



FRUITA COLORADO

Weekly Info Update



To: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
From: MIKE BENNETT, CITY MANAGER
Date: MARCH 24, 2023
Re: WEEKLY INFORMATION UPDATE

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Tuesday's City Council Workshop

We will have five items on the agenda for our workshop next Tuesday night. The night will begin with a discussion on the purpose, accomplishments, and next steps for the Downtown Advisory Board. Next will be a discussion on gaming establishments and then the process for a name and donation request for the dog park. The night will end with considerations of a few requested proclamation requests submitted to the City, followed by a general discussion on the purpose of all City Boards and Commissions and the roles of Council and staff liaisons to those boards (if time allows). See you on Tuesday!

EV Charging Stations at Civic Center to be Installed in April, North Parking Lot Remains Closed

Work continued this week on the electrical upgrades at the Fruita Civic Center for the Electric Vehicle Charging Stations. Xcel's crew worked on running the conduit over to the spots where the stations will be placed. Most of the north parking lot at the Fruita Civic Center continues to be closed as this work continues. After this week, the crews will need to pour concrete and add a few additional items, and then their work will be complete. Installation of the charging stations is scheduled to take place in April, following Xcel's work. After installation, Public Works crews will need to paint the spots and then the stations will be ready for use. Thank you for your patience as we work to complete this project!

City of Fruita Awarded Great Outdoors Colorado Grant for Reed Park (Continued)

The City of Fruita has been awarded a \$600,000 grant from Great Outdoors Colorado ("GOCO") for the City's skate/wheel park project at Reed Park. This project includes the construction of a 9,000 square foot skate/wheel park in the south/west corner of Reed Park. This addition is part of a larger renovation the park will receive later this year. The grant is part of GOCO's Community Impact program, which develops and revitalizes parks, trails, school yards, fairgrounds, environmental education facilities,

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

and other outdoor projects that enhance a community's quality of life and access to the outdoors. To learn more information, you can [visit our website here](#).

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:** When will City irrigation be turned on for the season?
- **Answer:** City irrigation water will be turned on between April 10 – 13th. If you are in a neighborhood with an HOA, your irrigation system will be turned on by your association. Please [contact your HOA](#) for specific dates. [Learn more about City irrigation and how to prepare for the season on our website](#).

General Updates

- **City Engagement Event.** This week, Councilor Amy Miller and I enjoyed getting to know the folks at the Fruita Senior Center. The afternoon was full of card games, dominos, and great conversation! We were even invited back to learn how to play pinochle. 😊 Join us at our next engagement on Tuesday, April 18 at 5 p.m. at Copper Club for a beer or root beer.
- **Community Projects Requests.** On Wednesday, staff submitted four projects to Representative Boebert to be considered for Congressional Directed Spending. These are the same four requests that were also submitted to Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper.
- **Colorado Municipal League's (CML) News Release.** On March 22, 2023, Governor Polis announced the "More Housing Now" proposal which could affect municipalities land use and zoning authority. The legislation is targeted mostly at the Front Range and urban municipalities like Grand Junction and Pueblo. You can [read more about the legislation in this recent article](#). The Colorado Municipal League, which represents local cities and towns, does not support the proposal as it takes away local authority of land use and zoning. CML's full news release can be found below.

Administration

- **SWMAC Meeting.** On Wednesday, staff attended the second meeting of the Mesa County Solid Waste Management Advisory ("SWMAC") Committee. This group includes representatives from Mesa County Public Works (and the landfill) and members from each municipality in the County. The group discussed current waste and recycling efforts, as well as the challenges that the landfill is currently facing. Challenges that include deficit spending for a few programs in the County's Solid Waste Management fund, and how to potentially address these issues.

- **Open Positions.** The City of Fruita is currently accepting applications for many full-time and part-time positions, including a Recreation Programs Supervisor at the Fruita Community Center, a Facility Manager Position, Seasonal Parks and Public Works workers, and more. To find all open positions, you can visit our website at fruita.org/jobs.

