



# FRUITA COLORADO

## Weekly Info Update



To: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
From: MIKE BENNETT, CITY MANAGER  
Date: MARCH 20, 2020  
Re: WEEKLY INFORMATION UPDATE

---

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

### **Tuesday's City Council Workshop Cancelled**

At this time, the City Council workshop originally scheduled for March 24 and the City Council meeting originally scheduled for April 7, 2020, have been canceled. The next scheduled City Council meeting is for April 21 at 7pm. The City Council approved at the March 17 City Council meeting a resolution allowing the City to hold remote, electronic Council meetings as needed. As with any public meeting a minimum of 24 hours public notice is required, and the notice would include how the public can participate as well. In addition, all Boards and Commission meetings for the remainder of March, the month of April and first week in May have been canceled with hope to resume soon after.

### **2020 City of Fruita Municipal Election**

Ballots for the upcoming municipal election were mailed this week and have reached residents. There is a drop-box at the Civic Center to turn in ballots, or they can be mailed in using the envelope provided with the ballot. Ballots must be received by April 7, 2020 at 7pm, after which they will be tallied and reported. We have received 21 ballots as of 3/19/2020.

### **Coronavirus Update**

It is no surprise, but a consistent reminder that the Fruita community is AWESOME! This has been a tough week to say the least. I am humbled by how amazing the majority of our community is responding to such a unique and uncharted reality with response to COVID-19. During times like these, we rely on training and focusing on the tried and true principles and basics that lead us to sound, effective decisions. I assure you that our team is functioning in this manner and I am proud of the expertise and leadership that is provided behind the scenes to maintain core services, make critical decisions and communicate. As always, we work in partnerships with many other groups and agencies and those continue to be strong. While we are all feeling the impacts to this temporary reality, the many precautionary measures to limit exposure or spread is our best effort to impact the outcome; however, we feel for those who are lonely, scared, or in need. We feel for our small businesses that are essential to the local economy and are encouraged and

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

applaud those who are trying their best to continue to shop local within the restrictive precautions we are all following.

I encourage the City Council and the public to continue to review our continuous updates found at <https://www.fruita.org/covid19>. At this site, you will find all City updates related to the COVID-19 response as well as links to other essential sites to follow, which include Mesa County Health Department, the State of Colorado, and the CDC. In addition to City information, the City is following the guidelines of each of these agencies. We are in constant coordination with these and many other agencies receiving regular, direct communication from them.

Lastly, I want to address the topic of a Declaration of Emergency. As the City Council is aware, this is a formal action that I as the City Manager have the authority to issue, by state statute, our Emergency Operations Plan, and your vote last Tuesday. If issued, we would schedule a City Council meeting for the Council to ratify within seven days. In an effort to avoid eliciting undue panic with such an issuance, I wanted to clarify why we would issue this declaration. First, we would issue if the County does, which is common practice and to support the local declaration. Mesa County plans to issue such a declaration if there are confirmed community transmissions of additional positive tests (to the current isolated one case) or a declaration of the Governor for a shelter in place—neither of which have occurred. Second, if there is a type of federal or state aid for the City, Fruita residents or local businesses that would require such, we would issue. To date, this is not the case of any pending aid requiring such, so we are ready and monitoring, but not issuing, simply to issue.

### **Fruita Community Center, Fruita Police Department, and City Shops Closed Indefinitely**

As of March 18, 2020, the City of Fruita Police Department and City Shops building are closed to the public until further notice. These closures are purely precautionary and will allow our staff members to conduct a deep cleaning of each facility. The Fruita Community Center (“FCC”) has been closed since March 15, 2020. Again, this closure was a preventative measure and we are not aware of any patrons at the FCC have been test positive for the Coronavirus or have exhibited symptoms. All recreation programming is also postponed until April 6, 2020, but this is subject to change.

