



FRUITA COLORADO



Weekly Info Update

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To: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
From: MIKE BENNETT, CITY MANAGER
Date: DECEMBER 22, 2023
Re: WEEKLY INFORMATION UPDATE

Happy Holidays!

City Offices will be closed next Monday, December 25, 2023, in observance of Christmas Day.

Trash and recycling services will be delayed by one day next week. Happy Holidays Fruita!

City of Fruita Adopts 2024 Annual Budget

During the regular City Council meeting on Tuesday, December 19, 2023, the Fruita City Council formally adopted the 2024 Municipal Budget. The budget includes \$27.3 million in projected revenues (excluding transfers from other funds and other financing sources), and \$33.8 million in proposed expenditures between all funds. Highlights from the budget included continued investments in Fruita's infrastructure such as road, bridges, and sidewalks, significant improvements to downtown Fruita, important wastewater and sewer projects, and several projects to improve the quality of place and community wellness of Fruita.

The 2024 Adopted Budget reflects the commitment of the City Council and staff to achieve a balance of a conservative fiscal policy while also allocating time, talent, and resources to defined areas of Fruita's Economic Health, Quality of Place, and Lifestyle. If you are interested in learning more information, you can visit our website here: [2024 Municipal Budget](#).

Life Saving Effort at the FCC

Four Aquatics staff members responded to a call that a young man had collapsed on the gym floor while playing basketball on Monday night. The Aquatics Team and Fruita Community Staff responded quickly providing medical care and support to the young man while EMS was in route. They administered three rounds of CPR with

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

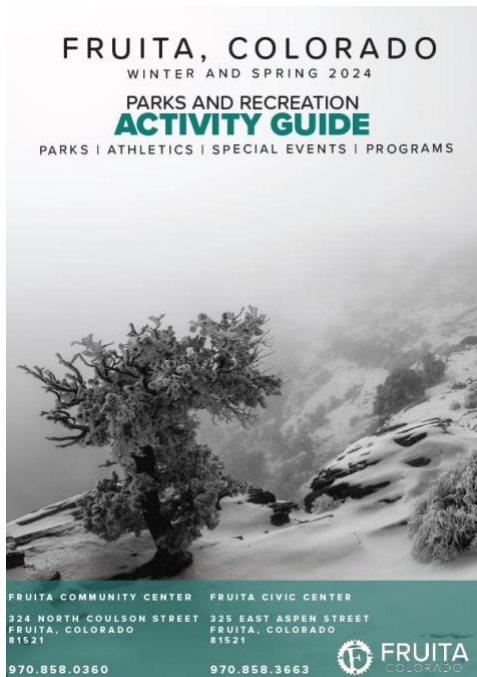
rescue breaths and utilized the AED providing two shocks getting a pulse. Their quick response saved this young man's life.

Enoch's Lake

During the regular City Council meeting on Tuesday, the Fruita City Council approved to sale Enoch's Lake to Stan Muhr, Rodney C. Power and Ronald E. Tipping who made an offer to the City of Fruita to buy Enoch's Lake while the property was listed for sale on the real estate market. The offer was for \$500,000 and forgiveness of \$145,393.35 of non-monetary obligation to Mr. Tipping per the 2013 Agreement between the City of Fruita and Mr. Tipping. Enoch's Lake was listed for sale on the real estate market for 40 days in which during this time, anyone who was interested in purchasing Enoch's Lake had the opportunity to submit an offer. However, the offer mentioned above was the only one the City of Fruita received. To read the history of Enoch's Lake and the other Fruita Mountain Water Properties, including a timeline of the public process over the past year, please visit fruita.org/mountainproperties.

Winter/Spring Activity Guide Now Available

As of today, the Winter/Spring Activity Guide and program registration is available and open to the public! Take a look at the guide to learn about programming available for all ages. A few highlights include new programming like pickleball activities and valentine day themed events, registration for the annual Sweetheart 5K/10K Run, and other popular programming like swim lessons, volleyball, and basketball. You might notice a new look/design for the guide as well with modern touches and easier navigation! Visit fruita.org/activityguide to learn more.



Waste Management Automated Trash Mailer

Next week, Fruita residents will receive a mailer from Waste Management explaining the transition to the automated collection system. The mailer can be found below or online. During the weeks of January 8-26, 2024, a 96-gallon cart will be delivered to Fruita homes if the household doesn't already have one. Learn more about this transition at fruita.org/trashcollection.

Reed Park Construction Update (Continued)

The contractor has started and is moving quickly with the demolition of facilities. The playground equipment, the restroom facility, playground safety material, horseshoe pits, and concrete surrounding the playground have been removed. The contractor will provide a 3-week schedule with upcoming work and that will be included in future updates, along with on [the project page](#), and on social media

Reed Park Merry-Go-Round

The merry-go-round at Reed Park is nostalgic for most, with many memories from childhood. With the redesign of Reed Park, we've received questions about what will happen to the merry-go-round. A new merry-go-round is planned with the redesign, and we are happy to share that the old merry-go-round will be repurposed into artwork that will be displayed in the new park! City Council had the opportunity to take one last spin for old times' sake before demolition began last week!



