



FRUITA COLORADO

Weekly Info Update



To: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
From: MIKE BENNETT, CITY MANAGER
Date: MAY 19, 2023
Re: WEEKLY INFORMATION UPDATE

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Tuesday's City Council Special Meeting (6:00 p.m.) and Regular Workshop (6:30 p.m.)

As a reminder, we have two meetings scheduled for Tuesday night. We have a special meeting scheduled at 6:00 p.m. for the purposes of an Executive Session to discuss the purchase of property and receive legal advice from the City Attorney. Following the special meeting, we will go into our normal workshop meeting. On the agenda for the workshop is four items – the first is to continue the discussion on the Fruita Tourism Advisory Council following their presentation earlier this month. After that, the Council will hear from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) on their purpose, past accomplishments, and goals for the upcoming year. Following the two Board and Commission items, we will discuss the process for the Charter Review and the TABOR process for next year. See you all on Tuesday night!

I-70 Westbound: Right Lane Closed due to Flooding.

Right lane of I-70 just west of Fruita going westbound is closed to one lane due to flooding. The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) will be monitoring road conditions in this area throughout the weekend. If you are traveling this weekend, be sure to check cotrip.org for road closures and traffic impacts.

Avoid River Recreation. High Water Dangers.

Extremely high river levels are expected over the next few weeks. Please avoid recreation on the river and stay away from high moving water. [Learn more about safety tips in Mesa County Sheriff's Office recent news statement.](#)

Mulberry Celebrations Next Week

To celebrate the finished Mulberry Plaza, we are teaming up with local events to bring three nights of community happenings to the space! Head to downtown Fruita next Thursday – Saturday for open mic night, Fruita trivia, live music, community mural painting, and more!

- **Thursday, May 25**

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

- 6:00 PM - Fruita Trivia with giveaways and ice cream sandwiches
- 7:00 PM - Cavalcade Fruita Open Mic Night in the Mulberry Plaza
- **Friday, May 26**
 - 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM - Community Mural Painting in Mulberry
 - Check out [Fruita Fourth Friday](#) event happening at the FARM (160 S. Square) from 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM
- **Saturday, May 27**
 - 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM - Enjoy live music from three local bands presented by the [The Vintage Common](#).

THREE NIGHTS ON MULBERRY

Celebrate the new Mulberry Plaza with three nights of fun community activities! Located in downtown Fruita.

THURSDAY, MAY 25
 6:00 PM
 Fruita Trivia
 7:00 PM
 Cavalcade Open Mic Night in the Mulberry Plaza
 Fruita Giveaways, Ice Cream Sandwiches

FRIDAY, MAY 26
 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
 Community Mural Painting in the Mulberry Plaza
 Stop by *Fruita Fourth Fridays* at the FARM (160 S. Square) from 5 pm - 8 pm

SATURDAY, MAY 27
 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
 Music on Mulberry
 Enjoy local bands presented by the *Vintage Common*

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Mike the Headless Chicken Festival Two Weeks Away!

The Mike the Headless Chicken Festival starts two weeks from today! The full schedule of the festival can be found at miketheheadlesschicken.org. The festival includes games and a variety of vendors, live music on Friday night and throughout Saturday, the Mike 5k Run/Walk, the Wheels West Colorado Exhibition Car Show, and more! With the festival, the Fruita Civic Center will be closed to the public on Friday, June 2, 2023, as set up occurs. We hope to see you there!

Fiber Construction Update

Next Week (Week of May 22, 2023), Clearnetworkx/Deeply Digital, an internet service provider, will continue construction in Fruita in the Legacy Subdivision and along Pine Street. For questions and comments on fiber internet, please call Clearnetworkx/Deeply Digital at 970-240-6600.

The City of Fruita has been working with several companies interested in installing fiber internet in the community. Residents will begin to see work being done throughout the city over the next few months. Residents will start to see Clearnetworkx/Deeply Digital laying fiber cables under concrete and multi-purpose easements in various neighborhoods. Fruita residents can expect to see notifications with signage, door hangers, and mailers from the fiber internet companies. The City of Fruita will also be sharing information weekly on areas where fiber crews will be working. Fiber construction updates from the City of Fruita will be available through the City of Fruita's various communication channels including updates at [Fruita.org/fiberinternet](https://fruita.org/fiberinternet), Nextdoor, and the Friday Weekly Update. To sign up or to follow these channels, please visit fruita.org/communications.

