



# FRUITA

## COLORADO



## Weekly Info Update

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To: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
From: MIKE BENNETT, CITY MANAGER  
Date: APRIL 26, 2024  
Re: WEEKLY INFORMATION UPDATE

### **Fruita Civic Center Closed Next Friday, May 3**

The Fruita Civic Center will be closed to the public next Friday May 3, 2024, due to the festival events in the surrounding area. Access to the Fruita Civic Center and parking will be limited and we can provide a better customer experience via phone or email during this event. Our offices will still be available by phone or email, so please reach out if you need anything! Regular in-person hours will resume on Monday, May 6, 2024. This closure does not impact the Fruita Community Center, the Fruita Police Department, or Fruita City Shops. Thank you, Fruita!

- Administration, Phone: 970 - 858 - 3663
- Community Development, Phone: 970 - 858 - 0786
- Engineering, Phone: 970 - 858 - 8377
- Human Resources, Phone: 970 - 858 - 3663
- Email: [communications@fruita.org](mailto:communications@fruita.org)

### **Spring Clean Up Event Recap**

Last Saturday was the annual Spring Clean Up event at the Fruita City Shops. The event was a huge success with dumpsters filling up by 9:30 a.m. Public Works crews ordered five 40-yard dumpsters that were full within the first 2 hours! Crews made separate piles to keep the gates open until 2:00 p.m. In total, the city filled three cardboard recycle bins, (10) 40-yard dumpsters, 10.9 tons of additional material was hauled to the landfill and disposed of 3.3 tons of scrap metal and 50 mattresses. Way to go FRUITA!!

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



### **Arbor Day Celebration**

On Friday morning, staff and I joined Mayor Breman at Shelledy Elementary for the Arbor Day Celebration and the planting of the tree for the winner of the poster contest. Fifth grader, Charlotte, won the poster contest for Arbor Day and her submission has been sent off for the statewide art contest. Each year, our Parks Department plants a tree at the school of the winning artist, and this year we planted a snow crabapple tree that will (hopefully) grow 30 feet tall and 20 feet wide. Mayor Breman read the Arbor Day proclamation and the fifth graders helped with planting the tree. Congratulations to Charlotte and Shelledy Elementary on winning the art contest!

### **Mike Bennett Named CCCMA City Manager of the Year (Continued)**

Congratulations to City Manager Mike Bennett for receiving the 2023 Manager of the Year award for medium-sized communities at the Colorado City and County Management Association Annual Conference.



### **Ride the Rockies Cancelled for 2024 (Continued)**

Ride the Rockies announced yesterday, the 2024 ride has been cancelled due to low registration. You can see their full statement on the [Ride the Rockies website](#). We are sad to see this and appreciate all our partners' time and support over the last several months to help plan for this event in 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:** Where can I find information on street closures in Fruita?
- **Answer:** You can now stay up to date on upcoming traffic impacts from projects with our new email subscription. We update our website with upcoming traffic impacts from projects and now you can easily receive this communication in your inbox. [Sign up for email notifications from the City of Fruita](#). You can also [read about traffic impacts on our website](#).

### **General Updates**

- **Fruita Academy Week #3.** This week, the Fruita Academy focused on Community Development and the Police Department. The group learned about plan review, the Building Division, Short Term Rentals, special events, new economic development efforts, and an in-depth overview of the Police Department. Next week is our last week of the academy and it will cover administration and elected officials.