With the FCC closure, we have received a number of questions regarding billing of monthly passes and prepaid memberships. For those patrons who are set up with automated monthly billing through a credit card or automatic debits to checking/savings accounts, the FCC will NOT be automatically debiting bank accounts or charging credits. We anticipate that automatic billing will be re-instituted in April. For those patrons who have prepaid for a 3-month or 12-month membership to the FCC, your membership expiration will be extended to reflect the length of the closure.

### **Community Center Staff Create Public Way to Donate and Distribute Perishables and Learning Materials**

Let’s spread some Fruita love! Outside of the community center there will be carts with learning materials and food. They will be out Monday- Friday 7:30-4:30 and Saturday 8:30-4:30. This is purely on donations by our lovely community. Right now we have some kids books, puzzles, and a bag of dog food. We’re looking for perishables and learning materials. Please remember to be kind and keep your space when others are there. We also have some information on food banks in the valley. Spread the love Fruita! If you want to donate but are unable to get out, please email [mnelson@fruita.org](mailto:mnelson@fruita.org) to schedule a pick up donation.

## 2020 Census Now Available (cont'd)

The 2020 Census is now available to be taken online and over the phone! To take the Census, you will need your 12-digit Census ID (should arrive by mail) and go to [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov) or call 1.844.330.2020 for English and 1.844.468.2020 for Spanish. There are additional languages that can be found [here](#). Census information is used for a variety of reasons. It's important, it's easy, and it is safe.

Shape  
your future  
START HERE >

United States<sup>®</sup>  
Census  
2020

## General Updates

- Greg Wolfgang, who has been in the role of acting Grand Junction Field Manager for the Bureau of Land Management is now appointed as the permanent Field Manager. We have enjoyed working with Greg and look forward to continuing to work with he and the local team.
- Will keep this brief as much of the work has been continuously working on the response.
- However, with the exception of the Community Center and programs, all services have continued and have remained busy.
- Construction in the city and planning permits have not slowed.
- Staff are conducting meetings via video conference. We have tested out remote working and other means to keep 6-foot distances and maintain continuity of operations.
- Internal policies related to teleworking, leave (in accordance with new federal laws) are being finalized and implemented.
- Community Center staff are providing lots of helpful Facebook posts for people going stir crazy at home.
- Food Bank of the Rockies distributed about 100 boxes of food to residents outside the Community Center Thursday.
- Agape Food Bank at the Civic Center distributed Wednesday outside the building.

## Administration

- Waste Management's E-Cycle event, that was originally scheduled for April 4, 2020, has been postponed until a later date.

## Engineering

- 16 Road Trail Extension Project has started placing concrete this week along the 16 Road side. Trail extension will continue along the north side of the industrial park lake in connect to Cipolla Road.
- 2020 K.4 Rd. Improvements Project bids Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 1:30 pm.

## **Human Resources**

- Next week, the St. Mary's Bloodmobile will be at the Civic Center on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 between 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 pm. accepting blood donations.

## **Parks and Recreation**

- With the Community Center closure, the following upcoming events have been cancelled: Night at the FCC that was scheduled for 3/27/20; the Easter Egg Scramble that was scheduled for 4/20/20; and the Arbor Day Celebration that was scheduled for 4/22/20.
- Staff was able to perform a variety of deep cleaning/de-sanitizing of the Community Center this week. Staff treated it as a mini-maintenance week, and much time was spent on ensuring that the facility is more than adequately cleaned during the closure.
- With our parks open, playground equipment is being thoroughly cleaned daily with a disinfectant power wash and the park restrooms that remain open are regularly cleaned as well.

## **Planning & Development**

To see active reviews of current projects, you may visit: <https://www.fruita.org/cd/page/current-development-projects>

### **Major/ Minor Subdivisions:**

- Dwell PUD Concept Plan
- Bradyville Minor Subdivision

### **Site Design Review:**

- Coloramo Site Design Review (333 W Aspen)
- Monument Powder Coating (1596 Cipolla)
- Pediatric Dental Specialist (197 & 101 Jurassic)

## **Police Department**

- Detective Dicamillo, as part of the 21<sup>st</sup> Judicial District Critical Incident Response Team, is assisting with the investigation of an officer-involved shooting that occurred in Grand Junction Tuesday night.

