

City of Grand Junction...

A letter from the Mayor...

The City began the year 2002 by hosting a very successful and inspirational Olympic Torch Relay celebration at our newly remodeled Two Rivers Convention Center. As a community, we were proud to honor our own local heroes.

Throughout 2002, the City Council was working on its first Strategic Plan for the City, which outlines our goals as a Council and the direction we wish to take as a community for the next five years. We surveyed the residents to find out what was important to you, and based our Strategic Plan on the common themes and issues you brought up. The top five issues were keeping a strong and healthy local economy; having a safe, healthy environment for youth; maintaining agricultural lands; population growth; and having adequate open space.

You will be hearing more about our Strategic Plan throughout the year. City Council is also working hard to foster cooperation and partnerships throughout our community. One example is our work with the Rural Fire Protection District to place an item on the ballot to fund a new fire station in the Redlands. We continue to work closely with Mesa County in the management of the Persigo Wastewater Treatment Plant and issues related to growth.

As always, our City employees are dedicated to providing quality service to you, our customers, and we look forward to serving you throughout the coming year.

Cindy Enos-Martinez
Mayor



Photo by Davis Photography

City Council members Bill McCurry, Reford Theobald, Harry Butler, Mayor Cindy Enos-Martinez, Janet Terry, Dennis Kirtland, and Jim Spehar.

Year 2002 Highlights ...

While the year 2002 was a difficult one for our country and community as we reeled from the effects of the devastating attack of September 11 and mourned the loss of lives and innocence, it was also a year filled with hope and planning for the future in Grand Junction. City Council spent much of the year working on goals involving transportation, growth, infill and redevelopment.

This year, the City Council began work on a Strategic Plan. We reviewed all existing plans from Grand Valley agencies and organizations, and began to identify both long-term directions for the City and nearer-term objectives and action steps. A telephone survey of over 400 residents was used to assess interest in several Strategic Directions. Eight neighborhood meetings were held throughout the City to review the Plan Directions and Goals with local residents, using that input to finalize the Plan.

Transportation and growth were identified as areas of intense interest from residents. A transportation study was underway throughout 2002 to identify a route to create a transportation loop around the City. The loop would relieve traffic congestion, especially along the I-70B corridor between Highway 6 & 50 and the Mesa Mall area. The proposed loop would eventually connect Interstate 70 with 25 Road, River Road, run through lower downtown out to 29 Road, then connect north to Interstate 70.

Reconstruction and widening on Independent Avenue between First Street and 25 Road continued throughout the spring and summer of 2002, and construction was completed in September. This difficult \$1.4 million project involved the relocation of every utility in the street, including irrigation ditches, power and cable television lines, sanitary sewer lines, telephone lines and the main 12-inch natural gas pipeline serving the City.

In July, the City's third new roundabout was completed at 25 and G Roads. The same month, construction began on a project to improve traffic flow at Seventh Street and Patterson Avenue, funded by St. Mary's Hospital and the City. Seventh Street was straightened as it climbs the hill between Wellington and Patterson, and the main hospital entrance was moved to Seventh and Wellington.

In April of 2002, voters turned down a plan that would remove Tabor revenue restrictions. Funding for long-term transportation improvements will become more difficult in future years as Tabor restrictions "ratchet down" funds. This issue will be a topic of discussion for City Council in 2003 and beyond.

City Council approved a new Infill/Redevelopment Policy for the City. The new policy examines ways to encourage development to occur where services such as streets, water and sewer are currently in place, and to redevelop sites that have fallen out of use. The plan will be incorporated into the Growth Plan Update that is underway. Five years have passed since the Growth Plan was adopted by both the City and County. The update will reexamine all assumptions that were made in developing the plan, and will be presented to City Council for their consideration in February, 2003.