- ***Bike to Work Day & Breakfast at the Fruita Civic Center.*** Next week, staff and I will be hosting Fruita Bike to Work Day at City Hall at 7:30 a.m. After breakfast, we will head out for a quick ride around Fruita on one of the Fruita wayfinding routes. We look forward to seeing everyone and of course want to thank the sponsors of the breakfast, Einstein Bagels and Bestslope Coffee.
- ***Fruita Fourth Friday Tonight.*** The first Fruita Fourth Friday of the year is tonight! Head down to the Mulberry Plaza for to enjoy community, art, music, food, and drink.
- ***Grand Valley Pets Alive Update.*** This year, the Fruita City Council approved \$6,000 in outside agency funding for Grand Valley Pets Alive (“GVPA”) to issue spay and neuter vouchers for Fruita residents. GVPA sent us a letter this week providing us with an update on the grant this year that can be found below. Through April, almost \$4,000 of the grant has been used for vouchers and there is another \$2,000 in vouchers that are waiting that have been distributed but not redeemed. The letter concludes by thanking the City of Fruita for the grant, and that it is making a huge difference in the community. Thank you to GVPA for all that you do!
- ***City of Fruita Awarded Mini-Grant.*** The City of Fruita has been awarded a \$5,000 from the Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado (“AGNC”) for crosswalk improvements on Cherry Street next to Family Health West. The improvements will include the removal of the existing curb and gutters to construct a new ADA ramp compliant ramp, creating and installing new signage, and stripping the crosswalk and curb faces. Thank you to AGNC for your support with this project!
- ***Member Appreciation Social.*** The annual Fruita Area Chamber of Commerce Member Appreciation Social is next Wednesday, May 1, 2024, at 3:30 p.m. If you are interested in attending, you find more information here: [Chamber Member Appreciation Social](#).
- ***Lower Valley Fire Mitigation.*** Starting Monday, April 29, until Thursday, May 2, the Lower Valley Fire District and Alpine Tree Services will continue work along the Little Salt Wash from Almond Circle to the Maple Street Bridge removing brush to help with fire mitigation.
- ***Mobile Mesa County Newsletter.*** The bike month edition of the Mobile Mesa County is now available and can be found here: [Mobile Mesa County – Bike Month Edition](#). It includes a full event list of Grand Valley Bike Month, Walking and Biking Data from around the valley, information on the Mesa County Safety Action Plan, and more.

## **Parks and Recreation**

- ***Reed Park Update.*** Wheelpark rough grade has begun, and American Ramp Company is starting to prep for concrete. The wheelpark is taking shape and starting to look like something other than piles of dirt. The north shelter foundation has begun and will be fenced off during construction. Ute Water will be closing Elm on Monday and Tuesday to relocate the fire hydrant to the west side of Elm and moving the water meter to a location that will provide maintenance accessibility. The landscaping contractor is fixing all damaged irrigation and splicing damaged irrigation wires. They are working to get all repairs made so they can start irrigating the park.
- ***Downtown Restroom Construction started this week.*** The contractor has completed the site prep and we are working on a delivery date for the installation of the restroom. It is looking like mid-May for a delivery date.

- **Community Center Waterslide Update.** The contractor is continuing underground plumbing and working with the Health Department on operational details for the waterslide. Work is on schedule and progressing according to the construction timeline.
- **Puzzle Palooza.** Fruita Parks and Recreation hosted our first ever Puzzle Palooza on April 7<sup>th</sup>, with 11 teams competing to complete a 500-piece jigsaw puzzle. Teams consisted of people aged from 17- 81! The winning team completed the puzzle in 26minutes and 40 seconds!
- **Youth Activities.** Last Friday was another successful Night of FCC event. With 317 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> graders in attendance.
- **Athletics.** 44 participants learned the fundamentals of soccer including teamwork, and sportsmanship in our Pee Wee soccer program. Pee Wee soccer will resume in June.
- **Active Adults (55+).** As the spring weather warms up so do the Active Adults (55+) hikes and trips. This month, the group hiked Otto's trail on the Colorado National Monument and spent some time at the Monument's visitor center learning about John Otto. During our hike on 4/23 to the Audobon Trail, we saw Mrs. Albertson (A great horned owl) and her babies in their nest! Last Wednesday, the Fruita Active Adults (55+) spent the day at Ouray Hot Springs.

## Planning & Development

To see active reviews of current projects, you may visit [fruita.org/projects](http://fruita.org/projects).

### Major/ Minor Subdivisions:

- Copper Creek West Final Plan, Filing 1 (Under Construction) (954 19 Road) (48 Lots)
- Iron Wheel Filing 2 Final Plat (Under Construction) (19 Road) (46 Lots)
- Adele's Acres Subdivision (Approved) (1024 19 Road) (48 Lots)
- LaPointe Minor Subdivision (Approved) (1050 E. Ottley Avenue) (4 Lots)
- Weston Estates Preliminary Plan (Under Review) (1877 J 2/10 Road; Parcel # 26997-164-00-050 & 2697-164-00-074) (109 Lots)
- West Canyon Preliminary Plan (Under Review) (Parcel #2697-162-21-001) (50 Lots)
- Gear Estates Preliminary Plan (Under Review) (1156 18 Road) (8 Lots)

### Site Design Review/ Other Applications:

- The Fruita Mews (Under Construction) (1138 18.5 Road)
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Site Design Review (Under Construction) (417 E Ottley Ave)
- 535 W. Aspen Apartments (Under Construction) (535 W. Aspen Avenue)

## Public Works

- **Certification.** Congratulations Wyatt Bramwell in our Fleet Division for passing his ASE G1: Automotive Maintenance and Light Repair Certification!!
- **Meetings.** Public Works Director attended the GVRTC meeting. Public Work staff met with representatives of Glade Park to discuss Mountain Water and participated in a meeting with Clearnetworx regarding fiber build-out.

