



FRUITA COLORADO

Weekly Info Update



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To: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
From: MIKE BENNETT, CITY MANAGER
Date: SEPTEMBER 15, 2023
Re: WEEKLY INFORMATION UPDATE

The Civic Center will be closed to the public next Friday, September 22, 2023, for set up of the Fruita Fall Festival. Administration and Planning will still be available by phone.

The Fruita Community Center will be closed from Monday, September 18 – Sunday, September 24, 2023, for annual maintenance. The Fruita Branch of the Mesa County Library will remain open.

Tuesday's City Council Meeting

Our meeting on Tuesday will begin with a quick introduction with the new principal of Fruita Monument High School, Newt Klusmire. After that, there are only a few items on the consent agenda and one public hearing regarding a supplemental budget amendment. For administrative reports and actions, we will discuss a draft MOU with the Grand Junction Economic Partnership (and also hear from their Executive Director) and discuss the next steps for the Mountain Water properties. See you on Tuesday night!

Pine Street Bridge Opened This Week

The Pine Street Bridge officially reopened on Wednesday night! Thank you Fruita for your patience throughout this project.



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

City Engagement Event Next Week with Family Health West

Cupcakes and conversations! Join City Manager Mike Bennett and Family Health West CEO Dr. Klein at Circle Park next Wednesday at 1 p.m. for casual conversations about the City of Fruita and Family Health West. These events are free and open to the public. Come to ask questions or to learn more about your community! We hope to see you there!



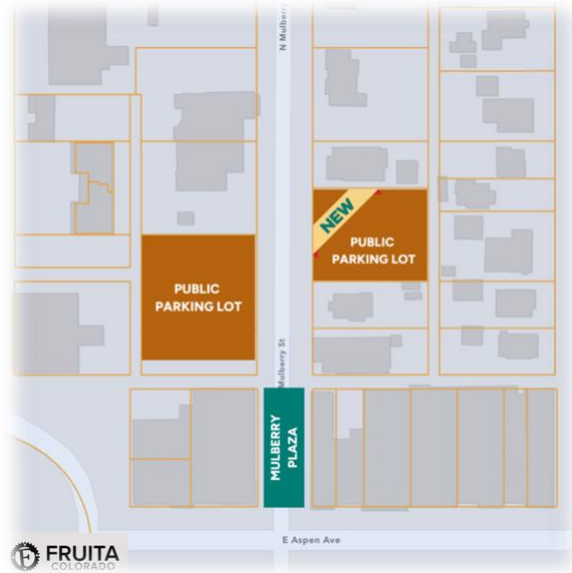
The HeART of Fruita Art Exhibition Recap

Wednesday night the Arts and Culture Board hosted the art exhibition to celebrate the first three sculptures as part of the HeART of Fruita rotating art program. The event started at the FARM and attendees participated in a walking tour to see all three pieces. It was a fantastic event, and we are ecstatic to see this program come to life!



Temporary Public Parking Signs Installed

Public parking in the gravel parking lot north of the Mulberry Plaza will be available for use later today. Crews are working to install the new signage for the lot, and signage will be installed by the end of the day. The lot will be open for public parking, but trailers/RVs will not be allowed.



US 6 & 50 Road Project – Colorado Department of Transportation (Continued)

The Colorado Department of Transportation announced on Thursday, September 7, River Road will be closed for three weeks starting Sunday, September 10, for the Union Pacific Railroad construction. Starting September 18, 20 Road will be fully closed north of US 6 for two weeks. Residents and visitors will see crews placing barriers and traffic control until closures begin this Sunday. To learn more and for project updates visit CDOT's website at <https://www.codot.gov/projects/us620roadfruita>

Fiber Construction Update (Continued)

Next Week (September 18, 2023), Clearnetworx/Deeply Digital, an internet service provider, will be constructing along Windsor Park Subdivision, Red Rocks, Catalina Avenue, and J 2/10 Road. For questions and comments on fiber internet, please call Clearnetworx/Deeply Digital at 970-240-6600. Learn more about fiber internet in Fruita at fruita.org/fiberinternet.

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:** When will city irrigation water be turned off?

- **Answer:** Typically, City irrigation water turns off mid to late October. This date range could change based on predictions for extreme cold weather.

