



FRUITA COLORADO

Weekly Info Update



To: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
From: MIKE BENNETT, CITY MANAGER
Date: MAY 5, 2023
Re: WEEKLY INFORMATION UPDATE

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Busy Weekend in Fruita!

It is going to be another busy weekend in Fruita!

- **Girls on the Run** is tomorrow at Shelledy Elementary school. The race starts at 10:00 a.m., and uses Ottley Avenue, Maple Street, and the Big Salt Wash Trail (just west of Comstock West). [View the full race map online.](#)
- **Adventure Fest**, hosted by Gemini Adventures, is this weekend at 18 Road. Adventure Fest includes a 50K Bike Race, a Fruita Trail Half Marathon, and a 50k Gravel Bike Race. To learn more about the Adventure Fest, you can visit the [Adventure Fest website](#)
- The **18 Hours of Fruita** event is today and tomorrow at Highline Lake. The event is already sold out. For information on 18 Hours of Fruita, you can [visit the 18 Hours of Fruita website.](#)

Special events will continue next weekend with the **Fruita Fat Tire Festival** and the **Co2UT Race** (both at Civic Center Park and 18 Road Trail System).

Spring Clean Up Event Recap

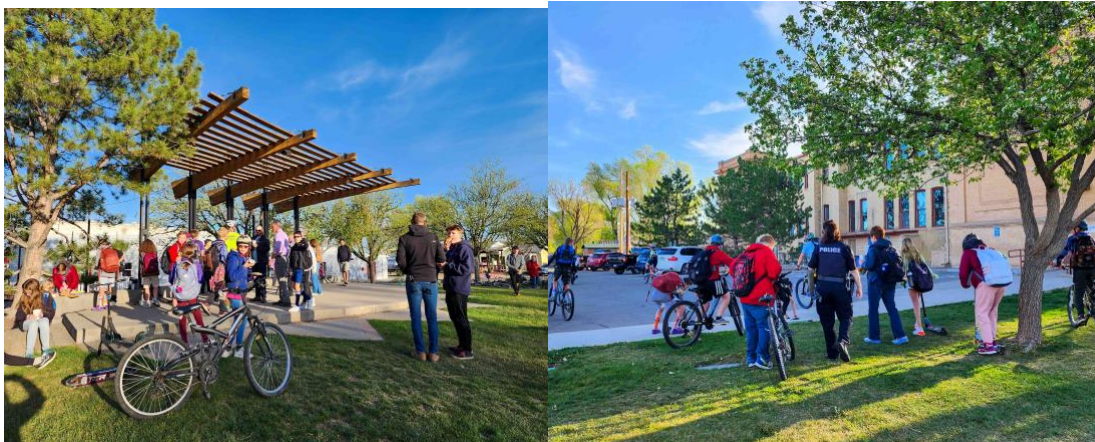
In the city's third year of hosting the Spring Clean Up Day last weekend, Fruita residents filled up two (yes, 2!) 40-yard dumpsters with trash to be disposed of at the landfill within the first hour. In addition, Public Works crews hauled 12.02 Tons or 24,148 lbs. of trash and other material and 3.26 Tons or 6,520 lbs. of yard waste to the landfill separately. Crews estimate approximately 8-10 yards of scrap metal that will be recycled, 2 dumpsters full of cardboard that will be recycled, and several mattresses and box springs that were disposed of. This event was a huge success, Thank You Fruita!!

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



Bike to Work Day Recap

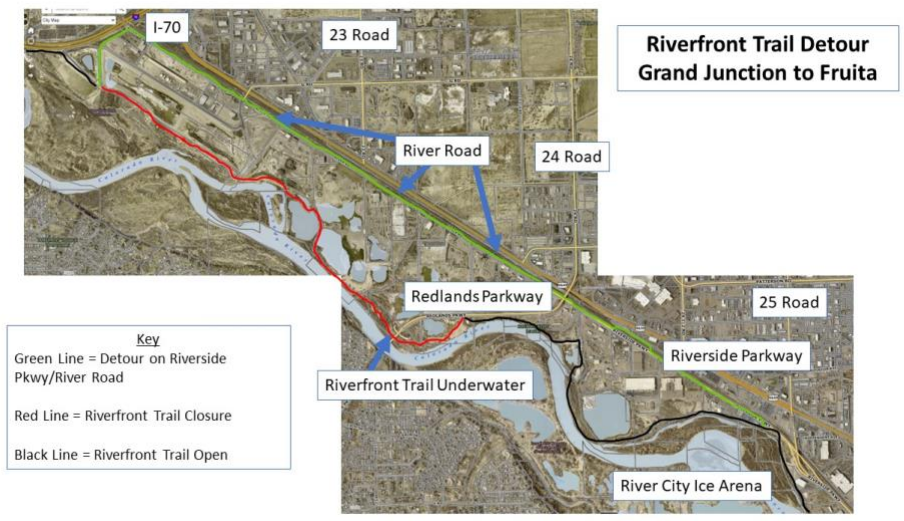
We celebrated Bike to Work/School Day on Wednesday! There was a great turnout with 54 total people and 28 students and teachers from Fruita Middle School. Everyone celebrated with bagels and coffee before going on their ride. There are many other events happening around the area for Grand Valley Bike Month. [Find other Bike Month events happening this month.](#)



