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Weekly Info Update

To: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
From: MIKE BENNETT, CITY MANAGER
Date: November 25, 2015
Re: WEEKLY INFO UPDATE

City Offices closed for Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday & Friday, Nov. 26-27. Happy Thanksgiving!

Tuesday's City Council Meeting

Tuesday's agenda includes a couple second readings on ordinance changes, the resolutions associated with adopting the 2016 budget and a conditional use permit. The CUP is somewhat odd because it is recommended by staff and the Planning Commission to deny because the application is incomplete. As Code Enforcement worked with the applicant through the City's community outreach program, there was intent to pay the CUP fee and staff went ahead and advertised and placed the CUP on the Planning Commission's agenda. As it turned out, we never received the fee, making it an incomplete application that normally wouldn't go to Planning Commission or City Council, but Planning Commission heard it since it had been advertised and denied it—moving it to City Council. Staff has been encouraging the applicant to pay the fee to no avail.

Dinosaur Diamond Revival

CDOT has hired a contractor to assess signage and wayfinding for scenic byways, including the Colorado segment of Dinosaur Diamond (from Rangely to Fruita to Grand Junction to Delta). Judy Walden of Walden Mills is conducting the study. Community Development Director Dahna Raugh will be participating in the assessment to represent Fruita Tuesday – Wednesday in the field. There is also an exit interview scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 3rd at Dinosaur Journey that you are all invited to attend at 3:30 pm in their auditorium. The interview will focus on the teams' evaluation of the signage and ease of finding sites and all museum staff, representatives from the City of Fruita and the Chamber are invited to join to discuss what the teams found. They need an RSVP soon, so please let Deb know by Monday morning if you plan to attend.

GJEP's #thxGrandValley social media campaign

You can participate in GJEP's campaign this week (thru Nov. 30) by sharing your thanks for our region and its amenities through photos on social media:

- Look for GJEP's kick-off message this Friday, November 20, on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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

- November 20-30, share your favorite photos from around the Grand Valley and tell us just why you are thankful to be here.
- Share your photos on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.
- Don't forget to use hashtag #thxGrandValley.

TID BITS:

- Saturday morning Ture, Paul with Cobb and George with Over the Edge and I had the opportunity to take Colorado's "Bike Czar" Ken Gart mountain biking at 18 Road after meeting for breakfast in the morning and learning about the state's bike efforts and sharing our City's efforts related to economic development, tourism and quality of place—they had an awesome Fruita experience Friday and Saturday.
- Don't the lights look great? Art and the Parks crew did a great job!
- Engineering is working with the contractor for the downtown to correct a few sealant issues when weather allows.
- The Mulberry sewer project proceeds with sewer replaced through the Pabor intersection and pavement is back down on Pabor. The project will continue north of Pabor to lay the new line and then cover with millings until spring when it will be repaved.
- The new Subway Restaurant is now open.
- The Little Salt Wash Trail is still on track to have a pre-bid meeting Dec. 1 and Bid opening Dec.8. We have sent our official request to GOCO to consider our grant extension at their Dec. 10 meeting.
- Planning staff are working on a new sign ordinance for Planning Commission in December and also preparing edits to Chapter 7 in preparation for changes in early 2016.
- 2 of 3 new police vehicles this year are up-fitted and ready for use. The third will be ready in a few weeks. We should also have the new vector truck in the next couple weeks. The new dump truck is delayed and should be received in Jan.
- Public works is pre-staging the Mulberry Road closure from Aspen to the alleyway for the FFA Christmas Tree Lot sales and will close it on Friday.