General Updates

- **Financial Reports.** The full financial reports for tax collections in July 2023 can be found in the packet for the City Council meeting next week, at this link (when available): [Fruita City Council Meeting – September 19, 2023](#). Here is a quick overview of the report:
 - **City Sales Tax** - We continue to see increases in City sales tax collections, and July 2023 was up 6% when compared to the prior year. Overall, City sales tax collections is trending at an increase of 8% year-to-date.
 - **Use Taxes** – Use Taxes on Motor Vehicles decreased 15% in July compared to the previous year and is trending and at a decrease of 10% overall. It is still trending ahead of the 2023 Budget. On the other hand, Use Taxes on Building Materials increased 125% in July, but is still at a decrease of 10% year-to-date.
 - **County Sales Taxes** – Continues to be even throughout the year, and had a slight increase of 2% in July 2023 compared to July 2022, at an increase of 1% overall.
 - **Lodging Taxes** – The City’s lodging tax saw another month of growth, and was up 34% compared to the prior July. Year-to-date, lodging tax collections are at an increase of 5%.
 - **County Sales Taxes for Public Safety** - The County Sales tax restricted for public safety was up less than a percent in July, year-to-date is at a 1% increase.
- **The World Comes to Grand Junction Recap.** Mayor Pro Temp and I attended the World Comes to Grand Junction dinner on Wednesday night and conference on Thursday. This event provided Western Colorado companies with the opportunity to learn about how to be successful on the international level.
- **Center for Children Survivor Luncheon.** Staff attended the Center for Children’s annual Survivor Luncheon. We are grateful to have this resource in our community, and attending the luncheon provided us with a better understanding of how the center helps children who have been of sexual abuse, physical abuse & neglect, drug abuse, including witness to, witness to domestic violence, other crime types (kidnap, homicide, trafficking, etc.).
- **Closing on Lagoon Properties.** This afternoon, we closed on the 15 acres of land adjacent to our 25 acres near the beach property.
- **Grand Valley Transit Public Input.** Grand Valley Transit is looking for public input regarding major service changes, including expanding Saturday hours, changes to routes 4 and 8, and an update to the paratransit “No-Show” procedure. Public comment is welcomed until September 19, 2023. Learn more on [Grand Valley Transit’s website](#).
- **Mesa County Community Summit.** Mesa County Department of Human Services invites the community to attend its annual conference on September 25-26, 2023. The conference brings the community together to surround children and youth with services and support. Learn more with the flyer below or visit [the conference website](#).

Engineering

- **Pine Street Bridge Update.** WD Yards mobilized to the site and completed the chainlink fence across the bridge. They are also completing the fence reconstruction for fences that were

removed on adjoining properties to facilitate the bridge construction. Ben Dowd Excavation mobilized back to the site on Monday morning and completed the road base preparation and compaction. Asphalt Specialists mobilized on Wednesday and completed the asphalt paving on the north and south sides of the bridge. Straight Edge Striping arrived on site Wednesday afternoon and completed the roadway striping. A shout out to Marc Mancuso of the Parks and Recreation Department who provided backpack blowers and assistance for the final cleaning of debris from the roadway after all road work was completed and prior to reopening the road. CC Enterprises pulled the traffic control signs after the final roadway cleaning was complete. There will be additional work in the roadway as Asphalt Specialists will have to expose and install manhole rings in the roadway. Single lane closures with traffic control will be utilized to ensure Pine Street remains open during this work. GA Western continued with minor site cleanup and punch list items. WD Yards will complete the revegetation work while coordinating with the affected property owners. The Engineering Department would like to thank the community for their patience as we completed this infrastructure improvement project.



Parks and Recreation

- **Movie in the Park tonight at Civic Center Park.** Enjoy a free movie and popcorn in the park tonight at Civic Center Park. Bring chairs, blankets, and your family to enjoy The Super Mario Bros Movie starting at dusk.
- **Night at the FCC.** This past Friday's program went off with a bang! There were 250 5th-7th graders who enjoyed a fun night of pizza, dancing, swimming, court games, the photo booth, and much more! Night at the FCC brought in \$2,767 in registration fees and over \$400 in concessions revenue. The next event will be in November and will focus on online registration to expedite entrance and quick access to the event.

- **Maintenance Week.** Staff is gearing up for a week of maintenance at the FCC. Starting Sunday evening September 17, all full-time staff, and a plethora of part-time and seasonal help will literally touch every square inch of the facility. Contract agencies will perform a variety of services, including steam cleaning carpets and upholstery, touch-up painting, floor refinishing, mechanical checks, and window cleaning. Additional work taking place during this time will be the installation of the new gym curtain.
- **Tree Trimming on Aspen Ave.** This week the Parks Team trimmed all the trees along Aspen Avenue. This team has been doing a great job keeping downtown Fruita looking beautiful!