Multiple Trail Closures on Riverfront Trail System

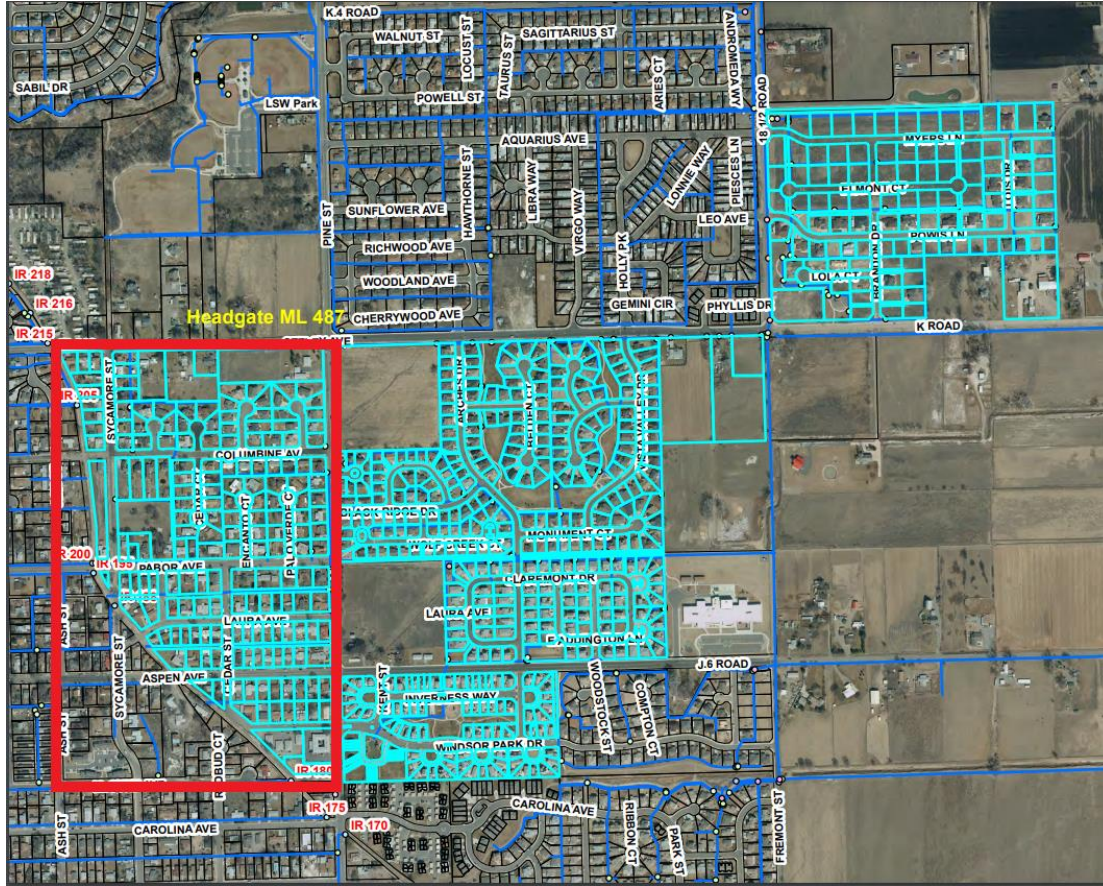
Due to spring runoff, there are multiple trail closures along the Colorado Riverfront Trail in Fruita and Grand Junction. Trail closures are anticipated over the next few weeks as water levels fluctuate. Crews are working on reopening trails as soon as possible, but it is largely dependent on river flows. For the most current information, you can visit [our Facebook page](#). Here is a summary of the trail closures as of today, May 5, 2023:

- **Fruita** – The Kokopelli Section of the Colorado Riverfront Trail is closed under the I-70 underpass near the Loma exit.
- **Grand Junction** – The Colorado Riverfront Trail is closed at Redlands Parkway underpass. This closure cuts off a large section of the Riverfront Trail from Redlands Parkway and the Walker Wildlife Area. A detour is in place on Riverside Parkway/River Road from 25 Road to Railroad Avenue. A detour map has been provided by the City of Grand Junction.



