



2020 Accomplishments and Looking Forward

What a year, Fruita! Despite the pandemic, the City was still able to complete several key priority projects. We are proud of what we were able to accomplish as a team and a community and wanted to reflect upon and share a few of the highlights. While not all of them are listed here, some of the 2020 accomplishments include:

- Completion and adoption of *Fruita in Motion Comprehensive Master Plan*
- Land Use Code and Engineering Design Standards Update
- *Parks, Health, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Master Plan Update*
- Paved trail connection of the Colorado Riverfront Trail to the Fruita Business Park and Imondi Wake Zone
- Completion of the Highway 6 Sewer Interceptor Project
- New sidewalks and crossing for Monument Ridge Elementary on K.4 Road and 18.5 Road
- Awarded a \$50,000 grant to fund rail cross improvements at 16 Road into the Fruita Business Park
- Fruita Trails Initiative – funding paleo studies for the North Fruita Desert (18 Road)

- trails and received a \$190,000 grant to fund trail maintenance valley-wide
- Replastered the indoor pool at the Fruita Community Center
- For the first time in 30+ years, managed and ran the municipal election
- Voters approved an additional 3% lodger's tax to fund economic development and parks, trails, open spaces, and public spaces
- Big Salt Wash bank stabilization
- Implemented and managed the City's Emergency Operations Plan for the COVID-19 pandemic, established a Fruita Business Support Loan Fund, and disseminated timely updates to the community regarding COVID-19

Looking forward to next year, the Fruita City Council adopted the 2021 Annual Budget in early December. This budget focuses on improving core services and tackling large infrastructure projects within the City. Key projects include the replacement of the Pine Street Bridge, sewer and road improvements along Maple Street, installing three missing trail connections along the Big Salt Wash Trail, and completing the landscaping for the Highway 340 Roundabouts, to name only a few. We are excited for next year and look forward to continuing to serve the Fruita community! 🍷



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.



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COVID-19 Update from Fruita City Council



The Fruita City Council would like to say thank you, Fruita, for all your efforts during the pandemic. It has been a difficult year, but we will get through it. In the meantime, we need to continue to work together to support and keep our businesses open, keep our schools safe, ensure that students have an opportunity to learn in person and to protect our families, friends and neighbors, now, and in the future. We applaud Family Health West's leadership and work to aid the valley in vaccination distribution and School District 51 for opening a community testing site at Fruita Monument High School. Be Well, Be Fruita.

You can cut down on the spread of the virus by:

- Avoiding the three Cs:
 - 1 Closed spaces with poor ventilation
 - 2 Crowded places with many people
 - 3 Close-contact settings such as conversations in close proximity to others
- By maintaining a bike's distance apart from those not in your household – social distancing is one of our best tools to limit the spread!
- Wearing a mask or facial covering when out in public
- Taking a COVID test if you have symptoms – there are now four free testing sites for the community – at Fruita Monument High School, the Mesa County Fairgrounds, Colorado Mesa University, and Grand Mesa Middle School
- Keep it clean and wash those hands frequently
- By just staying at home if you are not feeling well

Thank you Fruita! 🇺🇸



Exercising is Safe and Easy at the Fruita Community Center

Recently, the Fruita Community Center was designated as a Five-Star Facility by Mesa County Public Health's Variance Protection Program. This designation was due to the Community Center's commitment to providing a safe and clean facility for guests. You can exercise confidently this winter knowing that exercise equipment is required to be cleaned and disinfected before and

after each use, social distancing is required, equipment is often spaced out six feet apart, and masks must be worn at all times except when in the swimming pool or using cardio equipment. The Community Center is also offering new and unique programming in a safe manner and the pool remains open for exercise and leisure swim. We hope to see you soon! 🇺🇸

A New Way to Connect — Report Issues through the Citizen Request Portal

The City of Fruita is excited to announce the launch of a new Citizen Request Portal using Dude Solutions technology available through a web-based interface. This system has been utilized by the City of Fruita to track internal work orders and assets for the past two years and has been extremely useful in providing improved mobile capabilities for maintenance staff. The system has now been expanded to provide members of the community a way to directly submit and track concerns.