In March of 2002, the American Civil Liberties Union dropped its lawsuit against the City over the Ten Commandments monument, which had stood on City grounds since 1958 when it was donated to the City by the Fraternal Order of Eagles. In late 2001, the City completed the Cornerstones of Law and Liberty Plaza in front of City Hall that incorporates monuments with wording from the Bill of Rights, the preamble to the U.S. Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, the Mayflower Compact, the Magna Carta, and the Ten Commandments.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS ...

Grand Junction citizens give hundreds of hours of community service each year by serving on City boards and commissions. They give generously of their time and talents to make Grand Junction a great city. To apply for position openings, contact the City Clerk at 244-1511. Current boards and their members (as of October 2002) are:

AIRPORT AUTHORITY

7 member board
4 year terms
Terms expire in May for City appointments.

The Airport Authority sets policy and oversees the operations of the airport, ensuring compliance with its by-laws, with the State Public Airport Authority Law and with FAA regulations. The Board meets at 5:15 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at Walker Field Airport with additional committee meetings as needed.

Miles McCormack Craig Springer Steve Ammentorp
Robert McCormick Karen Berryman Dennis Kirtland
Jim Gardier

BUILDING AND FIRE CODE BOARD OF APPEALS

5 member board, 1 alternate
3 year terms, at least 1 term to expire each year
Terms expire in July

This board decides requests for special exceptions to the building code, suggests amendments to the building code for consideration by BOCC, adopts substantive rules and regulations based on the provisions of the building code, and hears appeals about building permits. The board meets as needed in the Hearing room at the County Courthouse at 544 Rood Ave.

Ken Hussman Norman Kinney David Reinertsen
Ray Rickard Thomas Cronk
David Detweiler, alternate

COMMISSION ON ARTS AND CULTURE

9 member board
3 year terms
Terms expire in February

The mission of the Commission on Arts and Culture is to enhance local arts and cultural opportunities and development, encourage cooperation and collaboration among arts organizations, provide information to area artists and arts agencies and establish community arts priorities. The Commission meets the 4th Wednesday of each month at 4:00 p.m. at the Parks & Recreation offices at 1340 Gunnison Avenue.

Bill Whaley Pamela Blythe LeRoy Donegan
Priscilla Mangnall Janet Prell Jack Delmore
Karen Kiefer Joan Meyers Doug Clary

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

9 member board
4 year terms
Terms expire in June

The DDA's primary purpose is to facilitate the reinvestment in and the redevelopment of downtown Grand Junction. The Board of Directors establishes policy and directs the Authority in its efforts. The meetings are held the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:30 a.m. at the Whitman Education Center, 248 South 4th Street.

Doug Simons P.J. McGovern Larry Botkin
Bruce Bengel Bruce Hill Becky Brehmer
Gregg Palmer Harry Griff Janet Terry

GRAND JUNCTION FORESTRY BOARD

5 member board
3 year staggered terms
Terms expire in November

The Board acts as a reviewing body for the purpose of determining professional qualification and competence to engage in the business of cutting, trimming, pruning, spraying or removing trees by giving written, oral and practical license examinations. The Board also makes recommendations to the City Council for the adoption of rules and regulations pertaining to the tree service business in the City, and it may hear complaints from citizens relating to the tree service business. The Board meets the 1st Friday of each month at 8:00 a.m. at the Parks shops at 1400 Gunnison Ave.

Mitch Elliott Vince Urbina Stephen Gerow
Mike Heinz 1 Vacancy

GRAND JUNCTION PLANNING COMMISSION

7 member board
4 year terms
Terms expire in October

The Planning Commission hears and decides many planning and zoning related issues and makes recommendations to the City Council on similar matters. The Commission holds public hearings on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. and holds workshops as needed. The Commission meets at the City Auditorium, 250 N. 5th Street.

Dr. Paul A. Dibble John Redifer Roland E. Cole
William E. Putnam John Evans Richard Blosser
Bill Pitts John Paulson (1st Alt.) Travis Cox (2nd Alt.)

HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD

5 to 7 member board
3 year terms
Terms expire in December

The Historic Preservation Board is responsible for recommending designation of historic resources to City Council for listing on the City Register of Historic Sites, Structures

and Districts. The Board also reviews proposed alterations to designated sites as necessary and generally promotes historic preservation in the Grand Junction community. The Board meets the 1st Tuesday of the month at 4:00 p.m. at the Community Development Conference Room at City Hall, 250 N. 5th Street.

Philip Born William C. Jones Thomas Streff
Doug Simons David P. Bailey Dennis Pretti
Louise Wagner

HOUSING AUTHORITY

7 members
5 year terms
Terms expire in October

The Housing Authority provides safe and sanitary dwellings and apartments for persons of low and moderate income. The Housing Authority meets the 4th Monday of each month at 11:30 a.m. at 1011 N. 10th Street.

Kathleen Belgard Gi Hamrick Erin Ginter
Steve Heinaman Corey Hunt Harry Butler
Marius "Gabe" DeGabriele

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

7 member board
3 year staggered terms
Terms expire in June

The Board assists in the planning of recreation activities and it helps to promote a long-range program for the development of the City's park system. The Board meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 12:00 noon at the Parks Administration Building, 1340 Gunnison Avenue.

Bob Cron Bernie Gross Tom Dixon
Lena Elliot David Detweiler Dennis Derrieux
Dale J. Hollingsworth

RIVERFRONT COMMISSION

11 member commission
3 year terms
Terms expire in July

The Riverfront Commission is charged with planning, advocating and implementing a multifaceted program to redevelop and reclaim the Colorado riverfront within the Grand Valley. The meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the old Courthouse, 544 Rood Ave., Public Meeting Room.

Mark Gardner John Gormley Eric Marquez
Lenna Watson Chris Kanaly Walid Bou-Matar
Dustin Dunbar Paul Jones William Fhidlay
Richard Gerhardt Marius "Gabe" DeGabriele

URBAN TRAILS COMMITTEE

7 to 11 members
3 year terms
Terms expire in June

The purpose of this Board is to promote and facilitate trail use and construction within the City of Grand Junction, and to plan for integration with trails in areas which will be annexed. The Committee meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the old Courthouse, 544 Rood Ave., in the Public Meeting Room.

Birgit Bosteluan Jamie Lummis Robb Reece
Robert Traylor Judy Craddock Clark Rieves
Ken Scissors Timothy Fry Walid Bou-Matar
Diana Cort Janet Hollingsworth

VISITOR & CONVENTION BUREAU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

9 member board
3 year staggered terms
Terms expire in December

The mission of the Visitor and Convention Bureau is to market Grand Junction, resulting in a positive economic impact of visitor dollars to the City. The Board advises the VCB staff on policies and marketing directions. The VCB Board meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 3:00 p.m. at various locations throughout the community.

Michael Somma Linda Smith Jill Eckhardt
Wade Haerle Alan Friedman Peggy Page
Jane Fine Foster Kevin Reimer vacant

PLANNING COMMISSION BOARD OF APPEALS

5 member board
3 year terms
Terms expire in October

The Board of Appeals hears and decides appeals of administrative decisions, appeals for variances of the bulk requirements and non-conforming uses, and requests for exceptions to the side or rear setback requirements pursuant to the Zoning and Development Code. The Board also makes recommendations to the Planning Commission for amendments to the Zoning and Development Code. The Board meets as needed on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at noon at the Municipal Hearing Room, 250 N. 5th Street.

Mark Williams Clay Tuffy Paul Dibble
John Paulson (1st Alt.) Travis Cox (2nd Alt.)



