



FRUITA

COLORADO



Weekly Info Update

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To: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
From: MIKE BENNETT, CITY MANAGER
Date: May 24, 2024
Re: WEEKLY INFORMATION UPDATE

***City offices will be closed Monday, May 27, 2024, in observance of Memorial Day.
Trash and recycling services will be delayed by one day the rest of the week.***

Mike the Headless Chicken Festival Next Weekend

The 24th annual Mike the Headless Chicken Festival is next Friday and Saturday in downtown Fruita! Come celebrate miracle Mike with live music, vendors, food trucks, a 5K, car show, and so much more. The festival opens on Friday afternoon at 4 p.m. at Civic Center Park. Check out Miketheheadlesschicken.org for the full schedule and more details.

Fruita Civic Center Closed Next Friday, May 30

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, June 3, 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

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

Downtown Restrooms Now Open

Wednesday afternoon, the downtown restrooms opened for use! The restrooms are on the corner of Peach Street and Aspen Avenue. There are two units, with ADA accessibility, and changing stations. The restrooms are currently scheduled to open at 6 a.m. each day and lock at 11 p.m. each night, and they are self-cleaning. We answered a few common questions we've been seeing from the community [on our social media accounts](#). Please be patient as we make small changes and adjustments to the automated features until we get the restrooms dialed in and operating optimally.

Riverfront Trail near Loma

Due to rising water levels in the Colorado River from snow melt, the Riverfront Trail near Loma at Reed Wash is closed. We will share an update on our social media accounts once the trail is back open.

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:** Does the City of Fruita have an ordinance on maintaining weeds on property?
- **Answer:** Yes, and here are a few helpful guidelines to ensure your property (residential and/or business) is following the City of Fruita's code: Cut all weeds that are 12 inches in height or higher to the ground and remove them for your property. Remove all weeds on your property starting at the curb of the sidewalk/street. If your property is in junction with an alley way, please clear weeds starting at the center point of the alley. [Learn more on our website.](#)

General Updates

- **169 S. Mulberry Closing.** This morning, we closed on the sale of 169 S. Mulberry Street. This closing also includes a parking agreement, development agreement, encroachment agreement and a financial guarantee to ensure the improvements within the development agreement will be completed. The new owners, who also own FARM, will present an overview to the City Council of their plans for the building and its future use on June 4. Excited for this redevelopment, which will also yield a City-owned public parking lot.
- **City Manager Engagement Event.** Join City Manager Mike Bennett and guests on Thursday, May 30 at 5:15 p.m. at Copper Club Brewery (153 N. Mulberry St.) for casual conversations. These events are an opportunity for residents to have an open conversation with the City Manager and discuss the topics on their minds while exploring Fruita or enjoying a local business. These are casual, informal events that all are welcome to attend and drop in or out of at any time. *(Please note this date was changed from June 11 to May 30).*
- **Mesa County Mental Health Services Survey.** Mesa County is inviting all residents to [participate](#) in a [Mental Health Community Assessment survey](#), which will run until June 3, 2024, to gather insights on the current state of mental health services and identify areas for improvement.

- **CML Spring Meeting.** Last night, Councilors Miller and Purser, and Shannon and I, attended the Spring regional meeting for the Colorado Municipal League. The bulk of the meeting was spent on hearing updates from our regional partners, along with hearing a recap of the legislative session from CML, looking at 2024 statewide ballot measures, and reviewing CML resources. These meetings are a great chance for elected officials and staff to catch up with one another and receive training and updates from the CML staff. The next meeting will be this fall in Grand Junction.
- **Reminder from CDOT on Summer Traffic Season.** The latest newsletter from the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is focused on preparing travelers for summer and where to anticipate additional traffic throughout the state. If you are interested in reading the newsletter, you can find it here: [Summer Travel Season Set to Start.](#)

Engineering

- **Electric Poles on Ottley Avenue.** During the City Council meeting on Tuesday night, there was a question about the construction along Ottley Avenue for new electric poles. The new electric poles being installed are to support the new solar panel farm just the northeast of Rim Rock Elementary School.
- **Pine Street Construction.** The intersection at Pine Street and Wildwood Drive was closed for utility improvements for the Gear Estates development from May 21 until today. The road will be open with slow speeds from Friday, May 24 - Monday, May 27. The road will then close again to finish up the project from Tuesday, May 28 - Friday, May 31. The recommended detour is taking L Road and K 4/10 Road to 18 1/2 Road.

Parks and Recreation

- **Reed Park Update.** The Northern Pavilion footers have been poured and prep for the slab, flatwork, and ADA ramp has begun. The northern pavilion will be delivered and installed later next week. The wheel park will have flatwork poured this week and a representative from Action Sports Design will be on site to check on the progress. The stormwater vault has been installed and sump pump was installed on Thursday. The landscaping contractor has repaired most of the irrigation but is still having issues with zone 5. They will be working on those repairs to make sure the park is irrigated. They will also be backfilling trenches that have settled and prepare for area for sod. The electrician will be on site to pull wire from the transformer to the building and prepare all electrical work.
- **Community Center Waterslide Update.** Concrete has been poured in the mechanical room and maintenance can move back into the building. The contractor started excavation for the tower foundations outside of the building. Progress is still on track.
- **Parks Irrigation Update - Continued.** The parks crew has been working to get all irrigation turned on in parks. The high water has now created issues with sediment and debris in the water clogging filters nightly.
- **Hot 90 Days of Summer Membership.** This first-ever FREE summer pass program was implemented in May at the Fruita Community Center. Staff cultivated this program after a

donation was received from a Western Slope organization. The donor requested funds be utilized to grant free access to as many youth 17 and under as possible. Using shared resources, the Fruita Parks and Recreation Department offered 45 Child Passes and 52 Youth Passes totaling 97 Memberships to Fruita locals.

Planning & Development

To see active reviews of current projects, you may visit fruita.org/projects.

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 (Approved) (Parcel #2697-162-21-001) (50 Lots)
- Gear Estates Preliminary Plan (Under Construction) (1156 18 Road) (8 Lots)
- Lake Weedunno Minor Subdivision (Under Review) (916 18 Road) (2 Lots)
- Sunset Pointe Minor Subdivision & Vacation of Right-of-Way (Under Review) (Squire Court) (2 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

- **Street Striping and Chipseal Bids.** Two bid openings on Friday, May 24, 2024, for the 2024 street projects. A striping bid opens at 1:00 p.m. and the chipseal bid opens at 2:00 p.m.
- **Locates, crack sealing, and more.** Street crews completed 116 locates this month, completed crack sealing on all roads scheduled to be chipped, and completed two asphalt patches on Cleaveland Ave., between Maple St. & Apple St.
- **Utilities.** Utilities continue with utility camera work in new subdivisions and waiting for parts to repair the 340 Lift Station pump.

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):

- [Fruita grad becomes engineering professor, game show contestant.](#)
- [Officials explain what school resource officers actually do.](#)
- [May is Water Safety Month.](#)
- [5 Safest and Cheapest Cities to Live in Colorado.](#)
- [Woman runs 187 mile loop around Grand Valley.](#)
- [Government officials discuss state of the valley.](#)
- [2024 State of the County.](#)
- [Rural Philanthropy Days conference coming to Fruita.](#)
- [Mesa County conducting survey on mental health.](#)
- [Seeds of Innovation.](#)

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

- **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.



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.