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Weekly Info Update

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

Tuesday's City Council Workshop

We have a full agenda for this month's workshop. First we will be combined with the Fruita Chamber Board to discuss mutual goals and efforts. After that we have two important items to discuss regarding our development/permitting process as detailed in your Council agenda packet. The Chamber will be providing food at 6:00 pm if you would like to come early and partake!

Weekend Events

No shortage of events this weekend. **Fat Tire Festival** is in full force and the Mayor and I spent part of the day meeting with visiting vendors and the conversations led into a myriad of ideas for the City to explore in our efforts to attract outdoor recreation oriented businesses. The schedule of events is found here:

<http://fruitafattirefestival.com/schedule/> including the return of the Clunker Crit around Circle Park Saturday at 3 pm. The rescheduled **Fruita Bike Park Dedication** will be at 10:00 am at the Bike Park. **The Maverick Classic** is also live this weekend with the Fruita Team and Individual Time Trials scheduled for Saturday at 8:00 am beginning at the Fruita Community Center. The Maverick Classic schedule can be found at: <http://www.coloradomesa.edu/maverickclassic/>.

MikeFest Coverage

We received a call from "The Sports Show with Woody Paige and Les Shapiro" inviting us to participate in their live video show via Skype and Ture Nycum and Angie Ballegeer & even 'Mike' did a great job. Check it out here: <http://sportsshow.denverpost.com/2015/04/22/the-legend-of-mike-the-headless-chicken-headless-chicken-festival-in-fruita-co/>. Also, the Mike Facebook page had a simple post on Mike go viral to over 60,000 people this week.

Legislative Update

In last week's update, I attached the Governor's "5-point plan" regarding balancing the state budget. AGNC held a special conference call that Councilor Fuller and I attended to discuss the plan. We decided to support the plan in concept but would have to see a specific bill to add formal support or not. The result is the attached letter from AGNC to the Governor that states concern for the use of now \$300 million in severance taxes to balance state budgets in good and bad times over the years and comments on each of the Governor's five points.

Mountain Water and Glade Park

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

Public Works staff met with Water Commissioners last week and have already had calls placed on the mountain water downstream, which means that we cannot increase the levels of the reservoirs at this time even if we were to receive more moisture. At this point, we are projecting that we will only have 236 acre-ft of water available in the reservoirs for use, which means we would have to drain all four reservoirs this year to deliver Mr. Tipping his 100 acre-ft, and still only be able provide Glade Park with 40-50 percent of what we normally provide them. We will most likely need to drain Reservoir #3 first. Public Works Director Ken Haley met with the Glade Park Water Users Association's at their annual meeting Tuesday and discussed the issue with them. While they are not pleased, they understand the limitations and are working with us and on their own to impose restrictions of use and attempt to stretch the limited supply throughout the summer.

TID BITS:

- Congrats to The Hot Tomato for receiving the award for Entrepreneur of the Year at the 10th Annual Entrepreneurship Day at CMU on Thursday—well deserved.
- We met with DOLA this week regarding the Gateway Enhancement Design grant we were recently awarded. Since we will lead a community engagement process to generate the themes and direction of the design before paying a company for construction documents, we are working out a partnership with DOLA to assist in the conceptual renderings of our residents' ideas.
- Eric Mello informed us this week that he is leaving Cobb & Associates for a new professional opportunity. Eric will be missed and did a lot for Fruita, but will still be accessible. Paul Arieta with Cobb, who we have worked with quite a bit will be our new Account Manager.
- Check out this cool new video from CMU students highlighting hiking in Fruita for www.gofruita.com. The link is: <https://youtu.be/Nx-mvwu-kPc>. They are also working on videos on Fruita Crash Pad, Fruita nightlife and the Colorado National Monument.
- Family Health West notified the City this week that the governing Board of the Lower Valley Hospital Association "has elected to re-evaluate the direction the organization is moving. At the Board's direction, we will not move forward with pursuing parity bonds at this time."
- The Columbine Drainage project is moving along well and may be complete as early as next week.
- Ottley Ave. continues and staff is working with the contractor to improve access in and out of establishments like The Oaks, which we received feedback are difficult to understand how to enter/exit. We also had a mess out there when the rain hit after road base was removed so it was pretty muddy. Much of the work to this point has been underground utilities, but United returned Thursday to begin more of the visual work on road base.
- Code Enforcement has been busy working with property owners to clean up junk and removed 92 tires from one property and 2.5 full dump loads this past week.
- The Arbor Day Event was a success with over 60 people in Circle Park, lots of kids participating in crafts and planting a tree, free tree give-a-ways with the smell of rain and a cool breeze.
- Parks & Recreation are prepping the outdoor pool for summer and they did an awesome job assisting in the Fat Tire preparation as I heard numerous compliments already.
- All seasonal employees are on board and working.
- Ride the Rockies will definitely be coming through Fruita with an event downtown, including live music Sunday morning, June 14th. They already have over 2,000 registered and of that number over 700 are first time riders.