Fiber Construction Update (Continued)

Next Week (December 25, 2023), Clearnetworx/Deeply Digital, an internet service provider, will be constructing in the following areas:

- Restoration Efforts: Windsor Park, Cotton Woods, Grace Park, McCune Avenue, North Maple Street, Kiefer Avenue (to US-6&50), Grand Avenue (to US-6&50), Red Rocks, Evening Breeze, Santa Fe Ranch, Amethyst Drive, West Roberson Drive, Sierra Drive, Orchard Valley, Pinedale Estates, Echo Canyon Estates, Village at Country Creek, East Columbia Avenue (between North

Maple Street and 18 Road, including all cul-de-sacs between K Road and East Pabor Avenue), 18 Road.

- Excavation and Restoration Efforts: Comstock Estates, Comstock West, Monument Glen, K Road.
- Excavation Efforts: Us 6&50

For questions and comments on fiber internet, please call Clearnetworkx/Deeply Digital at 970-240-6600. Learn more about fiber internet in Fruita at fruita.org/fiberinternet. Below is an example of some of the communications residents can expect from Clearnetworkx/Deeply Digital. Residents should receive a door hanger prior to construction beginning in their neighborhood.

Weekly FAQ

In every weekly update, we will be answering one question we get asked often from the community. These questions will cover a variety of topics from all city departments. If you have any questions, you think would be valuable for us to share, let us know by emailing communications@fruita.org.

- **Question:** How can I learn more about Boards and Commissions?
- **Answer:** The best way to learn about Fruita's Boards and Commissions is to visit fruita.org/bc. On this page, you can read about the different boards we have, what vacancies there are, and when boards meet. All meetings are open to the public, and attending a meeting is a great way to get a feel for the board and see if it is something you want to be a part of.

General Updates

- **November Recycling Report.** In November, Fruita residents recycled 42 tons of bottles, cans, paper, and cardboard. Great job, Fruita! The full report from Waste Management can be found below.
- **Strong Communities Grant Program Update.** We were recently informed by the Colorado Department of Local Affairs that we were not selected to move forward in the grant selection process. This grant, focused on affordable housing projects, is extremely competitive and we will be looking into other grant opportunities.
- **City Engagement Event Recap.** We had such a fun group for our last engagement event of the year! With 14 people in attendance, we were able to have great discussions. The group discussed the 2024 budget, new developments in Fruita, the Fruita Academy, Boards and Commissions, and so much more. Keep an eye out for 2024 dates and times!
- **2023 Winter City Link.** Fruita residents can expect to see the winter City Link in their mailboxes over the next few weeks. This City Link covers the 2024 budget, the Waste Management transition, information on the upcoming 2024 election, and more. You can also read the City Link online at fruita.org/communications.
- **Shelledy Elementary School Carolers.** Two thumbs up to all the Shelledy Elementary School Carolers this week! They all did a fabulous job singing, and we were so happy to have the opportunity to enjoy the show. Happy holidays!



- ***Special Wreath from Ken Henry.*** We had a special visit from former Mayor Ken Henry this week! Each year, Ken Henry takes the time to place holiday wreaths at Veteran grave sites in Fruita annually. He was so thoughtful and brought one to the Civic Center for us to hang up. Thank you, Ken!



Parks and Recreation

- ***Gingerbread House Decorating Contest.*** Youth activities put on a gingerbread house decorating contest for youth ages 5 to 17. The contest will award a winner to Best in Show and Most Creative. We had 10 submissions and hope to grow next year!
- ***New Guest Services Specialist.*** Patricia Larson has been promoted from the Guest Services Attendant to the Facility Specialist position. She has been an asset to the front desk team and will now fill an important leadership role at the front desk.

Planning & Development

To see active reviews of current projects, you may visit fruita.org/projects.

Major/ Minor Subdivisions:

- Copper Creek West Preliminary Plan (Approved) (954 19 Road) (138 Lots)
- Iron Wheel 2 Final Plat (Under Review) (19 Road) (46 Lots)
- Adele's Acres Subdivision (Under Review) (1024 19 Road) (48 Lots)
- Kismet Minor Subdivision (Under Construction) (460 N. Mesa St) (3 Lots)
- PSE Minor Subdivision (Approved) (1558 River Road) (2 Lots)
- LaPointe Minor Subdivision (Under Review) (1050 E. Ottley Avenue) (4 Lots)
- Sunset Pointe Preliminary PUD Plan (Approved) (Parcel # 2697-091-80-001) (122 Lots)
- North Mesa Minor Subdivision (Approved) (155 N. Mesa Street) (2 Lots)
- Weston Estates Preliminary Plan (Under Review) (1877 J 2/10 Road; Parcel # 26997-164-00-050 & 2697-164-00-074) (109 Lots)
- Berg Minor Subdivision (Under Review) (1806 J 3/10 Rd) (2 Lots)

Site Design Review/ Other Applications:

