



FRUITA COLORADO

Weekly Info Update



To: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
From: MIKE BENNETT, CITY MANAGER
Date: APRIL 14, 2023
Re: WEEKLY INFORMATION UPDATE

325 E Aspen
Suite 155
Fruita CO 81521

Phone:
970-858-3663

Fax:
970-858-0210

E Mail
fruita@fruita.org

Web Site
fruita.org

City Manager's Office
970-858-3663

City Clerk/Finance
970-858-3663

Community
Development
970-858-0786

Engineering
970-858-8377

Human Resources
970-858-8373

Public Works
970-858-9558

Recreation Dept.
970-858-0360

Tuesday's City Council Meeting

Tuesday night will begin with recognizing the students and teachers of the month from the Fruita 8/9 School followed by three proclamations. The first proclamation is for Mesa County RSVP's 50th Anniversary, followed by a proclamation for the High School Military Commitment Recognition Day, and ending with a proclamation for Arbor Day. After these recognitions, the Council will receive a presentation from the Historic Preservation Board. The meeting will continue with consideration of multiple items on the consent agenda and five public hearings. There are several items on the Council reports and actions, including a recommendation for the Ute Water Board Appointment, a resolution opposing Senate Bill 23-213 (the statewide land use and zoning bill), and two executive sessions. See you on Tuesday!

Desert RATS Trail Running Festival This Weekend

Festival season has arrived with our first event happening this weekend at the Fruita Civic Center! The Desert RATS Trail Running Festival is scheduled for this Saturday and Sunday, April 14 – 16. The event hosts a 100K, 50K, 21K, and a 10K at the Kokopelli Trail system. Civic Center Park is hosting the festival's main gathering area for packet pick up, expos, the after-race party, and more. With this, downtown Fruita and the Kokopelli Trail System is going to be busy this weekend, as there are around 1,000 runners participating in the event. If interested, you can [learn more about the event here](#). Good luck to all of the racers!

Irrigation Water Turned on Next Week

City irrigation water will be turned on Monday, April 17, 2023. Make sure valves are closed and ditches are cleaned. If you are having water issues, make sure that the supply valve is open (the valve above the ground). If problems still exist, you can call your irrigation water supplier (either the HOA if you are in a HOA community of the City of Fruita in the downtown area). Learn more about City irrigation at bit.ly/fruitairrigation.

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

Now Accepting Applications for the Fruita Academy!

The Fruita Academy is a new in-person program for interested community members to learn about the functions of local government. Participants will hear directly from Fruita leaders, receive hands on learning, and tours of some of City of Fruita's largest facilities. Head to Fruita.org/Academy to learn more and sign up for FREE. Sign up today as spots are limited! This is a great option to learn, engage, and connect with your City leaders!



FRUITA ACADEMY

Learn About Your Local Government

JULY 13
through
AUGUST 3

FREE CLASSES | CONNECT | ENGAGE | LEARN | [FRUITA.ORG/ACADEMY](https://Fruita.org/Academy)



City Leaders

Learn about various aspects of Fruita's government from City leadership including members of City Council, the City Manager, and department directors.



Facility Tours

Tour the Fruita Community Center and Fruita's Wastewater Treatment Facility. See how these amenities impact the community everyday.



Local Government

Take an inside look at your local government! Every session will be informative. You will have the opportunity to ask questions and talk with presenters during every session.

4 SESSIONS
THURSDAYS
3 PM - 5PM

2 TOURS
LUNCH BREAK
HOUR - 12 PM

SIGN UP BY
JULY 6
[FRUITA.ORG/ACADEMY](https://Fruita.org/Academy)

Understanding the Impacts of Spring Runoff

With an increase in temperatures over the past few weeks, we will experience more spring runoff from the winter snowpack. The City of Fruita is preparing and evaluating areas around the City of Fruita that have either been impacted in past high-water years or are considered low lying areas that could experience flooding. If necessary, we may close areas of the trail system and other low-lying areas impacted by high water and debris.