FRUITA IN THE NEWS:

- An alternative way to give: <http://www.gjsentinel.com/news/articles/an-alternative-way-to-give>
- Many opportunities to give: <http://www.gjsentinel.com/news/articles/many-opportunities-for-giving-in-grand-valley>
- Students gear up to compete in LEGO Robotics competition TV Spot: <http://www.westernslopenow.com/news/local-news/students-gear-up-to-compete-in-lego-robotics-competition>
- Fruita robot team qualifies for state: <http://www.gjsentinel.com/news/articles/fruita-robot-team-qualifies-for-state>
- Some city offices will be open for T-day Sentinel article: <http://www.gjsentinel.com/news/articles/briefs-nov-24-2015>

- Lottery sting nets 4 suspects in local cases Sentinel article:
<http://www.gisentinel.com/news/articles/lottery-sting-nets-4-suspects-in-local-cases>
- Nice photo in the Sentinel of Grrrrreta and the Grinch in Tuesday's paper.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Saturday, Nov. 28th** is Small business Saturday and businesses in Fruita will be hosting a scavenger hunt that day—more information found on the Chamber's website.
- **Nov. 27-Dec. 6** is the Downtown Fruita Christmas Tree Lot run by the Fruita FFA, opening at 3 pm on the 27th and daily hours of 9 am – 9pm after that (See press release below).
- **Dec. 3rd** you are all invited to a joint City of Grand Junction-Mesa County meeting on economic development from 1:30 – 2:30 pm in the Grand Junction Municipal Building in the Auditorium. *I will attend this meeting.*
- **Dec. 3rd** you are invited to a focus group meeting to discuss housing needs within the Grand Valley. This is in connection to the multi-partner Housing Needs Assessment that we are a part of. The meeting will be at 11:30 am – 1 pm in the Stocker Stadium Tower hospitality Suite at Lincoln Park in GJ. Lunch is included. Please let Deb know if you are planning to attend (invite copied below). *Dahna will cover this meeting.*
- **Dec. 3rd** you are also invited to an exit interview regarding the Dinosaur Diamond assessment. See above for more info. RSVP needed by Monday morning to Deb. *Dahna and I will attend as well.*
- **Dec. 5th** at 6 pm will be the City-Staff Christmas party.
- Thursday **Dec. 10** from 4-7:30 pm is the 22nd Annual Holiday Open House at the Business Incubator Center.
- **Dec. 12th** from 10 am – 3 pm is the annual Fruita Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair at the FCC.
- **Dec. 12th** will be Fruita's Hometown Christmas. The light parade begins at 5:30 pm and the theme is Musical Madness and requires each entry to have some sort of musical aspect (i.e. live music, lip-synching, etc.). The entry for the light parade is Nov. 27th.
- The Fruita Community Calendar is available on the website at: <http://www.fruita.org/calendar>.
- The **2015** Events Information is also available online at:
<http://www.fruita.org/parksrec/page/special-events>

CC: Department Directors



NEWS RELEASE

Nov. 23, 2015

Contact: Jeannine Purser
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Buy your Christmas tree in downtown Fruita **Event celebrates hometown feel of season**

For the second year, Fruita residents can buy their Christmas trees in downtown Fruita.

The Downtown Fruita Christmas Tree Lot – run by FFA students from Fruita Monument High School – will be open from **3 p.m. on Nov. 27 to 3 p.m. on Dec. 6. Daily hours will be 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.**

The City of Fruita will close a portion of Mulberry Street just north of Aspen Street to accommodate the lot. The trees will be in between Suds Bros. and Cavalcade.

Band students from Fruita's 8/9 School and Fruita Monument High School will perform throughout both weekends of the sale.

Organizers hope community members will gather at the tree lot as they wish to sing carols or play music in honor of the holiday season.

"I am excited about the Christmas tree lot happening in downtown Fruita for the second year," said Jeannine Purser, chairwoman of Fruita's Downtown Advisory Board. "My very favorite thing about Fruita is that it's a small town. This idea just accentuates the small-town magic that Fruita has to offer.

Prices of trees will range from \$25-\$100. Cash or check only. Donations also will be accepted for FFA's annual state and national competitions.

Downtown Fruita: Homegrown. Authentic. Fun.

SAVE THE DATE

We need your input!!

**You're invited to a
Focus Group Meeting
To**

Discuss Housing Needs within the Grand Valley

Date: Thursday, December 3, 2015

Time: 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Location: Stocker Stadium Tower Hospitality Suite

Lincoln Park

Lunch included



