



325 E Aspen  
Suite 155  
Fruita CO 81521

Phone:  
970-858-3663

Fax:  
970-858-0210

E Mail  
fruita@fruita.org

Web Site  
fruita.org

City Manager's Office  
970-858-3663

City Clerk/Finance  
970-858-3663

Community  
Development  
970-858-0786

Engineering  
970-858-8377

Human Resources  
970-858-8373

Public Works  
970-858-9558

Recreation Dept.  
970-858-0360

# Weekly Info Update

To: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
From: MIKE BENNETT, CITY MANAGER  
Date: December 24, 2015  
Re: WEEKLY INFO UPDATE

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**Merry Christmas! City Offices will be closed on Friday, December 25, 2015 and also Friday, January 1, 2016.**

## TID BITS:

- USA Cycling selected the Grand Valley to host the 2017 & 2018 USA Cycling Collegiate Road National Championships. Jen Zeuner and I were able to meet with the VP of USAC when he visited and they hope to tie one day of the races (time trials) to Fruita. The sports Commission's press release is copied below.
- We had a couple locals come to us with an idea they are working on to create a community garden in the backyard of a private residence near downtown. They would have a core group of volunteers maintain the garden and host events and classes for the public while providing free produce. We connected them with the CSU Extension to discuss a partnership. *Co-creator example*
  - The application for Jump-Start was submitted by CMU including resolutions from Palisade, Grand Junction, Fruita and Mesa County last week.
  - With all the municipalities and county opting into Jump=Start, GJEP already has a landing page on the web found at: <http://gjep.org/jump-start-mesa-county-home-2/>
  - Speaking of Jump-Start, during the last City Council meeting, Kristi Pollard agreed to provide you all with the case study on New York's "jump-start like" program—it can be linked at: [http://esd.ny.gov/reports/2014\\_startupny\\_report.pdf](http://esd.ny.gov/reports/2014_startupny_report.pdf)
  - J.2 Road: Grand Valley Power is scheduled to bore soon after the New Year and the County has acquired all necessary acquisitions.
  - Mulberry Sewer: all pipe work is complete. Millings are being placed on surface until paving in the spring.
  - Kokopelli Riverfront Trail: Staff is drafting an RFQ for design services.
  - Just a heads up that my mid-year review will be placed on the January 5<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting as an executive session item.
  - As we gear up for the "Love Where You Live" book chat, if any of you still have a copy of the book that you no longer need, please drop it by the Civic Center when you have a chance so we can use in preparation as we are currently out.
  - Our Animal Control Officer, Carrie put out collection boxes for pet supplies around the city and donated the items to "The Loma Cat House" and Mesa County Animal Services. The effort resulted in the collection of 96 lbs of dry dog food, 34 cans of wet dog food, 34 lbs of dry cat food, 25 cans of wet cat food, 27 lbs of cat litter, 23 bags of biscuits/treats and over 40 items of dog/cat toys, leashes, etc.

- It seems like we daily receive compliments about the downtown Christmas lights and Art and the Parks crew deserve all the credit. Each year they take it to a new level, so no pressure next year ☺.
- In addition to these lights, the Community Center lights look great too and I think all throughout Fruita there are some great displays.
- The Senior Task Force , along with Family Health West took to the streets again this year to seek out the best residential lights displays and the winners, by category, were: Traditional – 171 N. Cherry St.; Creative – 145 Sunbury Lane; and Most Griswold’ish – 463 S. Cedar St. Photos of the winners below.
- I had the opportunity to help judge the Chamber’s Business window display for those who applied for the contest with the same musical theme as the light parade and the winners were: #1 The Vintage Common, #2 Suds Brothers, #3 Grand Valley Bank.
- City staff coordinated with Rim Rock Elementary to once again sponsor a family for Christmas and was able to gift a large amount of money and gifts.
- We put together a very quick United Way campaign after a mix-up in contact information put us behind the timeframe and raised just over \$800.

### Interesting Reads of Late

Three cities that were “rebuilt on outdoor recreation”:

- Ogden, UT: <https://outdoorindustry.org/article/ogden-wins-gold-in-race-to-the-top/>
- Chattanooga, TN: <https://outdoorindustry.org/article/how-chattanooga-changed-its-fate/>
- Duluth, MN: <https://outdoorindustry.org/article/duluth-the-envy-of-all-outdoorists/>
- 2012 Outdoor Industry Association Report on The Outdoor Recreation Economy: [https://outdoorindustry.org/images/researchfiles/OIA\\_OutdoorRecEconomyReport2012.pdf](https://outdoorindustry.org/images/researchfiles/OIA_OutdoorRecEconomyReport2012.pdf)

### FRUITA IN THE NEWS:

- The Wheel Deal—Sentinel Sports page article on USA Cycling selecting area for 2017&18 collegiate road national championships and Fruita connection: <http://www.gjsentinel.com/sports/articles/the-wheel-deal/>
- County on mark with Jump-Start—Sunday Editorial: <http://www.gjsentinel.com/opinion/articles/county-on-mark-with-jumpstart>
- Jump-starting an idea: <http://www.gjsentinel.com/news/articles/jumpstarting-an-idea>
- Increasing Colorado Grad Rates to Benefit State and National Economies (Jump-start Mesa County) TV Spot: <http://www.westernslopenow.com/news/local-news/increasing-colorado-grad-rates-to-benefit-state-and-national-economies>
- Effort under way to jump-start economy through incentive program: <http://thebusinesstimes.com/effort-under-way-to-jump-start-economy-through-incentive-program/>
- Fruita Monument girls rally to win Heritage Holiday Hoopla tournament: <http://www.gjsentinel.com/sports/articles/fruita-monument-girls-rally-to-win-heritage-holiday>
- Seely ready to continue family’s wrestling tradition: <http://www.gjsentinel.com/sports/articles/seely-ready-to-continue-family-s-wrestling-tradition>