- **What the City of Fruita is doing to prepare:**
 - Receiving updates on current conditions and possible changes to spring runoff.
 - Identifying areas that could be impacted by high runoff and debris.
 - Preparing to close and/or protect certain City of Fruita infrastructure from flooding.
- **What you can do to prepare:**
 - Making sure you are aware of potential risks associated with flooding is important. Whether you are planning to recreate in or near the Colorado River or if you are worried about flooding on your property, take the necessary steps to learn about how you can stay safe during this high runoff year.
 - Learn about floodplain management and flood insurance.
 - Understand the safety risks when recreating on the Colorado River.
 - Stay up to date on City, County, and State information.
- **Helpful Resources for High Runoff Seasons:**
 - Floodplain Management Program: <https://www.mesacounty.us/departments-and-services/public-works/floodplain-management>
 - Save a Life Jacket Program: <https://savealifejacketprogram.org/>
 - Know Before You Go – Travel Impacts: COtrip.org



Fruita Bark Park Celebration Next Week! (Continued)

The Fruita Bark Park is almost ready for its official opening. On Monday, April 17th at 4 p.m., members of the community are invited to come celebrate the new space. We will have dog toy giveaways, treats for the dogs, and cookies and light refreshments for the humans.



The graphic features a festive banner of orange and teal pennants at the top. Below the banner, the Fruita Colorado logo is positioned in the upper right. In the center, two cartoon dogs—a blue and white husky and a tan pug—are depicted. To the left of the dogs, the text 'Grand Opening' is written in a cursive font, followed by 'FRUITA BARK PARK' in large, bold, teal letters. Below this, the text 'Come celebrate Fruita's first official dog park!' is written in a smaller font. On the right side, a yellow box contains the event details: 'MONDAY, APRIL 17 4:00 PM' in bold black text, and 'Located at 552 Jurassic Court - South of the Dinosaur Journey Museum.' in a smaller font below it.

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:** If I see a streetlight out, who can I report this to?
- **Answer:** If there is a streetlight out in Fruita, you can contact Fruita Public Works at 970-858-9558. Most streetlights around Fruita take coordination between the City and Excel Energy to replace. Once we are aware of the outage, we will coordinate to ensure the light gets fixed. Thank you for helping keep Fruita safe and inviting!

General Updates

- **Financial Reports.** The draft financial reports for February 2023 are now available and can be found in the Council packet for next Tuesday night (at this [link](#) when available). Quick overview of the financial reports, when compared to February of the previous year, City sales tax collections increased 7%, and is trending at an increase of 14% year-to-date (an increase of \$66,000 through February). Use taxes on motor vehicles (up 31% in February, trending at an increase of 18% year-to-date), Use taxes on building materials (up 66% in February, 25% year-to-date), County sales taxes (up 1% in February, 2% when compared to 2022) and Lodging tax collections (up 35% when compared to the previous February, 16% year-to-date) were all also up. The County Public Safety sales tax decreased slightly compared to the previous February (less than .5%) but is still trending at an increase.

- **US 6 & 20 Rd. CDOT Project.** The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and their contractor began the process of widening and reconstructing Highway 6 and 20 road. The new intersection will realign the northbound approach to 20 road. The project began on March 27 and work is expected to be complete in early August 2023. Learn more about the project in [CDOT's recent newsletter](#).
- **CML Spring Outreach Meeting.** We will be hosting the Colorado Municipal League Spring Outreach Meeting at the Fruita Community Center on May 31, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. These meetings are an opportunity to meet with neighboring communities and get an update at the end of the legislative session and what it means for each community. Please let us know if you would like to be registered for the meeting.
- **Japanese Beetle: How to Treat Your Property.** Mesa County has released helpful information for residents interested in treating their property to protect against the Japanese Beetle. The Japanese Beetle is an invasive insect that feeds on over 300 species of desirable plants including grapes, peaches, roses, apples, sweet corn, trees, and turf grass. Learn more about the threat from this insect and how to protect your property at this [link](#).
- **Mesa County Draft Mater Plan.** Mesa County has released their draft master plan and is asking for feedback from the community. There will be two open houses on April 27 and May 2. Learn more about the plan and open houses [here](#).
- **Mesa County Public Health Initiative Website.** Mesa County Public Health has a new website to showcase work and the overall health of the community. [Check out the new website](#).
- **Update on EV Charging Stations.** The concrete pads for the two electric vehicle charging stations will be poured next Tuesday, and we anticipate that the stations will be placed at the Civic Center the following week. The North Parking lot at the Fruita Civic Center will be closed on Tuesday to allow the contractors to work on the concrete the pads.
- **City Engagement Event - Beer or Root Beer.** The community is invited to join Councilor Purser and myself this upcoming Tuesday, April 18 at 5 p.m. at Copper Club for a casual conversation about what's happening in the City of Fruita. We hope to see you there!