Engineering

- **Broadband Middle Mile & Lateral Build RFP.** We received two proposals for the Middle-Mile Lateral Build Requests for Proposals. Staff will evaluate the proposals internally and then make a recommendation on a contract.
- **North Mulberry Outdoor Plaza Project Update.** Quite a bit of progress has been made on the N. Mulberry St. project this week. Contractors installed the remaining footers for light posts and shade sail posts. More decorative concrete was placed in the plaza and some of the light and shade sail posts were installed as well. Electrical conduits for lighting and the natural gas tap for the fire pit are slated to be completed today (March 24th). Planter curbing was slated to be installed this week but unfortunately the weather slowed us down a bit. Next week you can expect to see planter curbing and more concrete installed, as well as more electrical conduit and possibly more shade and light posts. In addition to the progress made this week we were able to open the east edge of the plaza, which allows pedestrians to access the businesses adjacent to the project from either the north or south ends. Please keep in mind that although the sidewalk is open, construction activities are still in progress so use caution when walking through the project area. Thank you to all the local businesses and residents for your patience during this project construction.



- **Pine Street Bridge Project Update.** GA Western with the help of H & B Rebar tied all the reinforcing steel for the bridge deck and the portions of the bridge sidewalks and curbs that are

incorporated into the bridge deck. The concrete deck machine was built and placed on the rails installed on the formwork for the deck placement. The concrete placement for the bridge deck is scheduled for April 3, 2023. Ben Dowd Construction, the pipeline subcontractor, completed installation of the temporary irrigation main across the Little Salt Wash.



- **CDOT Contract for South Mesa Street Improvements.** The City of Fruita formally received notice from CDOT for the allocation of funds of \$1.7 million and contracting next steps for the project. These funds are part of the Revitalizing Main Street funding from CDOT and will help the City of Fruita implement the second phase of the Fruita Civic Center Memorial Park and Downtown Streetscape Improvements Plan. Improvements will include landscaping, pedestrian safety, and seat walls to make the corridor more inviting as one of the main entrances to the City of Fruita from Highway 6 & 50.

Parks and Recreation

- **Fruita Community Center Staying Busy for Spring Break!** The facility has admitted over 800 people on both Monday and Tuesday of this week compared to admittance rates between 400-500 last Monday and Tuesday. Our patrons are especially enjoying the newly reopened basketball court.
- **Back to Summer Fair Wednesday, March 29.** The first opportunity to register for DinoMites Summer Camp as well as our athletic and activity programs for the summer season. Come by the Fruita Community Center meeting rooms 4:00-6:00pm to learn more!
- **Fruita Youth Action Council is accepting applications for 1 more week!** Calling 6th-12th graders interested in creating events for local youth and having a voice in community decisions. This

group meets once a month and allows participants to develop leadership skills and participate in team building activities. Learn more and apply by March 31 at fruta.org/fyac!

- **Fruita Parks and Recreation Newsletter.** [Check out the most recent newsletter](#) to find out more about parks and recreation programming.

Planning & Development

To see active reviews of current projects, you may visit: <https://www.fruita.org/cd/page/current-development-projects>

Major/ Minor Subdivisions:

- Cider Mill Estates Final Plan (Under Review) (960 Stone Mountain Drive) (47 Lots)
- Dana Minor Subdivision (Approved) (317 Pine Street) (3 Lots)
- 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)
- Rose Creek Final Plat (Under Review) (K Road) (130 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:

- 111 S. Mesa Street Site Design Review (Under Construction) (111 S. Mesa St)
- 204 S. Mulberry Street Site Design Review (Under Construction) (204 S. Mulberry St)
- North Mulberry Street Conceptual Street Design (Approved/Under Construction)
- 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 Construction) (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)

Public Works

- **Irrigation.** Water is currently scheduled to be turned on Monday, April 10th.
- **CIRSA.** The yearly CIRSA inspection has been completed and staff attended an Injury Prevention Symposium on March 23rd.