- Our website committee is receiving presentations in the upcoming weeks of finalists from the 21 proposals received.
- Farmer's Market starts June 20th.
- Our auditors return this next week as part of the annual audit process.
- Celebrations almost erupted this week as Margaret mentioned beginning the budget process soon for 2016 ☺.
- Public Works' staff was busy cleaning streets and prepping for Fat Tire Festival this week.

FRUITA IN THE NEWS: (It's a lot, but well worth the read!)

- Bike events in Valley: <http://www.postindependent.com/sports/outdoors/16021288-113/go-play-upcoming-bike-events-in-fruita-palisade>
- Arbor Day: <http://www.gjsentinel.com/news/articles/briefs-april-19-2015>
- Arbor Day Event: <http://www.nbc11news.com/home/headlines/Community-helps-plant-a-tree-at-FruitAs-Arbor-Day-celebration--301023791.html>
- Arbor Day TV spot: http://www.clipsyndicate.com/video/playlist/1805/5729520?title=broadcast_local_2
- Fruita Monument High students build fishing rods for Outdoor Heritage Event: <http://www.westernslopenow.com/story/d/story/students-build-fly-rods-for-heritage-day/26424/nznJ8klRy0e81D6Xao6Wpw>
- TV Spot on Police Department testing body worn cameras: <http://www.nbc11news.com/home/headlines/Fruita-Police-Department-is-testing-the-use-of-body-cameras-300730121.html>
- Maverick Classic: <http://www.gjfreepress.com/news/15948474-113/maverick-classic-bike-racing-returns-to-fruita->
- Fruita Fat Tire Festival: <http://www.gjfreepress.com/news/15919081-113/fruita-hosts-fat-tire-festival-for-21st-year> AND <http://kekbfm.com/fruita-fat-tire-festival/> AND
- Music options this weekend: <http://www.gjfreepress.com/news/15919211-113/jack-jill-stray-grass-riveter-and-more>
- Article on MTB gear: <http://www.gjfreepress.com/news/15661631-113/go-play-gear-a-new-spin-on-bike>
- The Hot Tomato's collaboration brew with New Belgium: <http://www.gjfreepress.com/news/15691768-113/collaboration-brew-with-new-belgium-to-be-tapped>
- Australian Drivers make pit stop in Fruita TV spot: <http://www.nbc11news.com/home/headlines/Australian-MG-drivers-make-a-pit-stop-in-FruitAs-part-of-their-Pan-American-road-trip-300867931.html>
- Hot Tomato's Perfect Day Red American Ale TV spot: <http://video.chron.com/KKCO--New-ale-makes-for-Perfect-Day-at-FruitAs-Hot-Tomato-28932395?vcid=28932395&freewheel=90000&sitesection=houstonchron>
- Fruita Monument High Teen DUI Awareness: http://www.westernslopenow.com/story/d/story/teen-dui-awareness-safe-driving-event/31044/bT38h_W1FEOL34sSyVx2Gw
- Hot Tomato—Entrepreneur of the Year: http://www.westernslopenow.com/story/d/story/entrepreneur-of-the-year-gives-advice/39743/oE_8zxjr8E-dQ8iHRKBB-w

- Fruita's The Muse / Rhema 10 Year Anniversary: <http://bestevents.us/fruita-the-muse-rhema-10-year-anniversary-sale/405120>
- Fruita's Moon Farm: <http://www.gjfreepress.com/news/15843147-113/fruitas-moon-farm-offers-museum-displays-farm-animals>
- Fruita dino find: Apatosaurus tail vertebrae: <http://www.gjfreepress.com/news/15661627-113/from-the-vault-apatosaurus-tail-vertebrae-discovered-near>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **April 24-26** is the Maverick Classic. Saturday the 25th is the Fruita Time Trials event at 8:00 am at the FCC.
- **April 25th** is Family Health West's annual event "Country Elegance" that will take place at the Avalon Theatre from 5:00 – 10:00 pm.
- **April 25th** is the rescheduled Fruita Bike Park Dedication Ceremony at 10:00 am at the Bike Park.
- Fruita Fat Tire Festival—downtown **this weekend!!!!**
- **April 28th** at 6:30 is the City Council Workshop combined with the Chamber Board.
- 8th Annual Outdoor Heritage Day event is Saturday, **April 25** from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm at Riverbend Parkway in Palisade.
- **April 29th** is the combined Chamber-City Council tour of the Math & Science Center at 7:00 pm. The Math & Science Center address is 2660 Unaweep in GJ.
- **May 2-3** is the rescheduled Rumble @ 18 Rd.
- **May 15th** is the last day for early bird registration for the annual CML conference (June 16-19). Please let Deb and I know if you plan to attend so we can make arrangements.
- **May 21** is the next Municipalities Dinner at the Fruita Community Center at 6:00 pm with dinner catered by Colorado Canyons. General updates, Broadband and Buffer zone will be on the agenda for discussion.
- The **April** 2015 City of Fruita Meeting Calendar is available on the website at: <http://www.fruita.org/documents/admin/mtgcal.pdf>.
- The **2015** Events Calendar is also available online at: http://www.fruita.org/documents/rec/EVENT_CALENDAR.pdf