CITY ENGAGEMENT SERIES



Beer or Root Beer

TUESDAY, APRIL 18
COPPER CLUB BREWING
5:00 PM



Engineering

- **North Mulberry Street Outdoor Plaza Update.** This week contractors installed overhead lighting and shade sails and finished the remaining decorative concrete. Decorative brick work was also started and is expected to be completed by early next week. Next week there will be some disruption to traffic and parking on the north end of the project, as contractors will be regrading and repaving Mulberry St. in that area. Vehicular traffic will not be allowed across Mulberry St. at the alley for about two weeks while concrete is installed and allowed to cure. We appreciate your patience while we work to complete the improvements.



- **Pine Street Bridge Update.** GA Western stripped the forms on the north and south abutments and wing walls. Backfilling was started on the north abutment. The forms and rebar for the sidewalks across the bridge were completed and prepared for concrete placement next week. Rebar and forms were prepared and concrete placed for the foundation of the large block retaining wall on the southwest corner of the bridge. The storm drain on the southeast corner of the bridge was installed by Ben Dowd Construction.



Parks and Recreation

- **Youth Scholarship Golf Tournament raised \$7,170!** Our annual fundraiser for the Parks and Recreation scholarship fund had 22-hole sponsors and 76 golfers this year! This will fund 3 month passes to be distributed to local school students for summer break as well as the scholarship program for youth to participate in parks and recreation programming.
- **Arbor Day Posters are on display at the Fruita Community Center!** Artwork displayed is part of the Colorado state competition for Arbor Day posters that displayed the theme "Dream as Big as Trees". Our four local winners were sent to the statewide competition in Denver. We will continue to display art from our local elementary schools until May 5. Come by the FCC entrance to admire our local artists!

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

- **Officer Pacheco Receives Life Saving Award.** Early this week, the Mesa County Sheriff's Office hosted a ceremony recognizing the efforts of many law enforcement agents. The Life Saving Award is presented for helping people in medical crises. Thank you, Officer Pacheco!



Public Works

- **Preparation for Spring Runoff.** Staff continues to identify areas of concern in the event of high-water during spring runoff.
- **Congrats Mike!** Congrats to Mike Bramlett for his hard work in meeting the requirements and being promoted to Heavy Equipment Operator.
- **Irrigation Preparation.** Utility crews completed cleaning irrigation sump pits, headgates and removed debris in preparation for irrigation water coming online. Staff completed 45 utility locates.

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

- [Colorado Road Trip Ideas: 11 Best Road Trips + Itinerary](#)
- [CPW adds third chemical treatment for mussels due to delay in refilling Highline.](#)
- [BLM warns of dangerous streamflows off Uncompaghre Plateau.](#)
- [Japanese Beetle: How to Protect Your Lawn.](#)
- [Grant to fund gravel biking guide.](#)
- [Business groups collects goods and cash for food bank.](#)
- [Meels on Wheel see influx of clients.](#)
- [Show you care for Colorado: Spring into responsible outdoor recreation.](#)

- [Behavioral Health partners with Business Incubator Center for new business program.](#)
- [Spring Runoff in Mesa County.](#)
- [What's Up in Ultra This Weekend – April 15.](#)
- [Proposed Fruita boundary change.](#)

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

- **April 14-16, 2023** – Desert RATS Trail Running Festival, Fruita Civic Center & Kokopelli Trailhead
- **April 15, 2023** – Fruita Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet, Fruita Community Center, 5:00pm – 10:00 pm
- **April 17, 2023** – Fruita Bark Park Celebration, 552 Jurassic Court, 4:00 p.m.
- **April 18, 2023** – Beer or Root Beer with City Manager Mike Bennett and City Councilor Jeannine Purser, Copper Club Brewery, 5:00 p.m.
- **April 26, 2023** – Ribbon Cutting for Family Health West Urgent Care, 401 Kokopelli Drive Unit #2, Fruita, Co 81521.
- **April 27, 2023** – Western Colorado Economic Summit, presented by Grand Junction Economic Partnership.
- **April 28, 2023** – Fruita Fourth Fridays, FARM 160 S. Park Square, 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.
- **April 29, 2023** – Spring Clean Up, City Shops, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- **May 3, 2023** – Grand Valley Bike to Work Day, Civic Center Park, 8 a.m. - 9 a.m.
- **May 5-6, 2023** – 18 Hours of Fruita, Highline Lake State Park, Open Venue
- **May 5-6, 2023** – Adventure Fest, 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.

CC. Department Directors

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



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.