Photo by Dean Humphrey



Photo by Claire Taylor

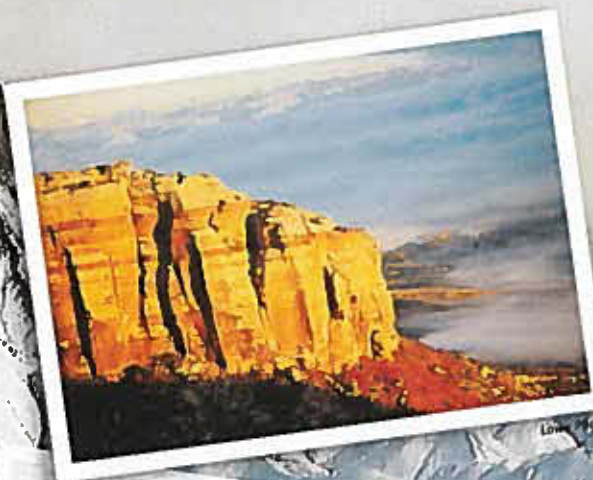
Public Works – Utilities

Water worries kept much of the state in turmoil as the Colorado River dropped to historic lows due to a persistent drought. It was a sweltering summer with 19 days of 100 degree-plus temperatures in the City. Water restrictions were not required of Grand Junction residents in 2002. The City has been careful to conserve water and develop strong water rights and reservoir capacity over the years, but another dry winter could prompt restrictions. The City will be monitoring the snow depths and moisture readings throughout the 2002-2003 winter.



Public Works-Utilities

The Combined Sewer Elimination Project (CSEP) will eliminate the City's combined storm and wastewater sewer system by constructing a separate stormwater collection system in the downtown area. Plans were drawn up during 2002 and low interest bonds for the \$8.3 million project were obtained through the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority. Construction will begin in early 2003 for the first phase of the project from First Street to 15th Street between North Avenue and D Road. The first phase will include approximately 25,000 feet of new water line and the installation of 5,000 feet of new storm sewer pipelines. Close attention will be paid to limiting the length of disruptions in front of any individual home or business and limiting the length of any water service interruption.





Fire

Improving fire and emergency services throughout Mesa County has been the goal of a group of officials from the City Council, local fire districts, and County Commissioners. This task force met throughout 2002 to discuss the issues of funding and service delivery. The Rural Fire Protection District placed a ballot issue on the November election. Voters in the district approved an additional 4.904 property tax mil levy to operate a new fire station in the Redlands.



Grand Junction Fire Department, 6th and Colorado, Ca. 1925, 1990.58 G.J.F.D. Collection, Loyd Files Research Library, Museum of Western Colorado



Photo by Claire Taylor. Art on the Corner

Police

Police Chief Greg Morrison has begun implementing two of his philosophies for his department: involving the public in policing decisions and taking a problem-solving approach to crime.

In January of 2003, the Grand Junction Police Department inaugurated a Neighborhood Beat plan. The City is divided into four service areas of roughly northeast, southeast, southwest and northwest.

Each service area is divided into neighborhood beats. Officers are assigned to a service area for one year to establish relationships with residents, businesses, schools, and homeowner's associations in the neighborhood.

The Neighborhood Beat plan should reduce crime in Grand Junction by increasing interaction between officers, residents and businesses and by enhancing the officer's ability to solve problems.

