been visited by local paleo field crews for over 30 years. The museum has been partnering with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) since 1985 to research and preserve the fossils from this site. The quarry is easily accessible for the field crews and has become a popular place for the museum to bring visitors participating in the public dinosaur digs program (www.dinodigs.org). These "citizen scientists" help work this scientifically-active quarry, and teach the public about the science of paleontology and the protection of resources on our public lands.

The Mygatt-Moore Quarry is no stranger to exciting discoveries. In the 1990s, the first ankylosaur from the Jurassic Period – *My-moorapelta mayisi* – was discovered there. In 2010, volunteers from the Museums of Western Colorado uncovered what turned out to be the largest and most complete *Apaotsaurus* femur ever found, measuring six feet and four inches long.

This summer, Lachlan Barrett was on summer vacation in the valley visiting his grandmother. They decided to become "citizen scientists" for a day and join the field crews on a dinosaur dig. The crews had offered a reward all summer long – ice cream of your choice – to whoever found skull material in the quarry.

On June 22, Lachlan brushed the loose shale of the quarry away to reveal the

broken front of a snout, with several teeth still in place. Everyone was very excited. The crew continued to expose the edges of the snout until they found the edges, curving back into the rock.

It took the museum crews two months to excavate around the skull and remove it from the ground. Fortunately, 8-year old Lachlan enjoyed his ice cream the day of his discovery. The excavation revealed two neck vertebrae at the back of the skull. The oval shaped skull with peg-like teeth belongs to a group of dinosaurs called sauropods, which includes animals like *Diplodocus* and *Apatosaurus* (the most common animal found at the quarry). Sauropods are very rarely found with skulls attached to their skeletons. In fact, they are often called the "headless wonders" because the skulls are so rarely found. These animals are identified based on their vertebrae, which means the museum will be able to identify the skull, once the fossils are prepared back at Dinosaur Journey. Known since 1877, if the Mygatt-Moore skull belongs to *Apatosaurus*, (which is the hope), then this will be only the fourth fairly complete skull of the animal ever found. Paleontologists at the Museums of Western Colorado are excited to see what new insights about *Apatosaurus* can be learned from this skull.

The skull is currently under preparation at the Paleo Lab at Dinosaur Journey, under the supervision of the museum's curator of paleontology. Work is underway to prepare the skull for research in 2017, and then to create a new, major exhibit at Dinosaur Journey that will feature the skull on display.



Fruita resident Alan Ronning scanned his pass as the one millionth paid visitor to the Fruita Community Center November 16 while entering with his wife. Members since 2012, Mr. and Mrs. Ronning will now enjoy a free annual membership—congratulations!

Did You Know? Dino Trivia

- In 1901, Elmer Riggs and crew found nearly two thirds of an *Apatosaurus excelsus* skeleton (commonly known as a *Brontosaurus*) on the northeast side of Dinosaur Hill, in Fruita. This is still considered to be one of the finest specimens known.
- Fossils of the *Fruitadens* (a heterodontosaurid dinosaur), the world's smallest known plant-eating dinosaur, were first found in the Fruita Paleontological Area (within the McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area) off Kings View Road in the 1970s and 1980s. The name means "Fruita tooth." There is a replica on display at the Dinosaur Journey Museum.
- *Ceratosaurus* became Fruita's "official dinosaur" in May 1997.







FRUITA DMV CLOSES

Due to budget constraints in Mesa County's 2017 Budget, the Fruita Branch of the DMV Office closed on November 10, 2016. All vehicle services will be available at the Spruce Street Office (200 S. Spruce) beginning December 1, 2016. (970) 244-1664 or <http://clerk.mesacounty.us/mv/>

Upcoming Events in Fruita				
Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair	December 10th	10 am - 3 pm	Fruita Community Center	Enjoy shopping over 50 vendors at this FREE show!
Hometown Christmas and Parade of Lights	December 10th	Parade at Dusk	Downtown Fruita	Holiday cheer and beautiful lights and shopping.
Cookies-n-Clause	December 21st	6 pm	Fruita Community Center	Wear your PJ's and enjoy a short film, story and photos with Santa! Ages 10 and under
Nuggets Skills Challenge	January 7th	9 am - 1 pm	Fruita Community Center	Ages 6-13 years old compete in dribble, pass and shooting drills for a chance to advance to sectionals!
Night at the FCC	January 13th	7 - 10 pm	Fruita Community Center	For 5th, 6th and 7th graders come swim, dance or shoot hoops at the FCC \$10.00 entry includes pizza and drink
Sweet Heart 5k/10k Run & Health Expo	February 18th	9 am - 1 pm	Fruita Community Center	5k/10k race and Health Expo
Evening of Art	March 11th	7 - 10 pm	Fruita Community Center	Arts and Culture Board Hosts local artists, wineries, breweries and live music
Night at the FCC	March 17th	7 - 10 pm	Fruita Community Center	For 5th, 6th and 7th graders come swim, dance or shoot hoops at the FCC \$10.00 entry includes pizza and drink
2nd Annual Youth Golf Scholarship Tournament	April 7th	9 am	Adobe Creek Golf Course	Play a round of golf to support the youth of Fruita! All proceeds go directly to scholarships
Easter Egg Scramble	April 12th	4 - 4:15 pm	Fruita Community Center	The Fruita Community Center backyard will be full of plastic eggs for kids 6 and under.

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