- Monument chief open to discussing bike event:  
<http://www.gjsentinel.com/news/articles/mabery-maybe-to-race>
- Crash kills two Fruita men:  
[https://www.google.com/url?rct=j&sa=t&url=http://www.westernslopenow.com/news/local-news/crash-kills-two-fruita-men&ct=ga&cd=CAEYACoTNTU4MDEyMDYzMTM3NzYyMjUxNzlaY2FmNzBjZmRjY2M0Njk2Njpb206ZW46VVM&usg=AFQjCNHwHait2E3uR\\_rpRuNnmJDSZ2684Q](https://www.google.com/url?rct=j&sa=t&url=http://www.westernslopenow.com/news/local-news/crash-kills-two-fruita-men&ct=ga&cd=CAEYACoTNTU4MDEyMDYzMTM3NzYyMjUxNzlaY2FmNzBjZmRjY2M0Njk2Njpb206ZW46VVM&usg=AFQjCNHwHait2E3uR_rpRuNnmJDSZ2684Q)

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Dec. 25**, Merry Christmas and City offices will be closed.
- **Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> (Monday)** will be the Municipalities Dinner hosted by the Town of Palisade at 6pm in the Palisade Civic Center Gymnasium located at 341 West 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Palisade, 81526. *The Town of Palisade sent an electronic invite via email to each of us to respond to in order to RSVP. If you have trouble, please let Deb know.*
- **Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>** is a Public Meeting regarding the Grand Valley Housing Needs Assessment at Grand Junction City Hall from 1:30 – 3:00 pm.
- **Jan. 7** is a special viewing of a documentary about re-inventing education for our kids, our community, and our future at 6:30 pm at the Avalon Theater presented by the D51 Foundation.
- **Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>** is the Love Where You Live Book Chat at 7pm at Lithic Bookstore and Gallery.
- **Feb. 6** is the D51Foundation annual White iced Party. Save the date postcard is below.
- 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



**Media Release**  
**Dec. 23, 2015**

Contact: Jennifer Stoll  
[jstoll@grandjunctionsports.org](mailto:jstoll@grandjunctionsports.org)  
970.2505734

## **Grand Junction to host multi-year USA Cycling national event**

Grand Junction, Colorado – The Greater Grand Junction Sports Commission, in conjunction with USA Cycling (USAC), announced today that greater Grand Junction has been selected as the host destination for the 2017 & 2018 USA Cycling Collegiate Road National Championships.

“We are very excited to bring the 2017-2018 USA Cycling Collegiate Road National Championships back to Colorado,” said Micah Rice, Vice President of National Events for USA Cycling. “The greater Grand Junction area is well known for its cycling and our college racers will have a great time.”

The event takes place in early May annually and features approximately 300 to 400 top road cyclists from Division I and Division II collegiate programs across the country. The Championship consists of three days of racing with a different format, either road race, Criterium or team and individual time trial each day. Specific courses and event schedules will be developed during the planning process.

“I am thrilled with the decision of USAC to host their event in Colorado’s Grand Valley. Kudos to the Sports Commission’s efforts in bringing quality events to Fruita and the entire valley,” stated Fruita’s City Manager, Mike Bennett. “This is why Fruita values our partnership with the Sports Commission. Not only do these events fit our community’s lifestyle and extraordinary terrain, but they attract national attention to the high quality of place we offer to people who choose to live, visit and base their companies in Colorado’s Grand Valley.

The Colorado Mesa University cycling program is a perpetual qualifier for the Collegiate Road Championships and boasts 10 total championships in recent years. 2016’s event will be held in Asheville, North Carolina, wrapping up USAC’s two-year commitment to that area before swinging back to the western part of the country and Grand Junction. The Greater Grand Junction Sports Commission’s bid proposal beat out a number of other communities vying for the Championships.

USA Cycling, headquartered in Colorado Springs, Colorado, is the official governing body for all disciplines of competitive cycling in the United States. The 501c3, membership-based organization aims both to achieve sustained success in international cycling competition and to grow competitive cycling in America while delivering an exceptional customer experience. USAC produces more than a dozen national championship events annually.

*The Greater Grand Junction Sports Commission is a collaborative effort between Colorado Mesa University, the City of Grand Junction, Mesa County, the City of Fruita and the Town of Palisade to promote sport tourism in the community. The organization’s mission is to represent greater Grand Junction in attracting new and enhancing existing sporting events that positively impact our economy and community, and provide event owners with exceptional customer service.*

[www.grandjunctionsports.org](http://www.grandjunctionsports.org)

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# MOST LIKELY TO

SUCCEED



a documentary about  
re-inventing education



for our kids, our community, and our future

AVALON THEATER - JANUARY 7th - 6:30pm

Followed by a Reception & Discussion About  
Transforming Our School District



FREE MOVIE SCREENING  
PRESENTED BY



**D51F**  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 51  
FOUNDATION



[www.d51foundation.org](http://www.d51foundation.org)

Feb 6  
save the date



4TH ANNUAL  
WHITE ICED PARTY & FUNDRAISER

sponsored by

Community Hospital



7-10pm CMU Ballroom

TEACHER CELEBRATIONS  
SILENT AUCTION  
COCKTAILS & DESSERTS



for more event details  
[www.d51foundation.org](http://www.d51foundation.org)