Irrigation Line Break Repairs Continue into Next Week

On Wednesday afternoon, our crews responded to an irrigation line break on Pine Street south of Aspen Avenue. The break only impacted traffic for a short time but City irrigation users and HOAs on the Encanto irrigation line have been impacted by the break. Crews are working as quickly as possible to get the break repaired. A large amount of work will happen early next week to fix the break. Irrigation users south of Ottley Avenue and West of Pine Street will be without irrigation water over the weekend into early next week. We appreciate the community’s patience as our crews work through this large repair.



ArborWorks Schedule for Next Week

Xcel Energy, working with ArborWorks, a utility line clearance company, began trimming trees in Fruita in mid-February. They will be trimming all trees, both private and public, if the tree is a hazard for powerlines. The team will continue tree trimming services in Fruita next week. Below you can find area maps of where the team will be working.

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:** What are the different colored paint markings we often see on streets and sidewalks?
- **Answer:** The markings you see are color codes for locating utility lines underground. Before any type of construction can take place, all utility lines underneath the work area have to be identified. Here is a breakdown of what each color represents:
 - Red – Electric Power Lines, Cables, Conduit and Lighting Cables
 - Yellow – Natural Gas, Oil Steam, Petroleum, or Gaseous Materials
 - Orange – Communication, Fiber Optic, Alarm or Signal Lines, Cables or Conduit
 - Blue – Potable Water

- Purple – Reclaimed Water, Irrigation and Slurry Lines
- Green – Sewers and Drain Lines
- Pink – Temporary Survey Markings
- White – Proposed Excavating

General Updates

- **SB 23-213 Update.** Senate Bill 23-213, the statewide land use pre-emption bill, passed the house floor on the second reading yesterday and is scheduled for a third reading this afternoon. We have been in touch with Representative Soper and Senator Rich and provided them with our formal resolution opposing the bill. The legislative session is scheduled to adjourn tomorrow, and we should have additional clarity on SB 23-213 by the end of the day.
- **US 6 & 20 Road CDOT Project.** CDOT continues to work on the US 6 & 20 Road intersection. 20 Road should be open by the end of next week and will close again in future phases in the fall. [Read the full update from CDOT in their recent newsletter.](#)

Engineering

- **Mulberry Plaza Update.** The Mulberry Street Outdoor Plaza project is nearing final completion, with irrigation, electrical and natural gas facilities almost complete. A few perennials are left to be planted but that should be completed today. Some furniture was delivered to the site yesterday and will be placed throughout the project today for folks to use over the weekend. As a reminder, though pedestrian access is open, some construction activities will continue into next week so please use caution when walking through the area. Also, a quick reminder to the bicycling community – please dismount and walk your bike through the space to avoid unwanted interactions between bikes and pedestrians. The City of Fruita thanks the community and local businesses for their patience and positivity throughout this project and we hope that you will come down and spend some time in our new downtown gathering area this weekend!
- **Pine Street Bridge Update.** This was a milestone week for the project. GA Western completed the last concrete placements for the bridge structure by placing the sidewalks across the approach slabs and the bridge curbs on both the east and west sides of the bridge. There remains a considerable amount of work to complete the bridge; including the permanent installation of utilities across the new bridge, installation of safety features, concrete sidewalks leading to the bridge and road paving. We would like to remind the public that the bridge remains closed to all modes of transportation including vehicular, bicycles and pedestrians. Safety features have not been installed and hazards still remain in the construction zone.



Parks and Recreation

- ***Fishing is Fun had over 80 kids attend on Saturday.*** Our annual event in partnership with Colorado Parks and Wildlife had over 80 kids come out to Snooks Bottom to kick off the fishing season. CPW handed out free fishing rods and the City provided fishing lures to help local kids get interested in fishing.