Planning & Development

To see active reviews of current projects, you may visit:

https://www.fruita.org/projects?field_project_status_value=All&field_project_type_tid=36&keys=

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 (Approved) (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 (Under Review) (Parcel # 2697-091-80-001) (122 Lots)
- North Mesa Minor Subdivision (Under Review) (155 N. Mesa Street) (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 (Approved) (535 W. Aspen Avenue)

Police Department

- ***Calls for Service Statistics.*** In August 2023, the Grand Junction Regional Communications Center logged 1,171 calls for service for the Fruita Police Department. This compares with 755 calls for service in August 2022, showing a 55% increase. Year to date, we are at 7,448 calls for service in 2023 compared with 5,612 this time last year, showing a 33% increase. It should be noted that the majority of that increase results from a change in the way we are tracking officer-initiated activities.

Public Works

- ***Growing Smart Water Workshop.*** The City of Fruita was selected to participate in the Growing Water Smart workshop scheduled for October 23-25, 2023, sponsored by the Sonoran Institute in partnership with the Babbit Center for Land and Water Policy and the Colorado River District. Fruita's team consists of City Council Member Amy Miller, City Manager Mike Bennett, Community Development Director Dan Caris, City Engineer Sam Atkins, Public Works Director Kimberly Bullen, Parks & Rec Director Marc Mancuso, Assistant General Manager of Ute Water Dave Payne, and District Manager of Mesa Conservation District Andrea Datz. This provides an opportunity for City officials, water providers and planners to identify opportunities to increase sustainability and create water smart communities as populations grow. This workshop will provide a full range of communications, public engagement, planning and policy implementation tools to assist the City with community resiliency goals and integration of land use and water planning.
- ***Wastewater projects.*** The H2S/Biofilter and Aeration projects have begun. Crews have started demo work on the existing PVC diffusers in basin 1 at the Wastewater Reclamation Facility. Staging and preparation for manhole replacements and bypass pumping started this week and crews are waiting the delivery of the remaining fiberglass manholes before beginning construction.
- ***Chipsealing to Complete Next Week.*** Fog Coating for chip sealed streets should wrap up next week with street striping starting on Monday, September 18th.
- ***Welcome!*** Public Works would like to welcome our newest employees: Lynn Reynolds (Utilities), William Salazar (Streets Division), Dylan Baumgartner (Streets Division), and Branden Heath (Streets Division) and congratulate Mike Bramlett who was promoted to Streets Crew Leader.

We also want to say Thank You to Joe Quest for his years of service to the City of Fruita. Joe retired earlier this month and we want to wish him well in retirement.

- **Pavement Assessment Data.** Public Works continues to work with vendor on the pavement assessment data with additional ROW data being uploaded for review. All information will be uploaded to the city's work-order system to manage treatments of our roadways.

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

- [City proclamation kicks off 11th annual Grand Junction Pride Fest.](#)
- [US Highway 6 & 20 Road Intersection Improvements Project Restarts This Week.](#)
- [New Fruita LDS meetinghouse construction celebrated with groundbreaking.](#)
- [Paint the town: Fall fest to bring activities, foods and music to Fruita.](#)
- [Mesa County sales tax collections trend upward.](#)
- [Bureau of Land management conducting controlled burns this fall.](#)
- [Fruita's new Art on the Corner continues a tradition dating back to Black Sunday.](#)
- [We've traveled all around Colorado sampling great food. These are 10 favorite from our Craving Colorado Series.](#)

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

- **September 20, 2023** – City Engagement Event, Circle Park, 1:00 p.m.
- **September 22 – 23, 2023** – Fruita Fall Festival, Downtown Fruita, Open Venue.
- **October 6, 2023** – Movie Night at Civic Center Park, Movie will Start at Sunset.
- **October 7, 2023** – E-Waste Recycling Event, Civic Center Parking Lot, 9 a.m. - 1 p.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

MESA COUNTY COMMUNITY SUMMIT

A CONFERENCE BRINGING OUR COMMUNITY
TOGETHER TO SURROUND OUR CHILDREN
AND YOUTH WITH SERVICES AND SUPPORT.



Featuring
Keynote Speaker
Gaelin Elmore!

September 25th and 26th
CMU Ballroom

Free Parking

Free light breakfast
and full lunch on
Monday

Networking event
Monday night

*Made possible with generous
contributions from.*

HILLTOP



Click [HERE](#) to sign up
Or Scan the QR Code





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.