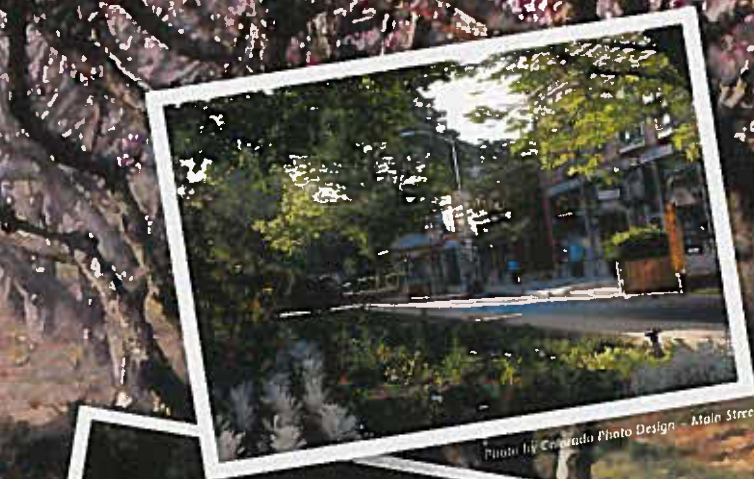


Photo by Colorado Photo Design - Main Street



Photo by Christopher Tomlinson

Visitor and Convention Bureau

The Grand Junction Visitor and Convention Bureau received one of the nation's top travel industry awards in August 2002 from the Travel Industry Association of America. The VCB was recognized with an Odyssey Award for their "Adventure You Can Taste" advertising and marketing campaign.

In October, the VCB hosted over 400 travel and tourism professionals for Governor Bill Owen's Colorado Tourism Conference in Grand Junction.

