



FRUITA COLORADO

Weekly Info Update



To: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
From: MIKE BENNETT, CITY MANAGER
Date: AUGUST 7, 2020
Re: WEEKLY INFORMATION UPDATE

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Update on Pine Gulch Fire

The Pine Gulch Fire, located 18 miles north of Grand Junction, has continued to be very active this week. The fire started last Friday when lightning struck the area. As of Thursday night, it is estimated that the fire is at 12,608 acres and is 5% contained. There are over 300 firefighters from several different organizations working to get the fire contained. For the latest information, there has been a Facebook page created just for the fire, and it can be found at this [link](#). Thank you to everyone is working to put this fire out and keeping our communities safe. We will continue to keep you updated on this.

Coronavirus Update

Below are a few updates, but I would strongly encourage all to continue to follow www.fruita.org/covid19 for all updates we are posting. This also links to important Mesa County Public Health sources, as well as many others.

- **Virtual Q&A.** Next Tuesday morning, the Fruita Chamber is hosting a virtual Q&A with Mesa County Public Health Executive Director Jeff Kuhr and our Planning and Development Director Dan Caris. Jeff Kuhr will be answering questions to help businesses understand current COVID restrictions and guidelines, and Dan will be providing an update on upcoming projects in Fruita to help businesses. The meeting will be held via Zoom, and you can find more information and register [here](#).
- **CHSAA Announces Athletics Calendar.** On Tuesday, the Colorado High School Activities Association announced its 2020-2021 athletics and activities calendar. The only sports that will be held this fall are Cross Country, Boys Golf, Boys Tennis, and Softball. All other fall sports have been moved to next year. Also, each season is approximately seven weeks from start to finish, and season competition and postseasons has been reduced. For more information, including to see the full schedule, you can visit CHSAA's website [here](#).
- **Northwest Region DOLA Meeting on COVID-19.** On Thursday, staff attended a virtual meeting with the Department of Local Affairs Leadership and members of the Governor's COVID-19 Response Team to receive an update on the state's response to the virus. These division meetings will be ongoing and elected officials are encouraged to attend and ask questions. A few highlights from the meeting is that

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

the state acknowledged that test turnaround times have become a problem, but they are working on a way to expedite the tests for processing. In addition, the state is starting to plan for the fall and winter months. We will let you know when the next call will be if you are interested.

Sad News

It is with a heavy heart that we share the news that Mary Van Ackeren passed away on Wednesday after a brave fight with cancer. Mary has been employed with the City of Fruita since May of 2006 where she served as a planning technician and, for the past 5 years, has provided administrative support for Public Works. She was an amazing person that valued relationships and enjoyed helping others. She will be deeply missed. No details on final arrangements are available yet.



General Updates

- **Grand Valley Task Force Meeting.** The Grand Valley Task Force, which Councilman Harvey is a part of, will have its next meeting at the Fruita Community Center next Thursday (August 13) from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The Task Force was recently formed to address issues of inequality, and is comprised of community leaders, elected officials, social advocacy representatives, and members of the police.
- **Great American Outdoors Act.** This week, President Trump signed the Great American Outdoors Act. The act funds the Land Water Conservation Fund ("LWCF") and provides additional funding for maintenance for national parks. More information can be found [here](#). In the past, the Council has supported and requested our federal representatives to fully fund the LWCF.

Administration

- In accordance with District Court orders, the Fruita Municipal Court will continue with video court appearances through September 4, 2020. Any questions regarding Municipal Court changes during COVID-19 can be sent [here](#).

Engineering

- The city-wide re-striping work is tentatively planned for Tuesday 8/18 & Wednesday 8/19.

Human Resources

- We are currently accepting applications for a seasonal Custodian position with Public Works and a Personal Trainer at the Fruita Community Center. To view the job postings or to find more information, you can visit our website [here](#).
- The St. Mary's Bloodmobile will be in the Civic Center parking lot on Tuesday, August 11, 2020 accepting blood donations from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Due to COVID-19, donations can be made by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, please visit www.stmarysbloodcenter.org,

Parks and Recreation

- Fruita Community Center staff is planning to close the indoor pool starting on August 24th, or two weeks prior to the scheduled closure on September 7th, to repair and replaster the pool. The outdoor pool will remain open and available until the indoor pool is ready to reopen in late September. The additional two weeks of indoor pool closure will provide personnel, chemical and water cost savings, but will also allow us to make necessary repairs to the pool.
- Mesa County Public Health has applied for a GOCO Resilient Communities grant to fund a trails maintenance crew for the Fall and next year. The crew will perform additional maintenance on trails that have been degraded due to the increased usage as a result of COVID, i.e. people increasing participation or (re)discovering outdoor recreation. The City of Fruita, along with COPMOBA, BLM, our local businesses and the City of Grand Junction have all provided varying grant matches (in-kind or financial) and letters of support.
- The Fruita youth Action Council is kicking off their 2020/21 year with a retreat this coming Monday, August 10th. With 6 new members, FYAC will do some team building exercises and then discuss the upcoming years goals and activities. We are excited that we have 20 interested and engage youth on FYAC this year.

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 (Approved)
- Bradyville Minor Subdivision (Approved)
- Cider Mills Preliminary Plan (Approved)

Site Design Review/ Other Applications:

- Coloramo Site Design Review (333 W Aspen) (Under Construction)
- Monument Powder Coating (1596 Cipolla) (Approved)
- Pediatric Dental Specialist (197 & 101 Jurassic) (Approved)
- Sycamore St ROW Vacation (Approved)
- Lithic Arts Building Site Design Review (Approved)

Police Department

- Our newest police officer, Robert Sharrar, started with us this week. Officer Sharrar has about 7 years of experience in several different areas of the criminal justice system. Welcome, Robert!

Public Works

- Road crews worked on repairing some erosion on the edge of S. 19 Road near Adobe Creek this week and filled a sink hole in S. Maple Street near Stone Mountain Subdivision. Staff is working with the Grand Valley Drainage District to investigate the cause of the sink hole further.
- Staff is working to program all flashing school zone signs for the start of the fall semester. You will start to see signs flashing during scheduled arrival and departure times next week to test the system prior to the Aug. 17th start of school.

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

- [Pine Gulch Fire grows to more than 9,000 acres near Grand Junction.](#)
- [Mesa County real estate activity picking up.](#)
- [CHSAA releases calendar, several sports pushed back.](#)
- [Farmer's Markets on the Western Slope.](#)
- [President signs bill to fully fund LWCF.](#)
- [County responds to business concern on mask mandate.](#)

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.):*

- **June 20 – Sept. 19**, the Fruita Farmer's Market will be every Saturday from 8:30 am – 12:00 pm at Reed Park during these dates.
- **August 13, 2020** – Fruita Chamber Business After Hours at Imondi Wake Zone, 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- *Due to Public Health Orders in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, most events remain cancelled for the time being.*

CC. Department Directors

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



**MESA COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH**

HOTLINE
(970)683-2300



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.