



CITY LINK WINTER 2023

fruita.org | 858-3663 | 325 E. Aspen Ave.

PROUD TO SERVE THE FRUITA COMMUNITY 2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2023 was a busy year in Fruita! As the year wraps up, we want to take a moment to reflect on the achievements accomplished thanks to the support of the Fruita community.

In the spring, the City of Fruita launched the first-ever Fruita Building Inspections program and division. This division simplifies residential and business development processes by creating a one-stop shop for all building and planning resources. Since February 2023, the team has issued an impressive 550 permits while conducting 1,750 inspections.

Additionally, we are proud of Fruita's budget process, and this year the City of Fruita was awarded the Distinguished Budget Award by the Government Finance Officers Association, acknowledging the city's commitment to transparency and government budgeting.

When it came to engagement, the Fruita community showed up! We are grateful for your engagement and input. This year, we hosted the first-ever watch party for the 2023 State of the City video at Rocky Mountain PBS right here in Fruita. We also hosted the first-ever Fruita Academy with 24 community members participating. The academy provided an inside educational experience in Fruita government services.

Other engagement events throughout the year were well attended giving us feedback from many community members.

Large projects like the Pine Street Bridge and the Mulberry Plaza were definitely celebrated moments in Fruita. Of course, we can't forget the opening of Fruita's first-ever dog park, the Fruita Bark Park.

Speaking of large projects, massive improvements were made to Fruita's sewer system with the completion of the aeration project at the Wastewater Treatment Facility and the replacement of manholes and sewer lines.

Moreover, initiatives like new playground equipment at Prospector Park, electric vehicle charging stations at the Civic Center, increased parking in downtown, and economic partnerships for development along the Colorado River showcased Fruita's dedication to enhancing public amenities and fostering sustainable growth.

These accomplishments, among others, showcased Fruita's commitment to strategic planning, community engagement, and always ensuring core services are stable and improved upon each and every year. Thanks for an amazing year, Fruita! We look forward to what 2024 has to offer.



PREPARE FOR WINTER: SNOW REMOVAL

When it snows in Fruita, you can be confident our street crews are equipped and ready to remove snow to ensure Fruita's transportation system remains safe and accessible. This includes snow plowing and anti-icing operations that prioritize critical arterials for commercial corridors, school routes, emergency services, and City facilities.

Residents Responsibility

Property owners are responsible for keeping all sidewalks adjoining their property free of snow and ice. Snow and ice need to be removed from sidewalks within 24 hours after a snowfall.

Business Owner Responsibility

Business owners with sidewalks outside their business, must have snow and ice removed within two hours after a storm stops. If the snow occurs at night, snow and ice need to be removed by 10 a.m. the following day.

FRUITA CITY COUNCIL: If calling City Hall at 858-3663 does not answer your questions, please feel free to contact any of your City Council Members.



MAYOR
JOEL KINCAID
250-9557



MAYOR PRO TEM
MATTHEW BREMAN
314-5991



KEN KREIE
270-3305



AMY MILLER
640-0751



AARON HANCEY
261-5413



JEANNINE PURSER
260-5413



JAMES WILLIAMS
858-7675



WASTE MANAGEMENT TRASH COLLECTION

CHANGES TO CURBSIDE PICKUP BEGINNING IN 2024

Last year, Waste Management (WM) transitioned a handful of Fruita neighborhoods to an automatic collection system utilizing 96-gallon carts. This change improves safety for Waste Management personnel, helps improve cleanliness in Fruita, and reduces litter in the environment. Starting in January 2024, all Fruita households will be transitioned to the automated collection system.

We realize this change in service will be an adjustment for residents, so we've worked with WM to provide as many options as possible to help meet the needs of the community. With this,

we want to say thank you to all the residents who were part of the initial roll out of service. Your feedback has been extremely valuable and was used to help with the rest of the transition. The full transition will provide more options to residents, including additional services throughout the year.

New Recycling Services

Starting in 2024, recycling will become much easier with a single-stream recycling service. Instead of having multiple bins for recycling, residents will receive one 96-gallon container that all recyclables can be placed in. Materials being recycled will no longer need to be separated and sorted.

What to Expect

- You will receive more information from WM in the mail over the next few months.
- WM will deliver a 96-gallon trash can and recycling cart (optional) in January 2024.
- You will also have the option of receiving an additional trash can, at a reduced rate of \$4 per can/per month.
- Information on how to dispose of old trash cans or recycling bins will be provided by WM.

We thank you for your time and patience as this new program starts at the beginning of the year. Please be on the lookout for additional communication from the City of Fruita and WM. For additional information, please visit fruita.org/trashcollection.

2024 UPCOMING CITY ELECTION

The next regular City election will be held on April 2, 2024. The election will be conducted by mail ballot and ballots will be sent out to registered voters in mid-March 2024. The ballot will include the election of one Mayor for a two-year term and three City Council members for four-year terms each. On March 6, 2024, the Fruita Area Chamber of Commerce will host a candidate forum open to the public. More information about the election will be available online at fruita.org.



HOLIDAY COOKING & SEWER LINES

City crews estimate they remove 1,500 - 2,000 gallons of fats, oils, and grease from sewer lines each week! When fats, oils, and grease (FOG) are poured down the sink, large thick grease collects and blocks pipes. This can lead to sewer backups, overflows, and contamination of local waterways.

What is FOG?

FOG refers specifically to fats, oils, and grease when poured down the drain in homes, apartments, businesses, restaurants, and public facilities. Typically, FOG is a byproduct of cooking. The following are common FOGs to avoid pouring down the drain.