## **Public Works**

- Public Works has maintenance staff dedicated toward cleaning and disinfecting buildings and will have a new custodian joining the team starting next week.
- The City received a draft wastewater permit for review from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment this past week, which has not been renewed since the WWRF opened in 2012. The draft permit appears to include quite a few (over 20) new numerical or monitoring requirements at the plant, as well as requirements to monitor stream temperatures on the Colorado River. Staff is reviewing the draft permit to understand the feasibility of meeting the new requirements and the costs that might be associated. A public notice for this permit has

- also been issued with the public comment period ending on April 13, 2020.  
<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/cdphe/wq-public-notice-actions>
- Carpet was replaced in the Civic Center this week in the second-floor hallway and in the court office. The carpet replacement for the Council Chambers is scheduled to occur this coming week.

#### **FRUITA IN THE NEWS (and regional news of impact to Fruita):**

- [GJ church makes masks for Fruita hospital.](#)
- [Palisade, Fruita announces closures amid COVID-19.](#)
- [2020 census invitations go out.](#)
- [Legislature poised to shut down over COVID-19 concerns.](#)
- [Here's why the Land and Water Conservation Fund is good for all Americans.](#)
- [Local restaurants impacted by COVID-19 outbreak.](#)
- [Mesa County Valley School District 51 announced closure until April 10.](#)
- [Closures around the Western Slope due to COVID-19 concerns.](#)
- [D51 Deep Cleans to fight COVID-19.](#)
- [Governor Polis orders all dine in restaurants, gyms, casinos, theaters to temporarily shut down statewide.](#)
- [Palisade Food Bank preparing for needs to increase.](#)
- [List of resources for COVID-19 information.](#)
- [HS athletes work through recruiting without competition.](#)
- [Your guide to restaurants around the Grand Valley amidst COVID-19 concerns.](#)
- [Fruita Chamber Announces Response to COVID-19.](#)
- [City Market to shift hours to meet senior citizens shopper needs.](#)
- [Polis orders salons, spas, tattoo shops and massage parlors to close temporarily.](#)
- [Mesa County Public Health suspends open burning due to COVID-19 impacts.](#)

**UPCOMING EVENTS** *(Please 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 when needed.):*

- **April 18, 2020** – Youth Scholarship Golf Tournament, Adobe Creek Golf Course at 9:00 a.m.
- **April 22, 2020** – Start the Conversation on the topic of Social Media Use, Fruita Community Center from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- **May 1, 2020 – May 3, 2020** – Fruita Fat Tire Festival, 18 Road Trailhead and Downtown Fruita.
- **May 2, 2020** – Girls on the Run 5K at 9:00 a.m. at the Fruita Community Center
- **May 6, 2020** - Bike to Work Day, 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., at Civic Center or Heritage Park.
- **May 29, 2020 – May 30, 2020** – Mike the Headless Chicken Festival, Downtown Fruita.
- The Fruita Community Calendar is available on the website or at this [link](#).

CC. Department Directors

Do you have questions about anything in the Weekly Information Update? Please feel free to email us at [communications@fruita.org](mailto:communications@fruita.org).



**MESA COUNTY  
PUBLIC HEALTH**  

---

**HOTLINE**  
**(970)683-2300**

# WE KNOW YOU ARE WORRIED

Mesa County Public Health is working to keep our community informed.



Aim your camera  
at this code



Get the latest information about COVID-19 at  
**[health.mesacounty.us/COVID19](https://health.mesacounty.us/COVID19)**

For general questions about COVID-19 call **1-877-462-2991**.