- ***Registration open for Mike the Headless Chicken 5k!*** Our 5k race on Saturday, June 3 is open for registration. Participants will receive a race tee shirt with registration. The course is on the

streets of Fruita, expect cement and asphalt surfaces throughout the race. [You can register online.](#)

Planning & Development

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

<https://www.fruita.org/cd/page/current-development-projects>

Major/ Minor Subdivisions:

- East Grand Townhomes Minor Subdivision (Approved) (600 Grand Avenue) (4 Lots)
- 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 Review) (460 N. Mesa St) (3 Lots)

Site Design Review/ Other Applications:

- Ottley Suites Site Design Review (Under Review) (722 Ottley Avenue)
- Pediatric Dental Specialists Site Design Review (Under Review) (101 Jurassic Avenue)
- 18 & K Road Rezone (Under Review) (Parcel #2697-162-21-001)
- The Fruita Mews (Under Review) (1138 18.5 Road)
- Berg Annexation & Rezone (Under Review) (1806 J 3/10 Road)
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Site Design Review (Under Review) (417 E Ottley Ave)
- 616 E. Grand Avenue Conditional Use Permit (Under Review) (616 E. Grand Avenue)
- 1824 J 2/10 Road Annexation and Rezone (Under Review) (1824 J 2/10 Road)
- A Storage Place Site Design Review and Minor Subdivision (Under Review) (1960 & 1966 Hwy 6 & 50)

Police Department

- ***Calls for Service Statistics.*** In April 2023 the Grand Junction Regional Communications Center logged 935 calls for service for the Fruita Police Department. This compares with 764 calls for service in April 2022, showing a 22% increase. Year to date, we are at 3,589 calls for service in 2023 compared with 2,594 this time last year, showing a 38% 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

- ***Spring Runoff Preparation.*** Public Works Director participated in the National Weather Service Western Slope Runoff/High Water Coordination Meeting. Crews are keeping a close eye on spring runoff conditions and the Streets Division continues to work on filling sandbags in the event they are needed to protect critical infrastructure. Crews will be checking on Reservoir #2 as it may fill this year which will require the city to respond and siphon water out of the reservoir.

- **Spring Runoff Reporting.** The Dolores River and all main channels in Mesa County are currently running much above normal. Colorado Highway 141 between Naturita and Gateway will likely be closed Friday evening due to forecasted high river flows. If the river reaches expected levels, the Colorado Department of Transportation plans to close the highway at 5 p.m. and will remain closed until the flood danger has subsided. CDOT reports that river flows in the area have not been observed at these levels in 18 years.

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

- [Fruita declared “Tree City USA” for third decade.](#)
- [1,333 drivers cited during click it or ticket it enforcement.](#)
- [Colorado Mesa University awards high school students scholarship money.](#)
- [Fruita Area Chamber of Commerce awards five business, individuals.](#)
- [Grand Junction airport simulates full scale plane crash.](#)
- [Mesa County to phase out free covid-19 tests.](#)
- [Riverfront Trail at Redlands Pkwy closed due to flooding.](#)
- [Battle is on: Fight against Japanese beetle set to begin in May.](#)
- [Elementary Declining Enrollment Committee formed and meetings underway.](#)
- [The perfect summer road trip down Colorado’s I-70.](#)
- [Colorado Festivals to Enjoy This Summer.](#)
- [Wolf plan finalized, bill could dictate reintroduction of date.](#)
- [Western Slope farmers use new water saving technique.](#)