- Butter, lard, shortening
- Cooking oil
- Fats and oils from cooked meats
- Food scraps
- Milk and heavy creams

How You Can Help

When cooking, you can help dispose of FOG by using a can to dispose of cooking grease, wiping pans before washing them in the sink, and throwing away or composting food scraps instead of tossing them down the drain.





UTILITY RATE CHANGE IN 2023

Following the adoption of the 2024 Budget, the following utility rate changes will be effective January 1, 2024.

Solid Waste Collection (Trash) Services

- 96 Gallon Cart Trash Service - \$18.90/month (Increase of \$1.20/month)
- 96 Gallon Cart Senior Rate - \$16.55/month (Increase of \$1.05/month)
- Additional trashcan is an extra \$4.00/month.

Sewer Services

- Residential – \$52.55/month. Increase of \$1.55/month.
- Residential senior/income eligibility rate* - \$21.10/ month. Increase of \$0.60/ month.
- Commercial Base Rate - \$60.25/ month. Increase of \$1.75/month.
- Volume Charges
 - 5,000 to 105,000 - \$7.90/1,000 gallons. Increase of \$0.10/1,000 gallons.
 - 105,000 gallons plus - \$4.90/1,000 gallons. Increase of \$0.10/1,000 gallons.
 - Plant Investment Fee for single family residence - \$7,000. No change.

Irrigation Water

- City maintained irrigation system - \$150/ year. No change.
- Water share rental - \$27.50
- Irrigation tap - \$750. No change.

*Senior rates – Age and income eligibility requirements apply. Must be 62 years of age and annual income equal to or less than 133% of the federal poverty level or \$19,391/year for single individual and \$26,288/year for a couple.

2024 BUDGET ADOPTED BY THE FRUITA CITY COUNCIL

During the regular City Council meeting on December 19, 2023, the Fruita City Council formally adopted the 2024 Municipal Budget. The City’s annual budget mirrors the priorities outlined in the Fruita Strategic Plan while also providing essential core services and aligning with the City’s core values. The Fruita Strategic Plan outlines priorities for the next two to four years based on the City’s long-term planning documents including the 10-year Fruita in Motion Comprehensive Plan, master plans, and the 2021 community survey results. The plan serves as a guide for City Council and staff in the creation of the City Annual Budget. To learn more about the Fruita Strategic Plan, visit fruita.org/strategic-plan. The 2024 Adopted Budget reflects the commitment of the City Council and staff to achieve a balance of a conservative fiscal policy while also allocating time, talent, and resources to defined areas of Fruita’s Economic Health, Quality of Place, and Lifestyle.

In the budget, you will see continued investments in the City’s capital infrastructure. Based on the 2021 Community Survey, the top two goals for the community were to focus on the quality of City streets and managing traffic flow and congestion. In 2024, the City has budgeted for projects to continue the efforts of improving traffic and streets. Projects include significant improvements to 19 Road, an increased budget for road overlays, chip sealing, sidewalk improvements, and street striping. Other core services the City is focusing on in 2024 is critical sewer and wastewater projects. Projects in 2024 will improve downtown’s sewer system and replacing a lift station for wastewater treatment. In addition to these infrastructure projects, the City is investing in Fruita’s quality of place by making improvements to the downtown area with adding a self-cleaning bathroom, additional parking, improving S. Mesa Street, and finishing the renovations to Reed Park. The budget also outlines other quality of place projects like additional special events, design work for trail connections, improvements to other City parks, and increased funding for the 911 Communications Center.

These are only a few of the projects and items that are included in the 2023 City of Fruita Municipal Budget. The budget includes \$27.3 million in projected revenues (excluding transfers from other funds and other financing sources), and \$33.8 million in proposed expenditures between all funds. The City of Fruita is utilizing savings from previous years to help with the costs of some of the large-scale infrastructure projects. The full budget can be found on our website at fruita.org/budget. If you have any questions, please feel free to email them to communications@fruita.org.





FRUITA
COLORADO

**325 E. ASPEN AVENUE
FRUITA, COLORADO 81521
FRUITA.ORG**

PRESORT STD.
US POSTAGE
PAID
GRAND JCT., CO
PERMIT NO. 134

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

2/10	Fruita Sweetheart Run	10:00 a.m.	Fruita Community Center
3/28	Easter Egg Scramble	4:15 p.m. & 5:15 p.m.	Fruita Community Center
4/27	Fishing is Fun	9:00 a.m.	Snooks Bottom Open Space
4/12	Fruita Youth Golf Tournament	9:00 a.m.	Adobe Creek Golf Course
4/12-4/14	UTMB Desert Rats Trail Running Festival	Open Venue	Kokopelli Trailhead
5/3-5/5	Fruita Fat Tire Festival	Open Venue	Downtown Fruita
5/4	Co2uT	Open Venue	Downtown Fruita
5/31 - 6/1	Mike the Headless Chicken	Open Venue	Downtown Fruita

FRUITA 
ACADEMY

Learn About Your Local
Government

APRIL 11
through
MAY 2

FREE CLASSES | CONNECT | ENGAGE | LEARN

4 SESSIONS
THURSDAYS
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

SIGN UP BY **APRIL 4**
FRUITA.ORG/ACADEMY



For more information, or if you don't see the event you were looking for:

City of Fruita, fruita.org/calendar, 970-858-0360

Fruita Tourism, gofruita.com

Fruita Chamber of Commerce, fruitachamber.org, 970-858-3894