



# FRUITA COLORADO

## Weekly Info Update



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To: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
From: MIKE BENNETT, CITY MANAGER  
Date: FEBRUARY 17, 2023  
Re: WEEKLY INFORMATION UPDATE

***City offices will be closed on Monday, February 20, in observance of Presidents' Day. Trash and recycling will run on their normal pick-up schedules.***

### **Tuesday's City Council Meeting**

Tuesday's meeting will begin with consideration of multiple items on the consent agenda, followed by two public hearings for a special event liquor permit and a modification of a licensed premises. After public hearings, we will move into council reports and actions and end with an executive session.

### **ArborWorks Schedule for Next Week**

Xcel Energy, working with ArborWorks, a utility line clearance company, began trimming trees in Fruita this week. They will be trimming all trees, both private and public, if the tree is a hazard for powerlines. They will not be working in Fruita next week as they are finishing another project in Grand Junction. Work will start again the week of February 27 and ArborWorks will provide us with a map of the area they plan to work on next week.

### **Sweetheart Run Recap**

We had 312 5k entries and 69 10k entries for a total of 381 participants for the 2023 Sweetheart Race. Our participants enjoyed soup and cookies at the post-race party provided by Family Health West. The winners of the Grand Valley Bank costume contest were the "love machines". Thank you to everyone who made this event a success!

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



## 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](mailto:communications@fruita.org).

- **Question:** I'm looking to make improvements to my property this summer with a new fence, shed, and awning, do I need a permit from the city to make these improvements?
- **Answer:** The best way to get started with your improvement projects is to call or come see our Planning and Development team. Yes, you will need a permit for these projects but there may be other steps or a specific permit you need to get started. Call the team at 970-858-0786 or visit them in-person at the Fruita Civic Center at 325 E. Aspen Ave.

## General Updates

- **Year-End Financial Reports.** The December 2022 Financial Reports are now available and can be found in the packet for our meeting next Tuesday. When available, the packet can be found at this [link](#). Below is a brief (unaudited) overview of the major categories of sales tax collections received last year, and a comparison to what was budgeted for 2022:
  - **City Sales Taxes** – December 2022 tax collections were up 12% from prior year, and ended at an an increase of 10% overall at \$3,451,733 (budget for 2022 was \$3,116,000).
  - **Use Tax on Motor Vehicles** – In December, Use Tax on Motor Vehicles increased 15% from the prior year, and ended the year at an increase of 2%. Total amount received was \$856,800 (2022 Budget was \$800,000).

- **Use Tax on Building Materials** – Ended the year at a 28% increase from 2021, at \$375,000 (2022 Budget was \$210,000). December 2022 was down 31% from the prior year.
- **City 3% Lodging Tax** – December 2022 collections were down 10% from the prior year, but overall, the lodging tax increased 5% at \$181,500 (2022 Budget was \$131,000).
- **County Sales Tax** – City of Fruita collections from the County Sales tax was up 6% from the prior December, and ended at \$3,380,000, a 9% increase overall. The 2022 Budget for County sales tax was \$3,050,000.
- **County Sales Tax for Public Safety** – The County Sales Tax designated for Public Safety ended the year at an increase of 9% from 2021, at \$506,000 overall (2022 Budget \$435,000).
- **Coffee with the City Manager Next Friday.** I will be hosting a Coffee with the City Manager next Friday, February 2023, at Aspen Street Coffee at 8:00 a.m. These are an opportunity for residents to ask any questions or discuss the topics on their minds while exploring Fruita or enjoying a local business. We hope to see you there!
- **Initiate Conference.** Last week, Communications and Engagement Specialist, Ciara DePinto, attended the Initiate Conference, an annual marketing conference in Grand Junction. It was great to connect with other local marketers and communicators and learn new trends in the industry. Ciara attended sessions on employee branding, ChatGPT, creating video content, improv, and more.
- **Mobile Mesa County Newsletter.** Mobile Mesa County's monthly newsletter is [now available online](#). The newsletter showcases their recent Bike to Work Day, current transportation projects, and has information on the City of Grand Junction's Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan, the Safe Streets and Roads for All Program, and the Safe Routes to School program.

## Administration

- **Solid Waste Advisory Committee.** Staff attended a kick-off meeting for the Solid Waste Advisory Committee this week with Mesa County and all municipalities in the County. The bulk of the discussion at the meeting was focused on changes at the Mesa County Landfill and potential challenges moving forward due to new requirements or changes in laws regarding solid waste. The Committee will be meeting bimonthly to start.