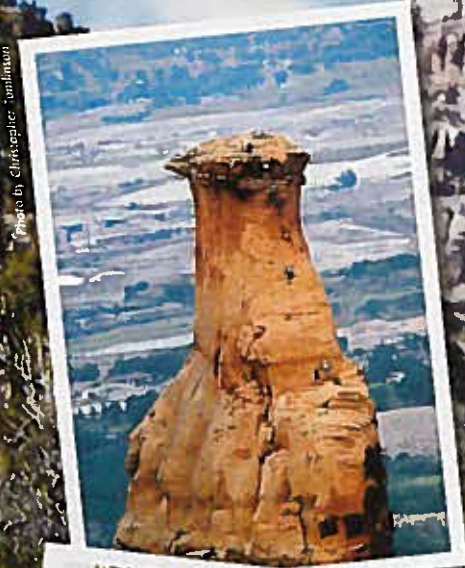


Photo by Christopher J. Jamison



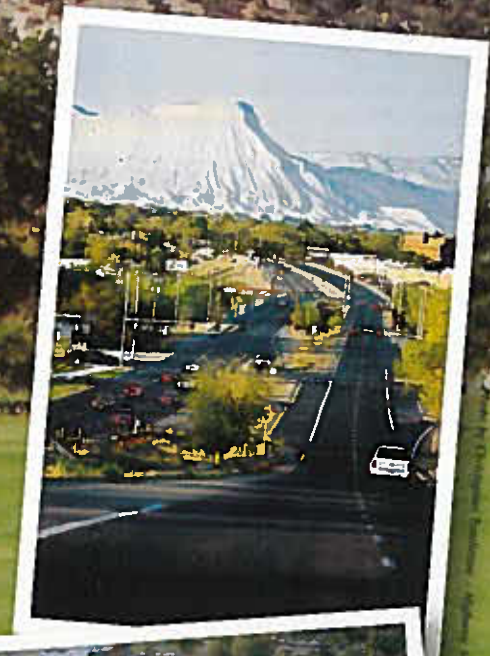
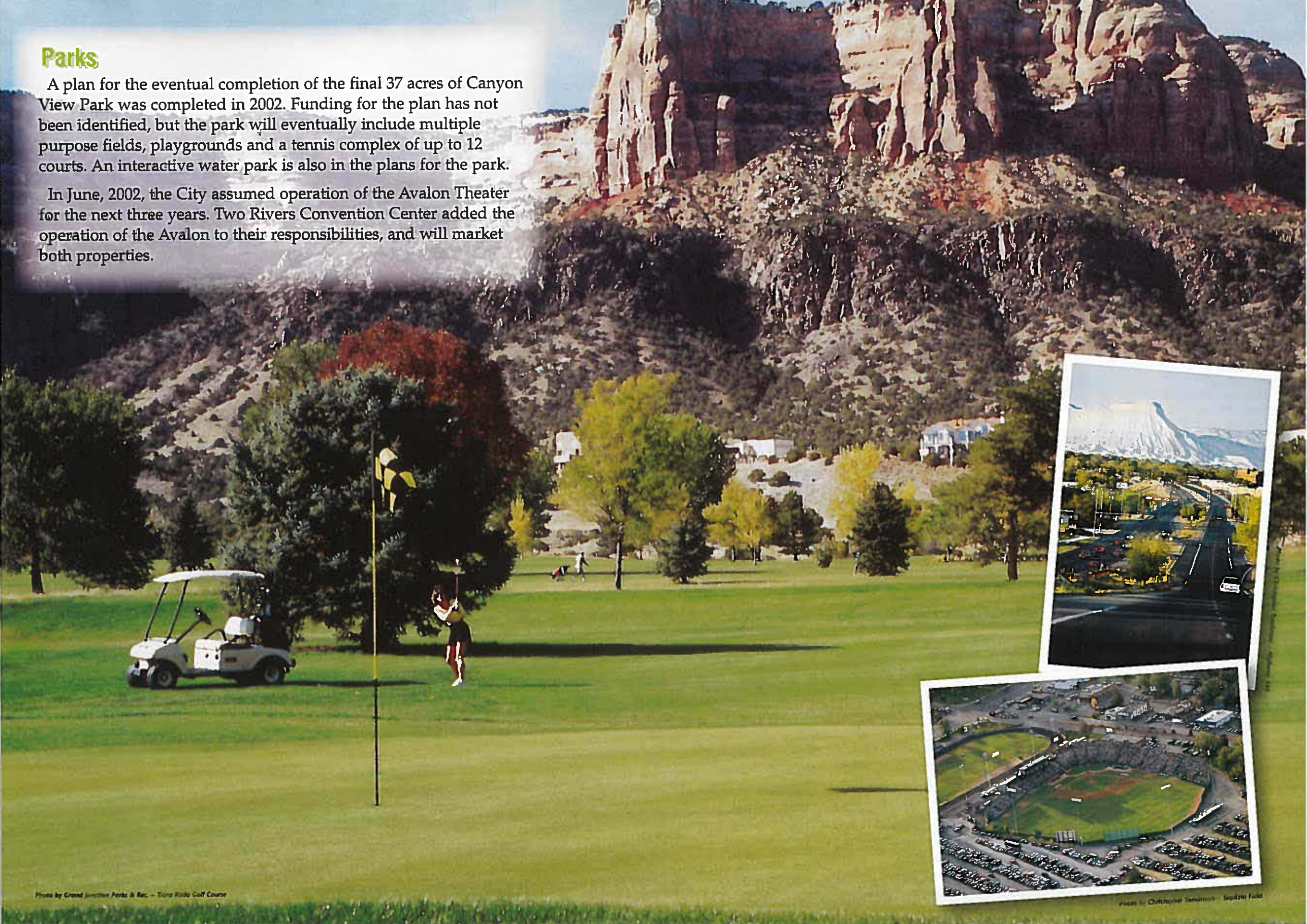
Photo by Cory Marlin

Photo by Stephanie Kiser - Boulder Wild Horse Project

Parks

A plan for the eventual completion of the final 37 acres of Canyon View Park was completed in 2002. Funding for the plan has not been identified, but the park will eventually include multiple purpose fields, playgrounds and a tennis complex of up to 12 courts. An interactive water park is also in the plans for the park.