- **Road Maintenance.** Crews continued to crack seal city streets, and completed painting of parking stalls downtown between Maple St. And Park Square. Chipseal Bids will be opened at 1:00 p.m. at the Civic Center.

## RESOURCE LINKS

- [Traffic Impacts](#)
- [Community Resources](#)
- [City Project Updates](#)
- [Fiber Internet Construction Updates](#)
- [Trash and Recycling Services](#)
- [Stay Informed](#)
- [Fruita City Council](#)

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

- [FARM, Community Hospital, Tim Navin headline Fruita Chamber Awards.](#)
- [Creative life: Fruita artist talks about newest book.](#)
- [Grand Valley Transit to launch mobile ticketing.](#)
- [Tickets available for Mountain Bike Film Festival, proceeds benefit trail development.](#)
- [Early morning Fruita house fire.](#)
- [8 Towns Perfect for Retirement in Colorado.](#)
- [Fruita Chamber awards businesses and individuals.](#)
- [Fruita's Mike Bennett wins Manager of the Year award.](#)
- [Mike the Headless Chicken Festival is May 31 – June 1.](#)
- [The importance of 'friends groups' in national parks.](#)

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

- **April 26, 2024** – Fruita Fourth Fridays, Mulberry Plaza, 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- **May 1, 2024** – Fruita Chamber Member Appreciation Social, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
- **May 3 – 5, 2024** – Fat Tire Festival, Open Venue, Downtown Fruita
- **May 4, 2024** – 18 Hours of Fruita, Open Venue, Highline Lake State Park
- **May 4, 2024** – Co2uT, Open Venue, Downtown Fruita
- **May 4, 2024** – Fishing is Fun at Snooks Bottom, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- **May 11, 2024** – Adventure Fest, Open Venue, 18 Road Trailhead
- **May 24, 2024** - Fruita Fourth Fridays, Mulberry Plaza, 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- **May 31 – June 1, 2024** – Mike the Headless Chicken, Open Venue, Downtown Fruita.
- **June 15, 2024** – Tab Benoit with special guest Larry McCray, James M. Robb State Park in Fruita, 6:00 p.m.
- **June 25, 2024** – State of the Community Breakfast hosted by the Fruita Area Chamber of Commerce, Absolute Prestige Ranch, 8:30 a.m.

- **June 28, 2024** - Fruita Fourth Fridays, Mulberry Plaza, 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- **July 26, 2024** - Fruita Fourth Fridays, Mulberry Plaza, 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- **August 23, 2024** - Fruita Fourth Fridays, Civic Center Park, 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- **September 7, 2024** – Firefall with special guests The Dubious Brothers, James M. Robb State Park in Fruita, 6:00 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](mailto:communications@fruita.org).



**GRAND VALLEY PETS ALIVE**  
**P.O. Box 3701**  
**Grand Junction, CO 81502**  
**970 462-7554**

April 15, 2024

CITY OF FRUITA  
ATTN: Shannon Vassen  
325 East Aspen, STE 154  
Fruita, CO 81521

Dear Shannon,

A much belated THANKS to the City of Fruita for the \$6000 grant from Outside Agency Funding.

Grand Valley Pets Alive has been very busy this year, we are running behind on getting Thanks out to those supporting us.

On January 16 we issued the first voucher for Fruita. As of April 11, \$3660 has been paid out, and another \$2156 is on the books as "active vouchers". Active vouchers are similar to checks, waiting to be cashed, they have an expiration date of approximately 45 days. Any that expire puts the dollar amount back in the grant, to issue more vouchers. It is our wish that all vouchers issued be used, sadly not all are. Vouchers for the approximate balance of \$184 will be issued by the end of this week.

The City of Fruita's grant is making a big difference.

Carole Chowen



President, spay Neuter Coordinator





*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.