



FRUITA

COLORADO

Weekly Info Update

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To: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
From: MIKE BENNETT, CITY MANAGER
Date: January 13, 2017
Re: WEEKLY INFO UPDATE

Tuesday's City Council Meeting

The meeting begins with a proclamation for National Crime Stoppers Month. The consent agenda includes a renewal of the associate municipal court judge's contract, a couple resolutions, an easement and ROW for the Riverfront trail, an ordinance for ROW for a future public street and the December financial reports. During the Administrative Agenda, staff will present the final concept plans for the gateway and lagoon property for approval, as well as the logo license agreement. The agenda also includes consideration of the fee increase (already budgeted in 2017 and discussed during the budget process) for the City Attorney and the City Manager's annual, informal performance review.

Snow Removal

After 8.5 years on the east coast anticipating, but never experiencing an ice storm before moving back west, did we have a genuine ice storm here this week! The conditions provided the ultimate challenge for road conditions. Our crews worked very hard, long hours.

We typically prep the roads with mag-chloride (in liquid form) sprayed on the main and collector roadways prior to snow storms which help in the melting process thereafter. As quickly as the ice formed and with the low temperatures keeping the ice frozen, we had a thin layer of ice on our roads Monday. We were fortunate to have very few accidents in Fruita in relation to the many that occurred across the valley. We appreciate the residents taking precautions while driving.

Street crews cover seven routes throughout the community focused on collector roads, school routes, and emergency services. Local roads through neighborhoods are not usually able to receive much to stay up on the rest, but we do move into those when able. The crews could not use the plows on the

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

roads when there was a thin layer of ice, but focused on laying a mixture of sand and salt that helped provide traction. They hit the target areas multiple times throughout the storm. We were also called upon by CDOT to provide mutual aid to drop salt on HW340 around the overpass and roundabouts because they could not make it there. We also helped them with the closures of I-70. As the melt began, we had to devote much time to clearing the storm drains from snow. We used at least one-third of the annual amount of mag-chloride this year so far and 250 man hours as of Wednesday in Public Works.

Parks crews worked long and hard as well applying about 1,250 pounds of urea and 850 pounds of salt the first couple days—a large amount of this on the Community Center’s entryway and sidewalks (450+ pounds urea/200+ pounds salt).

Recruitment for Chief of Police

With the pending retirement of Chief Judy Macy on April 1, 2017, we are underway on our recruitment process. As I have said before, we will definitely miss Chief Macy. She is an exceptional Chief, has the respect of the community, Council, staff and partner law enforcement agencies across the valley. Fruita has definitely benefited from her service prior to being Chief and as our Police Chief. Fortunately, her leadership as well as the leadership of her predecessor Chief Angelo, has aided in our Police Department being filled with exceptional talent, which allows us to conduct an internal recruitment process similar to when Chief Macy was selected. Our posting closes Monday. Our top candidate or candidates will go through an assessment process with different panels made up of heads of local law enforcement agencies, our Police Commission and interested Council members, City leadership staff and a group of police officers. We are scheduling these panels for Jan 30 or 31. If all goes well, I would expect to have a decision made in early February, and as City Manager and per the City’s Charter I will appoint the next Police Chief with the approval of City Council.

Action Items

While conducting the annual budget meetings to cover the 2017 budget with all City staff in December, I also discussed the City Council goals and how they were developed. During these sessions, I previewed with City staff that we would conduct optional brainstorming sessions that all staff were invited to and encouraged to attend in early January. These sessions were geared toward generating ideas for what action items we can devote time to in 2017 and 2018 to positively impact quality of place, economic health and lifestyle of the community. The twist was that this is on top of the core services and line item budgets that we have approved for services and projects, so ideas are to focus on efforts that do not require a budget, but the actual cost is carving out dedicated time on top of our busy schedules to create cross-departmental teams to focus on particular action items. I can reiterate after these sessions that we have incredible employees at the City with exceptional ideas. The leadership team will begin prioritizing action items, creating teams and provide a report to Council in February.

