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# Weekly Info Update

To: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
From: MIKE BENNETT, CITY MANAGER  
Date: JULY 17, 2015  
Re: WEEKLY INFO UPDATE

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## **Tuesday Night's City Council Meeting**

Tuesday night we have on the consent agenda a request for City Council support of an Energy Impact grant application to DOLA to match \$100,000 we plan to budget in the 2016 capital improvement budget to complete the second phase of the Public Shops project. The \$100,000 we have slotted would only cover half of the remaining needs for the building, so if we are able to get the match from DOLA we could complete the project. The grant application is due Aug. 1. We also have GJEP Executive Director Kristi Pollard on the agenda to be introduced and give an update on GJEP activity. She will also request a letter of support from Council regarding a grant application for funding to obtain daily flights to the west coast. She will also request we consider a \$2,500 match in our budget process for 2016.

## **Fruita is Painted Orange**

Cones, detours and barriers will be a common sight over the next couple months, but the results will be worth it. Road overlays are progressing well and should complete next week. The downtown streetscape project began this week with demolition at the intersection of Peach and Aspen. Phase 2 of the West Ottley project began this week to extend the sewer line for future highway to Ottley connection so the new road won't have to be torn up when development occurs on the eastside of the CO-Op property sometime in the future. You may have also seen the Centurylink pedestals on Ottley Ave. being moved back for this project. We appreciate people's patience.

## **BLM Partnership**

As we partner with our local BLM office and meet monthly, we have identified a few areas that we felt we may learn from the local field office-city partnerships. One was Eagle and the town and BLM field office hosted a couple of us Tuesday. They shared with us a few concepts that caught our attention including building trails on private land (which is the majority of the new trails they have) as opposed to BLM land and the re-routing of mountain bike trails on BLM land to add miles. They deal with the same challenges our area has which is funding for environmental studies on BLM land. The town has been able to help with these costs from a lodging tax they have had since 1998 that the revenue is dedicated to open space in the town and on BLM land. The trip benefited us and I believe they had as many questions on the success of Fruita as well. We did see our life flash before our eyes driving down a steep dirt road on the edge of a cliff after a flash rain, but BLM got us home safe.

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

Speaking of BLM, below is the number of visitors they have counts for at nearby trailheads:

	2012	2013	2014
<b>NCA</b>			
Dinosaur TH	25,664	12,930	13,690
Devil's Canyon TH	30,573	66,216	66,754
Fruita Paleo Area TH	8,073	11,233	11,283
Pollock Canyon TH	18,307	24,166	24,275
Kokopelli's TH	65,935	61,850	62,565
Mack TH	4,050	1,635	1,545
Ruby-Horsethief	10,249	14,695	17,909
<b>Field Office</b>			
North Fruita Desert CG	30,868	9,878	10,480
North Fruita Desert TH	54,681	64,960	61,214
<b>Total</b>	<b>248,400</b>	<b>267,563</b>	<b>269,715</b>

**TID BITS:**

- We have released a request for proposal for banking services as part of making sure we regularly solicit bids and consider options. Due date for proposals are August 28 and the RFP is found on our website at: <http://www.fruita.org/documents/admin/BankingServicesRFP.pdf>.
- Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, GVT will permanently implement route changes. They received public comment on the temporary changes and made adjustments. This incorporates the route changes in Fruita that were made in May which they have determined to continue. We have not received any complaints.
- Counselor Fuller and I attended the AGNC Board meeting here in Fruita. We were host and the hospital provided a great catered lunch. Topics discussed included the annual audit report, a report on economic development efforts in Rio Blanco County and issues with Fish and Wildlife in the region.
- Counselor Kincaid and I will be meeting with Cobb & Associates Monday to discuss our account.
- Check out the Fruita Nightlife video on [www.gofruita.com](http://www.gofruita.com).
- Cullen Purser is currently helping us out filming with 8mm camera scenes of life in Fruita. He will be working with me this week to add in promotional scenes of our industrial sites to use in Mayor Buck and I's upcoming recruitment trip to the SLC Outdoor Retailer Trade Show.
- Local photographer Tyler Logan is assisting the City with select photos to highlight life in Fruita on our new website set to debut at the end of August.
- We have also received various submissions of donated photographs we are excited to use on the website—we have amazing people and talent here in Fruita!
- Unfortunately we are still seeing a decline in local sales tax revenue through April compared to last year mostly tied to the oil and gas related industry. We are about 8% below for the year and 3% for the month of April.
- Met with John Klish, the organizer of Rumble at 18 Road to begin planning ahead for next year's event. He has plans to increase the participants in both the mountain biking and trail running events.

- We continue to work heavily on budget preparation.
- School District 51 has yet to purchase a permanent location for the school buses and will need to use this year to continue parking the buses with us (this was originally agreed to through the upcoming school year but they had thought they would have something this past summer). Because the new buses are propane, they will need less electrical and will be filing up at LOCO in Fruita, so we are discussing the temporary solution (this year only) of parking them on the lagoon property.
- Ken has met with CDOT and they have confirmed we will be ready to put the Little Salt Wash Trail extension out to bid first of September and we plan to have it under construction the first of November!
- Alan Story's property has been cleaned to the minimum code standards.
- Check out a copy of the new Relocating to the Grand Valley Magazine with articles on Fruita.
- We continue to partner with the ED Partners on how to implement the recommendations of the County-Grand Junction study on economic development in the valley. I am on a working group with all partners.
- Our Economic Development Team also split up all the action items from the visit with Mesa Grand to keep those efforts moving forward to develop in Greenway Business Park.
- Have an awesome weekend! I love where we live 😊!