The Citizen Request Portal is not intended for emergency issues, but here are a few examples of citizen requests that might be submitted through the portal:

- Code Enforcement Issue
- Report Graffiti
- Report a Pothole

- Report a Safety Issue
- Request for Street Sweeping
- Street Light Outage
- Traffic Concern
- Weed Complaint

Once submitted, the software automatically generates a work order tracking number and the request gets routed to the appropriate department. Citizens can then track the progress of the request and will receive a notification when it reaches resolution.

The Citizen Request Portal is scheduled to launch in mid-January of 2021 and will allow residents access to the request form at www.fruita.org/CitizenRequestPortal. Stay tuned for more information. 🇺🇸



Being Snow Ready

City crews are equipped for snow removal operations to make sure our 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 should be aware that property owners have the responsibility to keep all sidewalks adjoining their property free of snow and ice. Snow and ice need to be removed from the sidewalks within 24 hours after a snowfall. If you are a business owner with a sidewalk

outside your business, the snow and ice must be removed within two hours after the storm stops. If the storm occurs during the night, the snow and ice needs to be removed by 10 a.m. the following morning.

When shoveling snow or removing icicles from your roof, please remember to be careful and not overexert yourself. Cold weather can exacerbate underlying health issues and can be dangerous. Consider working with neighbors or hiring someone if needed to stay safe. 🧤

Employee of the Year Award



Congratulations to Tom Casal, Recreation Superintendent, for being named the 2020 Fruita Employee of the Year! Each year, employees nominate coworkers who have performed above and beyond and exemplified the City's core values. This year, seven

well-deserved employees were nominated. The Employee Engagement Committee then votes on the nominations, resulting in an employee of the year: Mr. Casal oversees the Fruita Community Center ("FCC") and all recreation programming throughout the City. Mr. Casal was nominated for the award for several reasons including his leadership at the FCC throughout the pandemic, creating unique and safe events for the community such as drive-thru versions of the Easter Egg Scramble, Truck N' Treat, and Cookies N' Claus, and for his creative and innovative decision-making that will allow the FCC to break even this year (after facing an almost \$700,000 deficit), even after an almost two-month closure. We appreciate all of Mr. Casal's hard work and leadership this year and are excited to name him Employee of the Year. In Tom's own words, the accomplishments of the Recreation Department were a team effort of many creative, hard-working coworkers. Congratulations Tom! 🎉

2021 Proposed Utility Rate Changes:

The following utility rate changes will be in effect January 1, 2021:

- **Solid Waste Collection (Trash) Services**
 - Unlimited Residential - \$14.75/month. Increase of \$.60/month.
 - Unlimited Residential Senior Rate* - \$12.75/month. Increase of \$0.55/month.
 - 96 Gallon Cart - \$16.00/month. Increase of \$0.60/month.
 - 96 Gallon Cart Senior Rate - \$14.00/month. Increase of \$0.75/month.
 - **Sewer Services**
 - Residential – \$48/month. No change from previous year.
 - Residential senior/income eligibility rate* - \$19.30/month. No change.
 - Commercial:
 - Base Rate - \$55.15/month. No change.
 - 5,000 to 105,000 gallons/month - \$7.20/1,000 gallons. No change.
 - 105,000 gallons +/-month - \$4.45/1,000 gallons. No change.
 - Plant Investment Fee for single family residence - \$7,000. No change.
 - **Irrigation Water** – No price increases on irrigation water, whether on the main City line or the outlying line ("Encanto Line"). Increase of \$1 per year from \$25 to \$26 for rental share of water.
- * Senior rates – Age and income eligibility requirements apply. Must be 62 years of age and have income equal to or less than 133% of the federal poverty level (\$16,970/year for a single individual, \$22,930/year for a couple) 🧑🏻‍🦳

Upcoming Events in Fruita

February 14-21, 2021

Virtual Sweet Heart 5k/10k Run

Virtual

Registration begins Jan 1

GIVE AIR-FIVES

Sorry, no hi-fivin' right now. Maintain a bike's length between you and others.



ACCESSORIZE

You're looking good with that face-covering over your nose and mouth.



KEEP IT CLEAN

Watch your mouth! But also wash your hands and disinfect frequently.



ACE THE TEST

We promise there's no math involved. Get tested for COVID-19 if you have symptoms.



JUST STAY HOME

When in doubt, stay home and get some rest. Up for some binge-watching.



BE WELL BE FRUITA

Be good to each other, take care of yourself, and follow these tips to help keep our community healthy & open.



Find out more about how Fruita is keeping our community a safe place to live and visit:

BeWellBeFruita.com