TID BITS:

- City sales tax revenues for November were up 2.7% compared to November of 2015.
- County sales tax for November were down 2.93% compared to November 2015.

- Mayor Buck and I were able to have a great meeting with Superintendent Steve Schultz and Board Chairman John Williams of D51 this week focused on how we can better partner as community.
- I met with a business owner and also the Chair of our Downtown Advisory Board this week and they are going to take the lead on organizing the impacted businesses of the alley project to seek solutions to dumpsters and aesthetic improvements in conjunction with our alley improvements. They will work closely with Sam and me.
- We are working with a prospect looking to install a wireless internet network in Fruita with exceptionally fast upload/download speeds for residents and businesses.
- Continuing to talk with Rocky Mountain Bikes about launching a new bike here in Fruita. They are contemplating video of the bike prior to the launch on our trails and when to hold the event or events.
- The Mayor, staff and I met with Mesa County Health Department today to learn about a program called Communities that Care. We see many parallels with our goals and action items and are excited to further explore this partnership.
- Vitality Films is finalizing their video, paid for by Mesa Grand, to market their industrial property in our industrial park. It covers the Fruita community very well also!
- I met with Peter Booth and we are working on annual lease requirements and assisting in their process to seek a grant for a study on economic impact and growth of the museums in Fruita.
- The bid opening for the Pabor and Laura project was well attended with nearly 30 people.
- We have received verbal agreements for all needed easements for the Aspen Alley project and working with property owners to finalize.
- Engineering continues meeting with property owners effected by the design of downtown phase 2.
- Progress is being made on being ready to have a trail host program to begin in March to have volunteers on the Riverfront Trail and possibly other paths and the Bike Park.
- Night at the FCC is tonight!
- Last Saturday we had about 50 kids at the Nuggets Skills Challenge.
- We met with our new auditing firm this week.
- Planning Commission took in another night of Training Tuesday night.
- We ordered our 4 new police vehicles.
- Staff is working on completing the annual report on mountain water required by the State Engineer's Office.
- We received the final and favorable ruling on maintaining our Colorado River water rights for the next 6 years until the next renewal.
- XCEL Energy completed this week the replacement of every cobra head street light with new LED lights.
- Have an awesome weekend!

FRUITA IN THE NEWS:

- District 51 foundation hosts PBL forum TV spot: <http://www.nbc11news.com/content/news/410607435.html>
- WB I-70 closes for 2nd time in as many days TV spot: <http://www.westernslopenow.com/news/local-news/wb-i-70-closes-for-2nd-time-in-as-many-days/638952041>
- As Fruita grows, so does fire squad: <http://www.gjsentinel.com/news/articles/as-fruita-grows-so-does-fire-squad>

- How we learn 3 R's: <http://www.gjsentinel.com/news/articles/how-we-learn-the-3-rs>
- District 51 starts search for new chief: <http://www.gjsentinel.com/news/articles/district-51-starts-search-for-new-chief>
- Westbound I-70 closed at Fruita as ice covers roads again: <http://www.gjsentinel.com/breaking/articles/westbound-i-70-closed-at-fruita-as-ice-covers-roads-again>
- 6-car pile-up on icy I-70 near Fruita TV spot: <http://www.kjct8.com/content/news/Fog-icy-roads--410323995.html>
- Westbound I-70 reopens at Fruita: <http://www.gjsentinel.com/breaking/articles/westbound-i-70-closed-at-fruita-as-ice-covers-roads-again>
- Traction law enforced between Palisade, Fruita for first time TV spot: <http://www.kjct8.com/content/news/Traction-law-enforced-between-Palisade-Fruita-for-first-time--410343475.html>
- I-70 reopens in the mountain corridor but CDOT enacts chain law because of tough driving conditions: http://www.timescall.com/top-stories/ci_30716206/avalanches-close-i-70-colorado-mountain-roads-snow
- Weather service: Dense fog an issue through early afternoon: <http://www.gjsentinel.com/breaking/articles/weather-service-dense-fog-an-issue-though-the-morning>