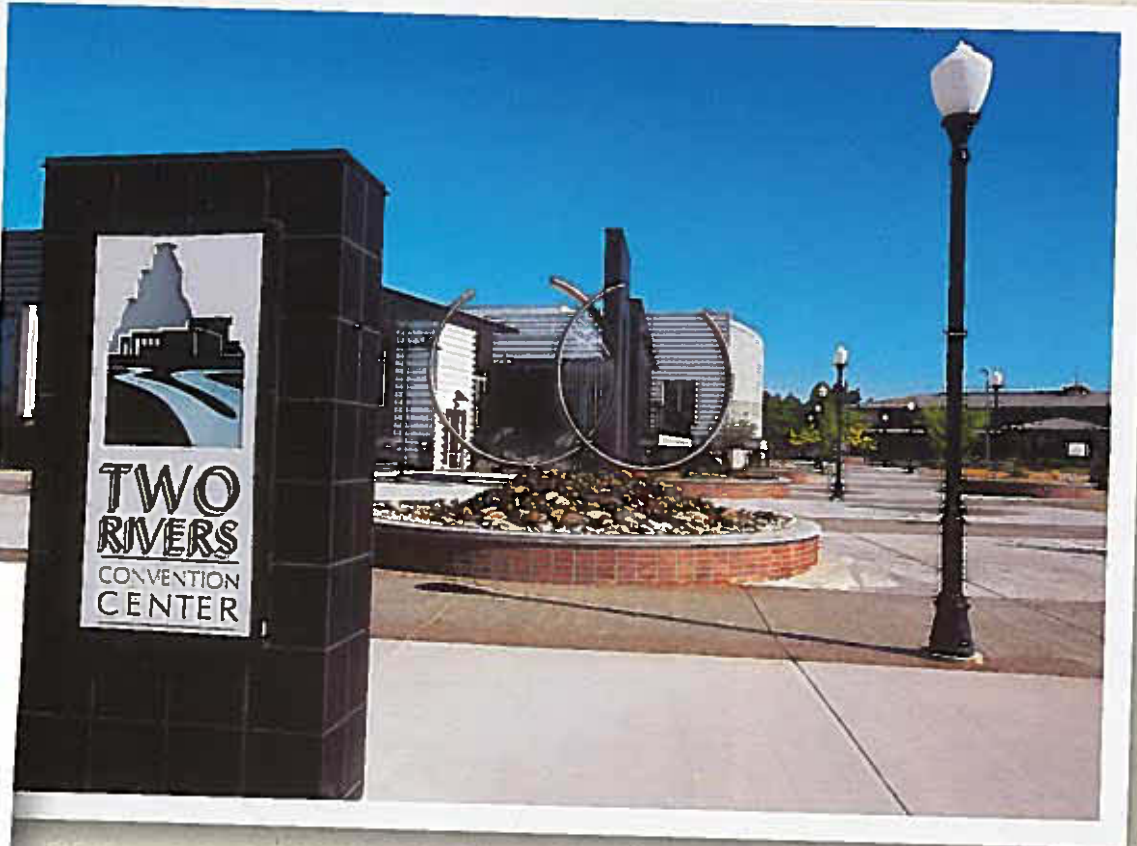
In June, 2002, the City assumed operation of the Avalon Theater for the next three years. Two Rivers Convention Center added the operation of the Avalon to their responsibilities, and will market both properties.