## Engineering

- **N. Mulberry Street Outdoor Plaza Update.** Work continues on the N. Mulberry Street Outdoor Plaza project, with preparation for concrete curb and gutter installation occurring next week. Some of the concrete work that was slated for this week has been pushed to next due to the weather and the cold nights. Modifications to the pedestrian route will be occurring soon, with the southern access to the Vintage Common being closed while the shade and light footers are being installed. Access from the north (next to the Hot Tomato) will still be open during this time. As always, we appreciate your patience while we continue to move forward with the construction.
- **Pine Street Bridge Update.** Girders (structural support beams) were set this Friday for the new bridge.



- **CDOT.** Staff attended a scoping meeting for Highway 6. CDOT intends to design a 5-lane roadway section from the diverging diamond near 22 Road to 20 Road. It is unclear when the project will be constructed as there are no available funds. The 20 Road intersection improvements project was put out to bid through CDOT and United Companies was the low bidder. Construction on that intersection is anticipated to commence in March.

### **Parks and Recreation**

- **Update on Fruita Bark Park.** The fencing for the Fruita Bark Park is expected to be received next week, and our fencing contractor for the project anticipates installing it the week of February 27, 2023. It is possible that the weather this week could delay the installation (once the contractor is done with a job in Grand Junction, they will start on this Fruita project), but we will continue to provide updates here as more information is received. Apart from the fencing, crews have been working on cleaning up the site by removing trash, debris, and clearing fence lines.
- **Gym Floor Installation at the Fruita Community Center.** The installation of the new gym floor at the FCC started on Monday, and it is estimated that this will take five to six days. The next step, after installing the floors, will be sanding and then applying two sealer coats to the floors. There was a slight delay because the flooring did not reach the desired level of moisture content until this week, but the floors are still on schedule to be complete in early March. If you have been over to the Community Center, the installation has been quite noisy, as the contractor has been nailing in the new floors throughout this week.
- **New Chemical Feeders Installed at the FCC.** The Fruita Community Center has just installed new chemical feeders for the pools and hot tub. This system will be safer, cleaner and more efficient for our staff moving forward. At this time, our staff is working hard to adjust to the new system. We apologize for any inconvenience for patrons who have experienced interruptions in our aquatic facilities.

## 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)

### **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)
- The FARM Fruita Arts Recreation Marketplace (Under Construction) (158 Park Square)
- 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)

## Public Works

- ***Snow Removal.*** Public Works staff has been busy this week with snowplowing and snow removal. Crews started plowing roads at 3:30 a.m. on Wednesday and had most of the main streets cleared by the afternoon. Due to the cold temperatures, clearing the streets took longer because of the ice underneath the snow.
- ***Sewer Line Cleaning.*** The Utilities Division completed approximately 5,000 feet of sewer line jetting this week.
- ***Total Maximum Daily Limit (TMDL) Meeting.*** Public Works Director participated in discussions regarding the next steps for E.Coli and microbial source tracking with MS4 (Municipal Stormwater Permit) jurisdictions and the United States Geological Survey (USGS).
- ***Wetlands Meeting with Mesa County.*** Met with Mesa County and partners to discuss Wetlands Banking.
- ***ROW Process.*** Facilitated Right-of-Way (“ROW”) Permit Mapping process with Public Works staff and Engineering staff to streamline the process and remove any inefficiencies.
- ***Congratulations Bill!*** Bill Wulff was recently promoted to Utilities Crew Leader. He was previously a Heavy Equipment Operator in the Utilities Division.

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

- [Wandering With Wendy: Colorado National Monument Is a Wonder in Any Season.](#)
- [D51 school closures, consolidations could happen as soon as this fall.](#)
- [Fruita’s new space for ‘creative professionals and professional creatives’ opens.](#)
- [Arts, business come together at new Fruita Arts Recreation Marketplace.](#)

- [Startup Colorado relaunches as nonprofit – and local entrepreneurs could benefit.](#)
- [Above-average snowpack for the winter season.](#)
- [Fruita girls top Central, move closer to SWL title.](#)

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

- **February 24, 2023** – City Engagement Series, Coffee with the City Manager, Aspen Street Coffee, 8:00 a.m.
- **April 14-16, 2023** – Desert RATS Trail Running Festival, Kokopelli Trailhead, Open Venue
- **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](mailto: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.