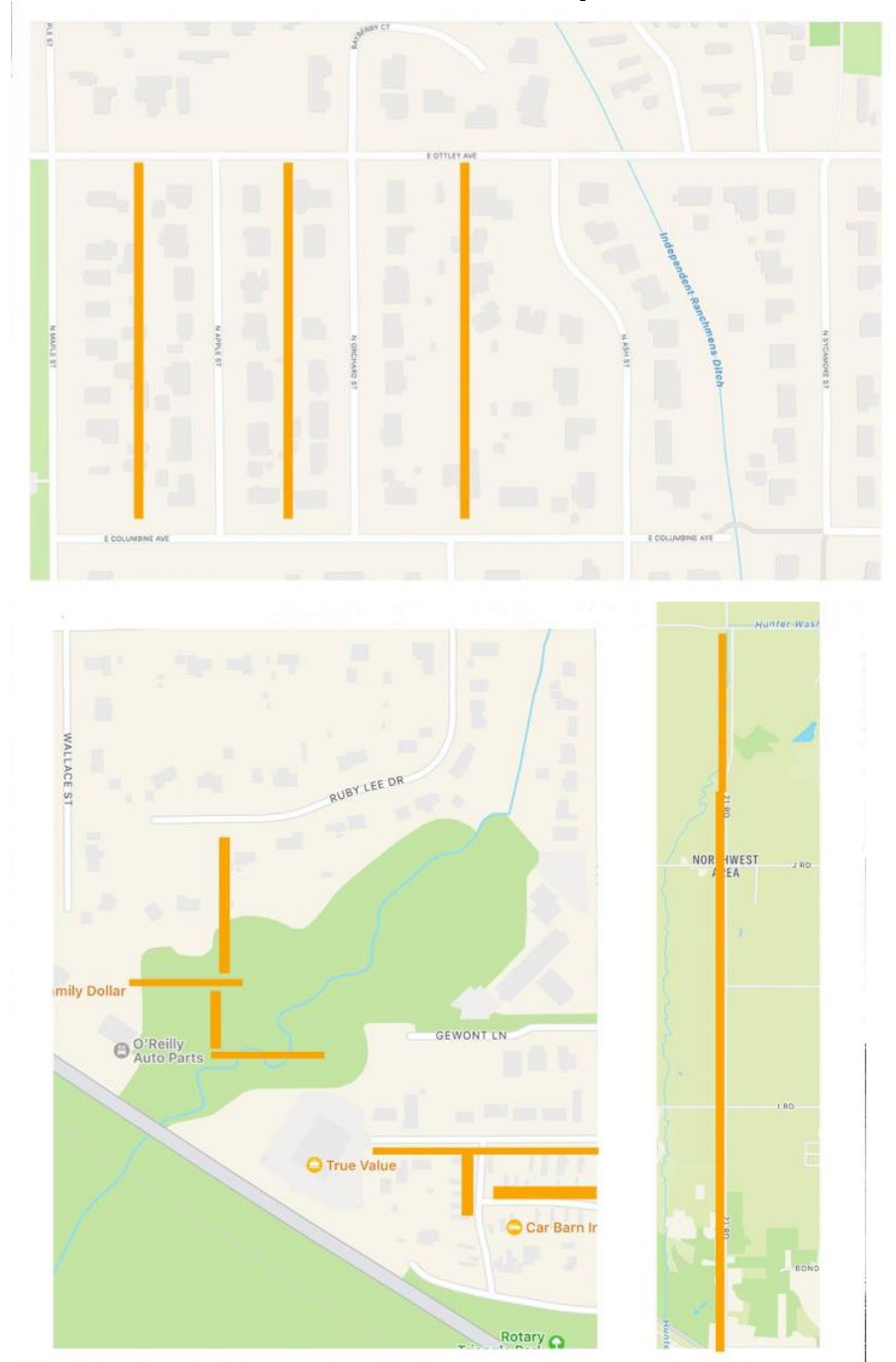
UPCOMING EVENTS *(Please let Deb know if you plan to attend so we can RSVP for you)*

- **May 5-6, 2023** – 18 Hours of Fruita at Highline Lake State Park, Open Venue
- **May 5-6, 2023** – Adventure Fest at the North Fruita Desert 18 Road Trailhead, Open Venue
- **May 12-14, 2023** – Fruita Fat Tire Festival, Downtown Fruita and 18 Road Trailhead, Open Venue
- **May 14, 2023** – Co2uT, Downtown Fruita, Open Venue
- **May 31, 2023** – Colorado Municipal League Spring Outreach Meeting, Fruita Community Center at 3:00 p.m.
- **June 2-3, 2023** - Mike the Headless Chicken Festival, Downtown Fruita, Open Venue
- **June 8, 2023** - Thursday Night Concert Series - The Drunken Hearts (Americana), Civic Center Park, 7:30 p.m.
- **June 15, 2023** – Thursday Night Concert Series – Wave 11 (R&B/Reggae/Funk), Civic Center Park, 7:30 p.m.
- **June 22, 2023** – Thursday Night Concert Series – Goodman Band (Blues/Rock), Civic Center Park, 7:30 p.m.
- **June 23, 2023** – Fruita Fourth Fridays, FARM (160 S. Park Square), 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- **June 25 – 28, 2023** - CML Annual Conference
- **June 29, 2023** – Thursday Night Concert Series – Centennial Band, Civic Center Park, 7:30 p.m.
- **June 29, 2023** – City Council Ice Cream Social, Civic Center Park, 7:30 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

ArborWorks Schedule for the week of May 8-12





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.