UPCOMING EVENTS *(When an RSVP is required I will include the information. I also ask that you let Deb know if you plan to attend so we can make sure to post if multiple council members plan to attend. Deb would also be happy to RSVP for you.):*

- **Jan. 19** we are hosting the Chamber Business After Hours event at the Community Center from 5:30 – 7:30 pm.
- **Feb. 4** is the District 51 Foundation White Iced Celebration from 7-10 pm at the CMU Ballroom www.d51foundation.org.
- **Feb. 11** is the 2017 Fruita Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Banquet at the Community Center.
- **Feb. 15** we are hosting the AGNC Board Meeting from 9am – 1:30 pm.
- The Business Incubator class schedule is below.
- The Fruita Community Calendar is available on the website at: <http://www.fruita.org/calendar>.
- The **2016** Events Information is also available online at: <http://www.fruita.org/parksrec/page/special-events>
- Here is a glimpse of Jan - April City events:

Nuggets Skills Challenge	January 7th	9am-1pm	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	7pm-10pm	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	9am-1pm	Fruita Community Center	5k/10k race and Health Expo
Evening of Art	March 11th	7pm-10pm	Fruita Community Center	Arts and Culture Board Hosts local artists, wineries, breweries and live music
Night at the FCC	March 17th	7pm-10pm	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	9am	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	4pm-4:15 pm	Fruita Community Center	The Fruita Community Center backyard will be full of plastic eggs for kids 6 and under.

CC: Department Directors



Pumping up the Dream Starting a Business in Western Colorado

This class covers the most commonly asked questions including how to do a trade name search, choosing the right legal structure, registering with the state, local licensing requirements, the business planning process, and options for financing your business.

\$50
Class Fee

Upcoming Class Dates

Mon 1/16/17, 9-12 PM
Tues 1/31/17, 1-4 PM
Tues 2/7/17, 1-4 PM (Fruita Location)
Thurs 2/23/17, 6-9 PM

Fast Trac Business Basics

MUST PRE-REGISTER CALL 970-243-5242
Classes are offered from 12-1 PM
Must take Starting a Business Class First

Market Research

Learn to use market research tools to generate more business 3/2/17
(Fruita Location)

Business Planning

Write a plan to help ensure the success of your business 1/12/17
2/9/17

Internet Strategies

Learn how to be accessible through the internet 1/19/17
2/16/17

Licensing

License your business online 2/2/17

Cash Flows

Learn how to do a cash flow budget using Excel 1/26/17
2/23/17



THE LEADING EDGE

The Leading Edge Program helps move your business to the next level!

This comprehensive training course provides business owners and entrepreneurs expert guidance in the areas of cash flow management, marketing, finance, personnel, legal issues, and more. Each participant will receive hands-on assistance in preparing a complete business plan.
Feb 14- May 2 : Every Tues 6-9
Cost: \$275

Call 243-5242 to Register or visit us at
gincubator.org

All Date & Events Are Subject to Change

Events in Fruita will be held at our Fruita Location
325 East Aspen Street
Fruita, Colorado



The SBDC is partially funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration. SBA's funding is not an endorsement of any products, opinions or services. SBA funded programs are extended to the public on a non-discriminatory basis.

Jan 10.
9-2 PM

Bookkeeping Bootcamp

Learn how to set up and track business accounting records and what types of expenses are deductible. Gain better control of your business by learning how balance sheets, income statements, and cash flow projections are prepared and what they can tell you about your business.

Cost: \$75 (includes lunch)

Open Coffee Club

3rd Fri
of every month
10-12 PM



January
Main Street Bagels
559 Main St. Grand Junction

February
Aspen Street
136 E Aspen Ave, Fruita, CO 81521

Jan. 17
1-3 PM

What you don't know can hurt you: Employment Law Update

Whether your organization has one employee or 100, your employment policies and practices are impacted by laws and regulations that originate at the Federal, State, and local levels. An employer's misstep with one of these laws could cost thousands of dollars and have a devastating impact on your company. Come learn how to minimize that risk.

Cost: \$10