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 is broadband internet?
- **Answer:** The City of Fruita, working with Region 10, a non-profit that works on broadband projects on Colorado's Western Slope, is installing fiberoptic cables from Grand Junction to Fruita to bring Giga bite internet speeds to Fruita residents. The City of Fruita is currently waiting for the construction contract to be finalized. Once this connection, called the Middle Mile, is complete, more internet providers can come to Fruita. Residents will start to see construction over the next several months throughout neighborhoods from internet service providers who have started their portion of construction for fiber internet connections.

General Updates

- ***Congratulations Graduates!*** Congratulations to all the Fruita Monument Seniors that graduated on Tuesday night!
- ***March 2023 Financial Reports.*** The financial reports for March 2023 will be included in the City Council packet for the first meeting in June. The reports were delayed slightly this month due to receiving some of the information later than the deadline for the second meeting this month. Highlights of the report include:

- **City Sales Tax** – When compared to the prior March, City sales tax collections increased 14% and is trending at an increase of 14% overall.
- **Use Tax on Motor Vehicles** – Use taxes collected on motor vehicles were down less than 1% in March but is still at 10% increase year-to-date.
- **Use Tax on Building Materials** – Were down 83% in March 2023, trending at a decrease of 22% overall.
- **City Lodging Tax** – The 3% lodging tax was down 17% in March 2023, trending at a decrease of 3%.
- **County Sales Tax** – Was up less than 1% in March, year to date is at an increase of 1%.
- **State of the Valley Next Wednesday.** Mayor Kincaid and I will be speaking at the State of the Valley, hosted by the Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce, next Wednesday afternoon. [More information is available on their website.](#)
- **Mesa County State of the County Video.** Last week, Mesa County released the 2023 State of the County video. Topics of the video include the recent community health survey, the treatment of the Japanese beetle, county-wide broadband efforts, and more. [The video can be found online.](#)
- **Summer City Link.** The 2023 Summer City Link was sent to the printer last week and should be arriving at homes next week. [You can also view the City Link online.](#)
- **Engagement Event Recap.** This morning, City Engineer Sam Atkins and I hosted a Coffee with the City Manager and staff at Bestslope Coffee to discuss current and future projects that the City is working on. We discussed many of the transportation projects included in our Strategic Plan like the Pine Street Bridge project and broadband project. Thank you to everyone that joined us this morning for the discussion!

Engineering

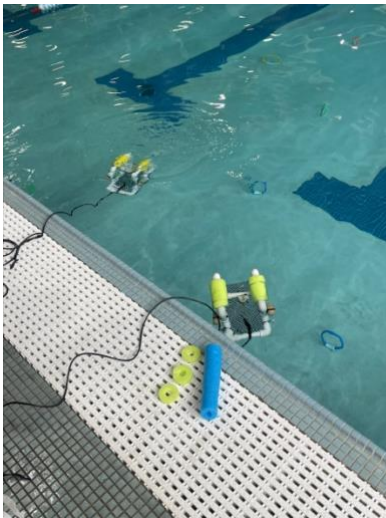
- **Pine Street Bridge Update.** Ben Dowd Construction, the pipe subcontractor, completed the installation and testing of the Ute Water Main that crosses the bridge. The project has entered the utility reinstatement phase and multiple crews will be mobilizing and working on their respective portions of the project. The Engineering Department would like to remind the public that the bridge remains closed to all modes of transportation including vehicular, bicycles and pedestrians. Public safety is a primary concern and hazardous conditions remain and will continue to change in location and severity in the construction zone.



- **TEDS.** Engineering staff participated in a meeting to update the City of Grand Junction's Transportation Engineering Design Standards Manual. It is slated to go out for public review shortly with adoption in the fall.
- **2023 Street Striping.** The annual street striping bid opening was this Friday afternoon. Bids will be evaluated for completeness and a recommendation of award will be made next week.
- **City Engagement Event.** Engineering department staff participated in the (Quality of Place) City Engagement Event with the City Manager and Communications Specialist at Bestslope Coffee Company Friday morning.