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

- [CDOT ensures local access to fiber network.](#)
- [Central, Fruita, and GJ principals all stepping away after this semester.](#)
- [Fruita man in custody after threatening others with weapon.](#)
- [Local housing market remains slow, according to Bray Report.](#)
- [Fresh Tracks For May Bike Events in Fruita: Fruita Fat Tire Festival + Co2uT Desert Gravel To Share A Weekend.](#)
- [New Fruita rec center basketball court.](#)
- [First strike against invasive beetle starts soon.](#)
- [Mesa County Commissioners seek federal funding for several projects.](#)
- [Boebert changes stance on congressional earmarks.](#)
- [Grand Junction the third-best city for women to launch careers, study says.](#)
- [Mesa County Public Health's Trail Crew Prepares for Busy Season.](#)
- [Polis proposes sweeping housing policy changes.](#)
- [JUCO World Series hosting National Anthem auditions.](#)

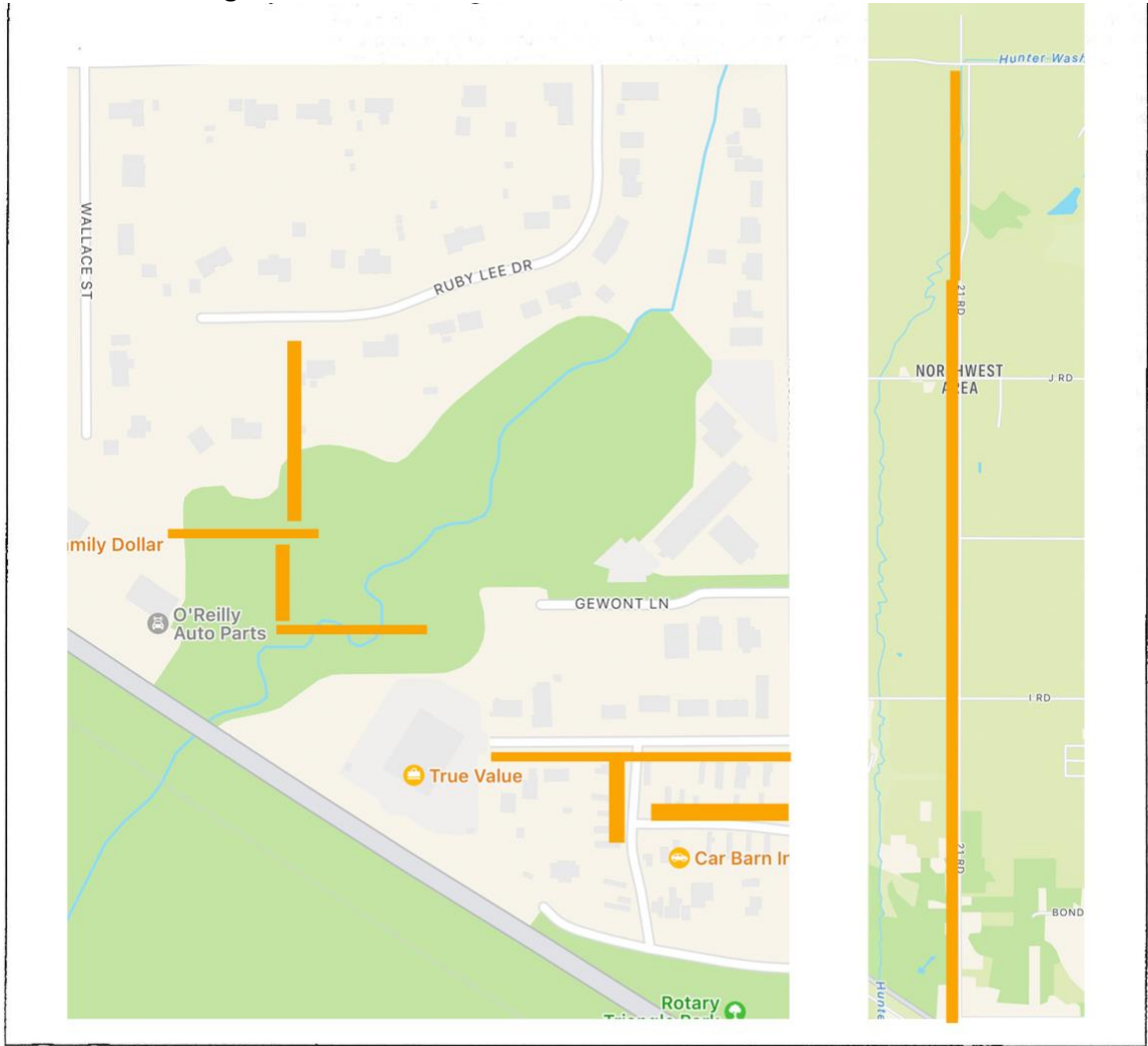
UPCOMING EVENTS *(Please let Deb know if you plan to attend so we can RSVP for you)*