- Ottley Suites Site Design Review (Approved) (722 Ottley Avenue)
- Pediatric Dental Specialists Site Design Review (Approved) (101 Jurassic Avenue)
- The Fruita Mews (Under Construction) (1138 18.5 Road)
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Site Design Review (Under Construction) (417 E Ottley Ave)
- A Storage Place Site Design Review and Minor Subdivision (Under Review) (1960 & 1966 Hwy 6 & 50)
- My Storage Fruita (Approved) (1930 Highway 6 & 50)
- Raptor Crossing (Under Review) (853 Raptor Road)
- 535 W. Aspen Apartments (Under Construction) (535 W. Aspen Avenue)
- Wildcat Residences (Under Review) (1807 Wildcat Avenue)
- City Market Fueling Station Conditional Use Permit (Under Review) (437 W Aspen Avenue)
- 1873 K Road Annexation & Rezone (Under Review) (1873 K Road)

Public Works

- **Colorado River water rights.** The City's Attorney filed the Response to Summary of Consultation with the State of Colorado for the due diligence that is required every six years for the city's Colorado River water rights. The State will review this Response and let the city know if it needs additional information. Otherwise, the city will prepare a proposed ruling for the Court's consideration.
- **End of year maintenance.** As the year wraps up, Public Works crews are busy completing routine maintenance items.
- **Locate Training.** The streets crew continues with utility locate training as that responsibility will shift to the Streets Division after the new year.
- **Utility Locates.** Utility Staff completed 138 utility locates for the week and is assisting the Engineering Department with utility potholing on S. Mesa St.

- **Collections.** The Utilities Division received a new 275-gallon tote of grease reduction biological treatment to assist with fats, oils, and grease, removal within the collections system. Staff continues with lift station inspections, assisting in utility locating training, and sewer cleaning.
- **Power upgrade coordination.** Public Works Superintendent is beginning coordination with Grand Valley Power for power upgrade at King's View Lift Station scheduled for replacement in 2024 and approved in the 2024 Annual Budget.
- **E. Coli Testing Procedures.** Public Works Director participated in a meeting with USGS, City of Grand Junction, Mesa County, Ute Water, and the Colorado River District to discuss additional E. Coli testing on Leach Creek and Adobe Creek.

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

- [Upgraded section of Riverfront Trail re-opens.](#)
- [The Fruita Wildcats are ranked #1 in the state.](#)
- [Recalled granola bars and cereal may have been sold in Mesa County.](#)
- [D51 school board approves resolution to close Fruita 8/9 school.](#)
- [County eyes law aimed at trucks avoiding Port of Entry.](#)
- [D51, Fruita PD release joint statement addressing incident at Rim Rock Elementary.](#)
- [Wolves are here: 5 released on Monday.](#)
- [Fruita adopts 2024 budget, includes 19 Road overhaul.](#)
- [Blue lake special: Fruita votes to sell Enoch's Lake.](#)
- [Economists: TABOR refunds coming, but lower in future years.](#)
- [Mesa County jail population drops to lowest level since 2016.](#)
- [Need somewhere to shop for last minute gifts? These local businesses have you covered.](#)
- [CDOT adopts new tactics to reduce winter closures and improve safety on I-70.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS *(Please let Jennifer Cupp know if you plan to attend so we can RSVP for you)*

- **January 11, 2023** – Business After Hours, Fruita Community Center, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- **January 26, 2024** – Night at the FCC, 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
- **February 10, 2024** – Fruita Sweetheart Run at the Fruita Community Center, 10:00 a.m.
- **March 28, 2024** – Easter Egg Scramble, 4:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Fruita Community Center backyard.
- **April 27, 2024** – Fishing is Fun at Snooks Bottom, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

CC. Department Directors

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



CITY OF FRUITA

NOVEMBER 2023 RECYCLING BENEFITS

42 tons of bottles, cans, paper and cardboard were recycled by the community this month.

This month's recycling efforts saved the following resources:

675 Mature Trees

Represents enough saved timber resources to produce 11,474,000 sheets of printing and copy paper!

97 Cubic Yards of Landfill Airspace

Enough airspace to fulfill the annual municipal waste disposal needs for 124 people!

97,205 kWh of Electricity

Enough power to fulfill the annual electricity needs of 9 homes!

Avoided 115 Metric Tons (MTCO₂E) of GHG Emissions

This GHG reduction is equivalent to removing annual emissions from 24 passenger vehicles!

205,542 Gallons of Water

Represents enough saved water to meet the daily fresh water needs of 2,740 people!

To learn more about recycling, visit [WM.com/RecycleRight](https://www.wm.com/RecycleRight).

Always remember to Recycle Right



Recycle clean bottles, cans, paper, and cardboard.



Keep food and liquid out of your recycling.



No loose plastic bags and no bagged recyclables.

PREPARED BY WM

Sources: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Energy Information Administration, Environmental Paper Network-Paper Calculator V4.0, Domtar Paper, Gaylord Corporation, U.S. Forest Products Laboratory, and WM.

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Notes: GHG = Greenhouse Gas; MTCO₂E = Metric Tons of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent



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.