Parks and Recreation

- **Our final 2022/2023 school year Night at the FCC had 245 kids in attendance!** It was great to have our youth back in the facility celebrating the end of the school year with basketball, bump n jumps, swimming, dance and more. We wish all our students a great summer!
- **FCC pool community use.** The FCC pool has been used for many unique community programs this month. We have had the FMHS physics class testing their cardboard boats, elementary school swim days, and a robot test as well. Our school swims will have served over 500 local kids! These programs have kept our staff busy, and we want to thank them for all their hard work!



- **Volunteer at Mike the Headless Chicken!** We still have over 20 spots available to help with our 5k race and entrance tents. Volunteers will receive a Mike store voucher, festival shirt, and help create the magic of Mike the Headless Chicken. [You can register to volunteer online.](#)
- **Bi-Monthly Newsletter.** Check out our recent newsletter for updates on recreation programming, facility updates, and more. [The newsletter can be found 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

- ***New Officers.*** Welcome to our two newest police officers: Cade Mullen and Matt Di Pilato. Cade comes from a law enforcement family and recently graduated from the Western Colorado Peace Officers Academy. Matt also comes from a law enforcement family, is a United States Air Force veteran, and worked at the Grand Junction Police Department. With Cade and Matt joining us, we are now fully staffed.

Public Works

- ***National Public Works Week.*** May 21 – 27, is National Public Works week. This is a time to recognize the important work our staff do each and every day. Our team provides essential services to the Fruita community, and their knowledge, expertise, and hard work are greatly appreciated! If you see our crews in the field next week, please stop and let them know how much we all appreciate their efforts!
- ***Fiber Construction Meeting.*** Every Monday, the Fruita team and Clearnetworx, will meet to discuss progress, construction details, and areas of improvement as they install their fiber internet services in Fruita.
- ***Lunch and Learn.*** On Wednesday, the Fruita Planning and Development Department joined the Public Works team for a lunch and learn. The Planning and Development Department gave our team an overview of their services and procedures. It was great to have our teams connect and learn about the new operations in their department.

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

- [Mesa County Public Health talks the end of respiratory illness season.](#)

- [Tradition meets technology: A conventional vet offers non-conventional treatment.](#)
- [Mental health, broadband, beetles topics of county state-of-state.](#)
- [Low inventory, high interest rates a challenge for commercial real estate market.](#)
- [CPW to shift to new mussel inspection sites after success of Loma pilot program.](#)
- [GJEP receives \\$200,000 grant to fund economic development efforts.](#)
- [Fruita Monument High School Graduation.](#)
- [Water Safety; CPW promotes safe boating tips.](#)
- [Win Gardens is a new state of the art greenhouse in Fruita.](#)