- **April 7, 2023** – Youth Scholarship Golf Tournament, Adobe Creek Golf Course, 9:00 am.
- **April 15, 2023** – Fruita Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet, Fruita Community Center, 5:00pm – 10:00 pm
- **April 14-16, 2023** – Desert RATS Trail Running Festival, Kokopelli Trailhead, Open Venue
- **April 27, 2023** – Western Colorado Economic Summit, presented by Grand Junction Economic Partnership.
- **April 29, 2023** – Spring Clean Up, City Shops, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.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
- **June 2-3, 2023** - Mike the Headless Chicken Festival, Downtown Fruita, Open Venue

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 Tree Trimming Schedule Week of March 27-31, 2023





GET THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVE

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NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

CML opposes sweeping preemptions of local authority: “Not the ‘Colorado Way.’”

March 22, 2023, Denver, Colo. – Today, Gov. Polis and others lauded legislation aimed squarely at taking away a century of municipal authority over land use and zoning and placing state agencies in Denver in charge of regulating and enforcing decisions currently made at the local level. The proposed legislation represents the most sweeping attempt in recent Colorado history to remove local control and home rule authority from elected leaders, professional planning staff, and the people of Colorado by putting it into the hands of developer interests and unelected third parties.

“It is a breathtaking power grab,” said Kevin Bommer, CML executive director. “Although the bill is being sold as a ‘menu of options’ with ‘flexibility’ to create affordability, it mainly benefits developer interests to the detriment to the quality of life and access to local elected officials expected by Coloradans and with no guarantees that anything built will be ‘affordable.’ The League could support the bill if folks are willing to step away from a California-style, top-down approach, and support local government efforts to address density while guaranteeing affordable housing. Unfortunately, powerful special interests are more interested in preemptions than solutions.

CML officially opposes the legislation, and the League expects legislators will hear loud and clear from many of the over 1800 mayors, council members, and trustees – as well as planners and other local land use and housing experts – that preemption is not the answer to affordable housing questions. CML previously released [housing and land use principles](#), and CML’s [2023 State of Our Cities and Towns Report](#) shows overwhelming local action implementing many of the same goals and policies as the legislation’s proponents. Combined with existing strong regional partnerships with counties, special districts, and other municipalities, local efforts are achieving successes that can be enhanced with support and collaboration from state leaders.

CML’s report confirms that inflation and workforce shortages are major contributors to affordable housing, workforce housing, and infrastructure development. With the recent approval of Proposition 123, supported by CML, and hundreds of millions in state grant funds now available, the State of Colorado is positioned to support local efforts. Instead of building on these collaborative efforts, special interests instead seek to go around municipal leaders and their constituents.

“This bill is not at all the ‘Colorado Way.’ Unlike California or Oregon, Colorado has rich tradition of local control and constitutional home rule, the latter of which cannot be legislated away,” said Bommer. “If either of those foundational principles still mean anything to legislators, we expect they will reject this legislation and throw their support behind partnering with the bill’s proponents and local governments to tackle affordability issues together.”

CML is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization established in 1923 that provides advocacy, information, and training for 270 member cities and towns. For more information on the Colorado Municipal League, please visit www.cml.org or call 303-831-6411.

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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.