#FruitaRocks

CC: Department Directors



April 21, 2015

The Honorable John Hickenlooper
Governor
200 East Colfax
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Governor Hickenlooper:

Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado (AGNC) members appreciate your effort to look at future state budget matters and potential solutions. AGNC members agree that more can and should be done in terms of identifying strategic ways of managing the state's budget given the constraints Colorado faces.

AGNC members have reviewed the 5 point plan submitted, they generally support the concept outlined and have comments on the 5 points as reflected below:

First, we agree the rebate structure needs to be updated as it applies to TABOR surpluses to be returned to taxpayers in FY 2014-5 and FY 2015-16.

We believe that the original TABOR intent was to reduce the tax burden on all Coloradans that pay taxes into state coffers. To that end, we support the idea that all Colorado families who paid taxes should receive rebates.

TABOR was passed in an effort to slow down growth of government. Since the great recession, the state budget has grown substantially and none of the mechanisms tapped to pay the TABOR refunds do anything to address the growth of government since the recession hit the state. We suggest that no new programs, like the Hospital Provider Fee (HPF), be approved without consideration of how the program will impact TABOR over the long term. The current situation regarding the HPF was recognized two years ago; that issue could have been addressed two years ago rather than taking funds from the severance tax revenues, transportation and education this year. Rather than spending the increased sales and income taxes collected by the state over the last few years, the growth portion of those funds could have been put in a fund to pay TABOR refunds.

Second, we agree with the concept that the HPF should be converted to an enterprise fund; it would have been better to create the fund in that way when it was originally set up in 2009. We do not support any further expansion in the HPF or the Medicaid program. We were clearly told the Medicaid expansion would not create a burden on taxpayers because the HPF was in place, however, we are once again subject to covering that oversight on the part of the program expansion through transfers from severance taxes and other undesirable solutions.

Further, we believe it may be in the best interest of the state going forward to ask voters to exempt severance taxes from TABOR restrictions as long as an appropriate amount of

theseverance tax funds are discretely and explicitly earmarked only for local governments impacted by energy development.

Third, we support the full funding of SB09-228; the state should be supporting transportation throughout Colorado as it is in the best interest of the entire state to have a safe, adequate transportation network to support commerce, safety and reliability. We stand opposed to manipulation of the state funding mechanisms that reduce the amount of funding for roads in rural areas of the state and believe that lane miles continue to be a proper methodology to use in funding road construction and maintenance.

Fourth,we support methodologies that keep school funding in-tact and represent a fair funding formula for all school children across the state. Growing state government should be the last consideration for use of growing state revenues.

Fifth,we agree that mechanisms should be employed to repay the severance taxes used to balance the current budget as well as the \$75 million of HPF money transferred to the General Fund during the Great Recession. Additionally, that mechanism needs to address the promised return of the \$280 million of severance tax money transferred to the General Fund during the Great Recession.

AGNC members know that severance tax revenues are earmarked to address energy impacts and other specific projects related to energy development and cannot go to pay TABOR rebates. This fact has not stopped the Administration and the Legislature from moving, what now amounts to \$300 million of the severance taxes to balance the state's budget in bad times as well as good times. This matter is of grave concern to AGNC members and they fully support measures that will eliminate this practice and see this very large sum of money repaid to those communities impacted by energy development.

You know better than we that time is of the essence. AGNC members cannot provide support for a specific bill at this time as we have not seen a draft and do not know the specifics. The concepts of your proposal appear to have some merit and, based on the input provided in this letter, could be supported if the bill contains language to address the concerns stated here.

Again, we thank you for attempting to address state budget concerns in a proactive fashion and for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Jeff Eskelson
Chairman
Rio-Blanco County

Martin Chazen
Vice-Chairman
City of Grand Junction

Copies to: John Swartout
West Slope Legislators