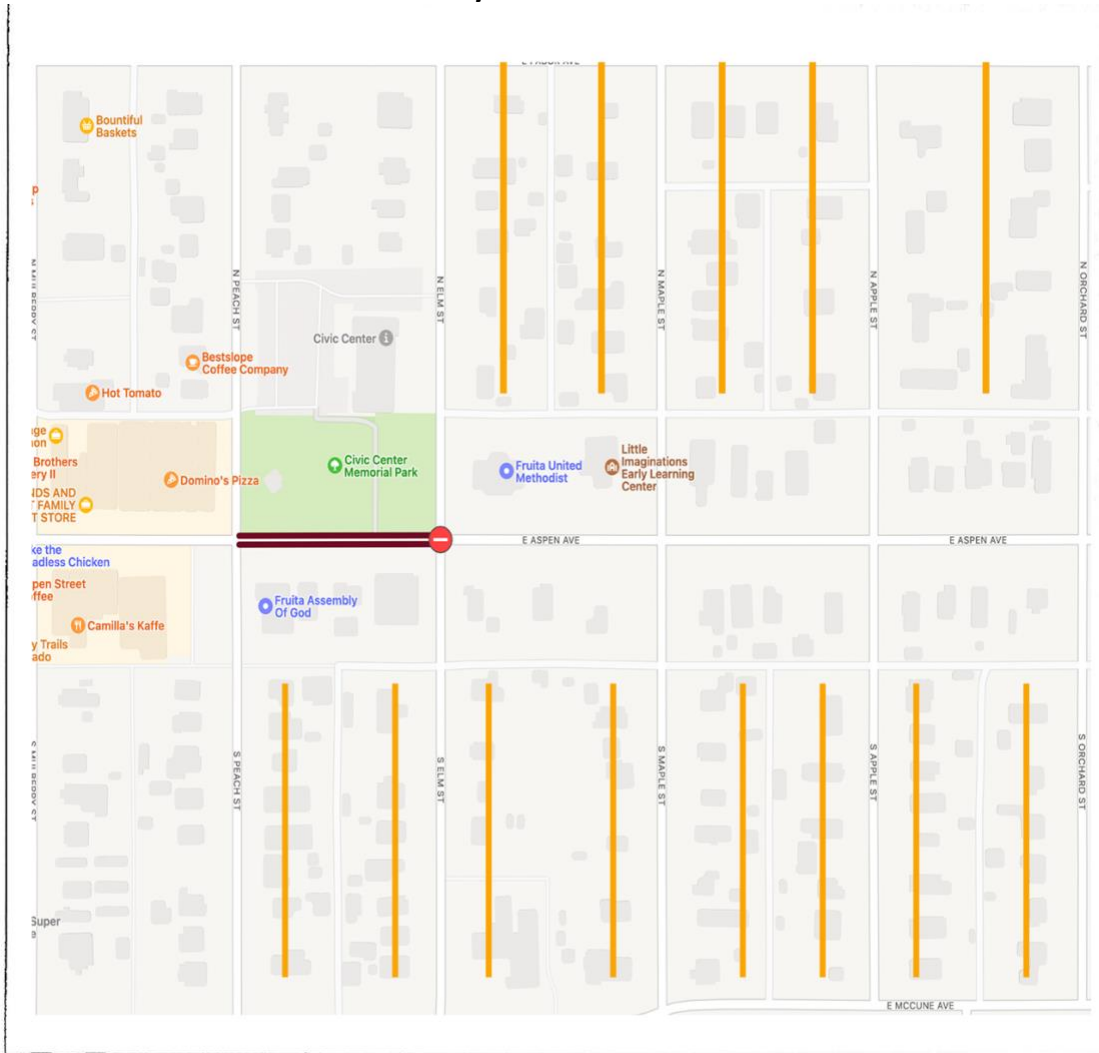
UPCOMING EVENTS *(Please let Deb know if you plan to attend so we can RSVP for you)*

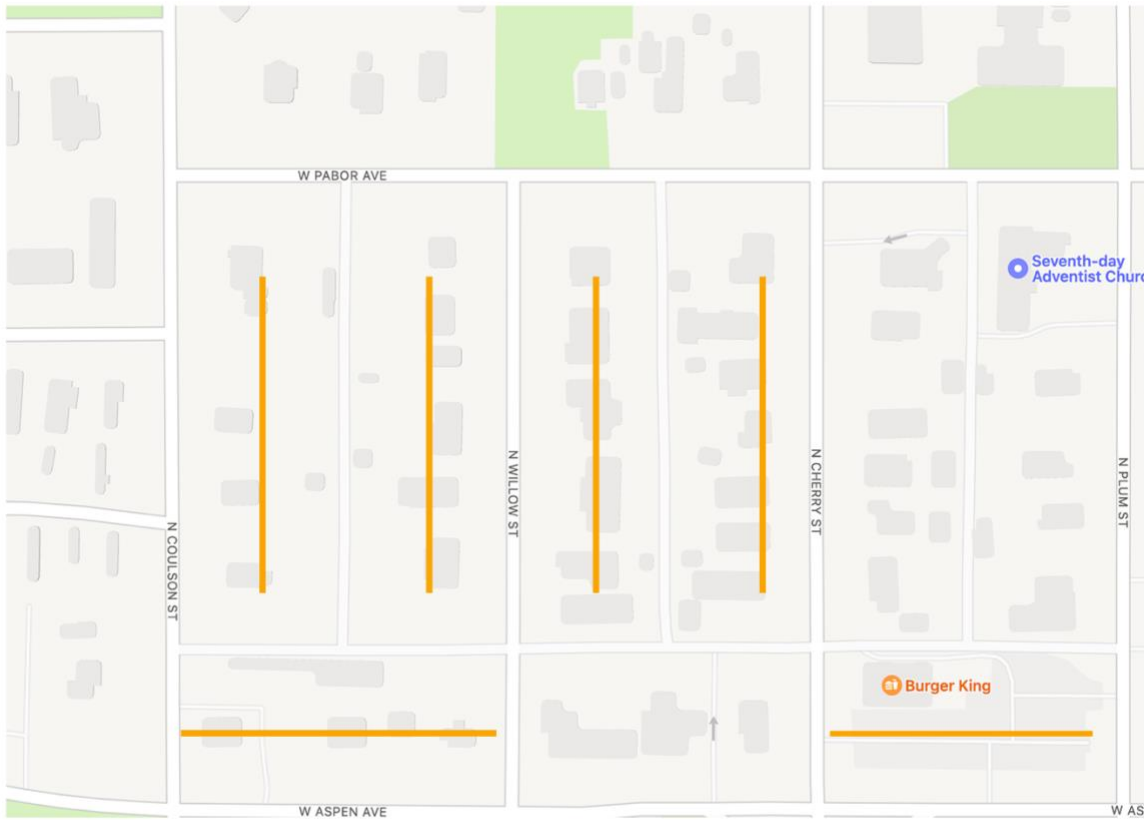
- **May 25, 2023** – Three Nights on Mulberry Celebrations – Fruita Trivia & Open Mic Night, Mulberry Plaza in downtown Fruita, 6 p.m.
- **May 26, 2023** – Three Nights on Mulberry Celebrations – Community Mural Painting, Mulberry Plaza in downtown Fruita, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
- **May 25, 2023** – Three Nights on Mulberry Celebrations – Music on Mulberry, Mulberry Plaza in downtown Fruita, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
- **May 31, 2023** – FACC Membership Appreciation Picnic, Fruita Area Chamber of Commerce (432 E Aspen Ave), 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- **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 7, 2023** - Fruita State of the City Screening, Rocky Mountain PBS, 5:30 p.m.
- **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.