## Public Health Recommendations (As of 3/9/20)

- If you are experiencing symptoms like a cough, fever, or respiratory problems, call your health care provider **FIRST**. **Do not go to the emergency room**. Emergency rooms need to be able to serve those people with the most critical needs. If you are having a medical emergency, call 9-1-1.
- Do not go to a health care facility in person unless directed by phone or if it's a medical emergency. If you are in Mesa County and believe you were exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19 or if you are a health care provider with questions, call 970-254-4120.
- Stay home when sick.
- Practice excellent personal hygiene habits, including hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes, and avoiding touching your face.
- Stay away from people that are ill, especially if you are 60 and older, or have underlying medical conditions, or if you are pregnant.
- Avoid non-essential travel to impacted areas. Stay up-to-date on travel advisories.



**WHY FRUITA?** The City of Fruita focuses on three strategic outcomes built upon a base of providing quality core services.

**Quality of Place (QP)** The City of Fruita is a community where residents and visitors love where they are. The City strives to be a bike and pedestrian friendly community by providing a system of sidewalks, trails, and bike lanes that connect our parks, schools, neighborhoods, civic facilities, and commercial areas. We value safe neighborhoods, our geographic natural resources and landscapes, top tier education and healthcare, and we collaborate to provide quality essential infrastructure and services. We are an inclusive community of doers who enjoy active and healthy lifestyles.

**Economic Health (EH)** The City of Fruita strives to be financially sustainable by enabling a stable economy and supporting a diversity of businesses that offer well-paying jobs that attract educated employees. The City works to be fiscally responsible and continuously seeks ways to allocate resources to services and projects that have the highest impact on the City's priorities. We are the innovative leader for economic development in the Grand Valley.

**Lifestyle (L)** The City of Fruita fosters a fun and funky ambiance by celebrating the local arts, farm and ranching history, unique leisure opportunities, and family-friendly events and activities. As a city, we encourage a diversity of cultural opportunities, businesses, and recreational activities. We continue to improve and enhance recreational offerings from traditional to outdoor adventure sports and youth to adult activities. We are a family-friendly community with diverse cultural opportunities, businesses and recreational amenities where visitors feel like locals and locals play like visitors.





# FRUITA COLORADO



*City of Fruita staff strive to emulate these core behaviors in everything we do in order to show gratitude for public trust, build trust and maintain trust with the public, our partner agencies and with one another.*

## **We are Fruita. We are...**

**Fun**—This is such a critical behavior that impacts everything we do. If we are not having fun, we must ask why and recalculate and adjust. We must love what we do and where we work, live and play. We are positive and put forth focused effort to have a positive attitude. We are smiling. We are friendly. We enjoy serving the public and working together. We care about the experience those who interact with us internally and externally have.

**Respectful**—We are empathetic. We take an active interest in each other, residents, businesses and visitors. We listen. We talk one at a time. We compliment and build up others. We are tough on issues and easy on people. We recognize the role of City Council, Board and Commission Members, residents, supervisors, coworkers and customers. We are kind. We treat people with dignity. We embrace diversity and make every effort to think collectively.

**United**—We are a team. We focus on purpose and work together to achieve our goals. We communicate effectively with each other. We seek consensus, agree to disagree and move forward for the greater good. We support each other. We value partnerships that help us achieve our goals. We remember we are public stewards and serve. We are inclusive. We create synergy by recognizing our strengths and weaknesses and succeeding as a team.

**Innovative**—Simplicity is our key to innovation. We consider and explore alternatives to the way we've always done it. We are open to new ideas. We welcome calculated risk-taking and learning from our mistakes. We seek continuous improvement and welcome constructive feedback. We ask why and why not. We work to continually improve.

**Transparent**—We operate as an open book. We create, over communicate and reinforce clarity in our work. We are trustworthy. We assume a positive intent from others. We work with integrity. We seek ways to increase transparency internally and externally.

**Authentic**—We are unique. We are real. We are different. We are special. We are optimistic. We are exceptional and proud of it. We are comfortable being different. We are open-minded. We are honest. We embrace and value family. We live what we speak. We create clear expectations and work hard to manage those expectations.