#### FRUITA IN THE NEWS:

- Meet your Neighbor: the Silver Bell Rebekah Lodge #115: <http://www.gjfreepress.com/news/17292066-113/fruita-meet-the-silver-bell-rebekah-lodge-115>
- Fruita Construction Projects: <http://www.nbc11news.com/home/headlines/Fruita-has-two-construction-projects-kicking-off-bringing-major-improvements-to-the-city-315603071.html>
- Dinosaur Journey Museum hosts new 'Hatching the Past' exhibit: <http://www.gjfreepress.com/news/17156314-113/dinosaur-journey-museum-in-fruita-hosts-new-hatching>
- K Road Construction: <http://www.westernslopenow.com/story/d/story/k-road-construction-began-monday/21907/oMHZtmA0M0COHwCiA-QgRg>

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Tuesday, July 21<sup>st</sup>** is the Colorado Tech Tour at the Avalon Theatre from 5-7 pm. Registration is free.
- **Wednesday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>** at 7 pm is a District 51 Ambassador meeting at the Fruita Community Center.
- **Thursday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>** Cleason Dunn-Wright will perform at 7:30 pm in Civic Center Park for the Thursday Night Concert Series.
- **Wednesday, July 29<sup>th</sup>**, Robert Earl Keen will perform at 7:30 pm (gates open at 6 pm) at the state park for the Riverfront Concert series.
- **Thursday, July 30<sup>th</sup>**, Flat Top Reed will perform at 7:30 pm in Civic Center Park for the Thursday Night Concert Series.
- **August 15** is the Math & Science Center annual fundraiser at 7 pm at the CMU University Ballroom (invitation attached below).

- Dinosaur Journey's annual fundraiser, the Feast of Skulls will be **August 22** from 6:30 – 10 pm following Dinosaur Days.
- The **July** 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](http://www.fruita.org/documents/rec/EVENT_CALENDAR.pdf)

CC: Department Directors

# HELP SUPPORT OUR SAFARI INTO THE FUTURE!

AUGUST 15, 2015



On Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, the John McConnell Math & Science Center, along with our friends and supporters will be venturing into the exotic to raise funds that will help put science directly into the hands of kids of all ages; provide classroom resources and teacher training; and support after-school, vacation and community programs that engage, inspire and educate Western Slope students and families. We hope that we can count on your help to make our annual fundraising dinner a success again this year!

The theme of this year's event – to be held in the University Center Ballroom at Colorado Mesa University -- is "How Dung Beetles Rule the World (Living in Dung)"! The evening will have a "safari" theme, come dressed in your finest "safari garb" or get really exotic and dress up as your favorite beetle – insect, that is! During the cocktail hour, we'll have lots of "beetle-themed" fun and games, including interactive science activities provided by our staff. Our Keynote Speaker this year is Frank T. Krell, curator of entomology in the Department of Zoology of the Denver Museum of Nature & Science and Editor-in-Chief of the Museum's journals. Dr. Krell will take us with him on his trips around the world, as he studies the role of "dung beetles" in maintaining the health of the world's grasslands. The photos will be gorgeous, and we promise that you will be fascinated by these industrious creatures! This will be an evening not to be missed – you can help us plan the perfect safari with your sponsorship!

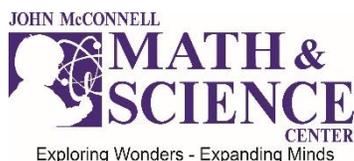
**Table sponsorships are still available for \$1,000. A table sponsorship provides a table of 10 seats, as well as recognition of your sponsorship at the event and on our website.**

We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience, and thank you for supporting the next generation of scientists, engineers, and innovators!

Teresa A. Coons, Ph.D., Executive Director

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*The John McConnell Math and Science Center of Western Colorado is a 501c3 non-profit corporation*



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CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO

# Safari Into the Future

AND LEARN

## HOW DUNG BEETLES RULE THE WORLD

DISCOVER THE VITAL ROLE DUNG BEETLES PLAY IN MAINTAINING THE HEALTH OF THE WORLD'S GRASSLANDS FROM DR. FRANK T. KRELL, CURATOR OF ENTOMOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY, DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE & SCIENCE.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 2015

UNIVERSITY CENTER BALLROOM  
COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY

5:30 PM COCKTAILS, GAMES, HANDS-ON DEMONSTRATIONS

7:00 PM DINNER

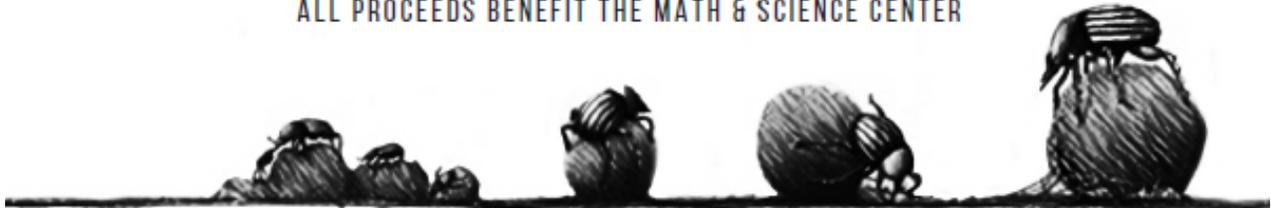
8:00 PM SPEAKER

SAFARI ATTIRE ENCOURAGED

TICKETS: \$75 PER TICKET. \$750 PER TABLE.

CALL 970-254-1626 OR VISIT [WWW.MATHANDSCIENCECENTER.ORG](http://WWW.MATHANDSCIENCECENTER.ORG)

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