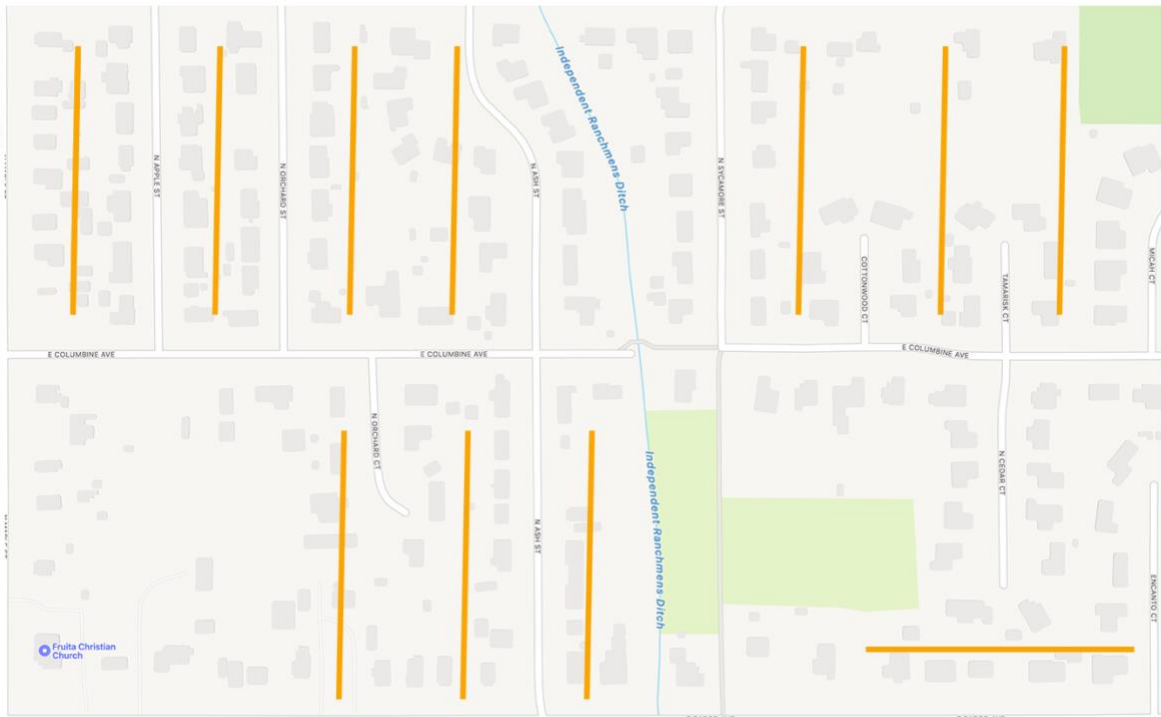
CC. Department Directors

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

ArborWorks Schedule for Week of May 22









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.