Two Rivers Convention Center



Photo by City of Grand Junction - TRCC before renovation



© 2002 Douglas Norcross - TRCC after renovation



Photo by City of Grand Junction - TRCC during renovation



Photo by Grand Junction Parks - TRCC during renovation

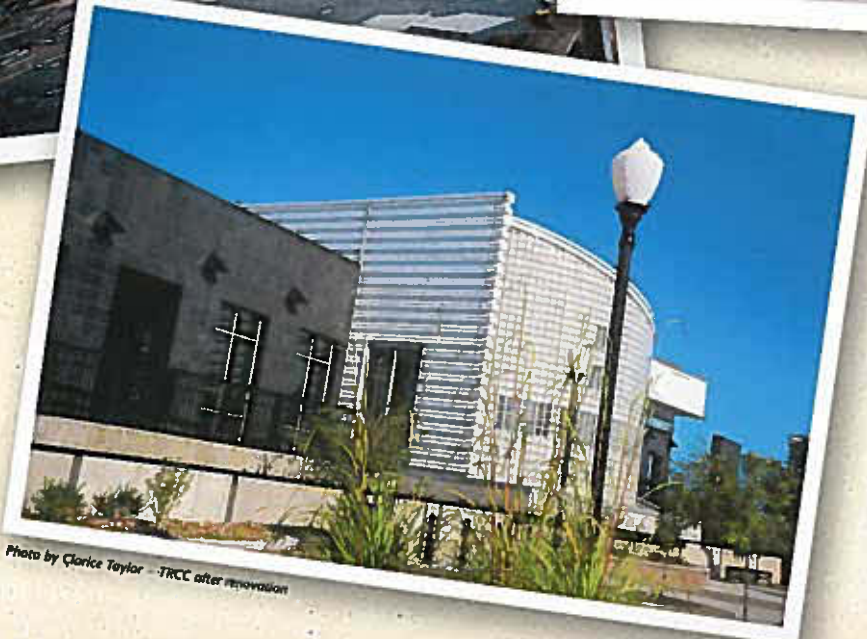


Photo by Clarice Taylor - TRCC after renovation

TRCC Renovation

In April of 2001, the City began a \$6.1 million renovation of Two Rivers Convention Center that upgraded the mid-1970's building with a state-of-the-art kitchen facility, additional meeting room space, new restrooms and an updated exterior. The architectural firm of Sink Combs Dethlefs was selected for the project, which was designed to improve the usability of the facility. Two Rivers Convention Center hosts more than 1,000 events annually, and the kitchen, restroom and parking facilities were inadequate to serve larger groups and events.

The improvements to the building:

- Added an office area
- Enhanced the vestibule/entry area
- Added an elevator from the underground parking area
- Completely rebuilt and enlarged the kitchen to make it state-of-the-art
- Replaced and enlarged the restrooms
- Doubled the meeting room space



Photo by City of Grand Junction

Photo by Grand Junction Parks

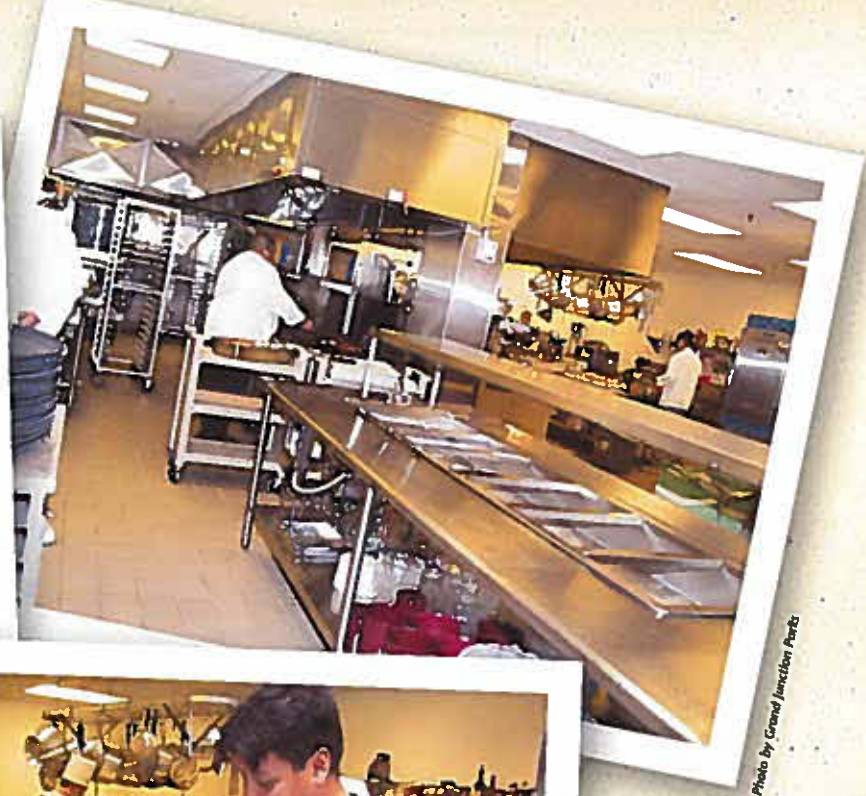


Photo by Grand Junction Parks



Photo by PVC Communications

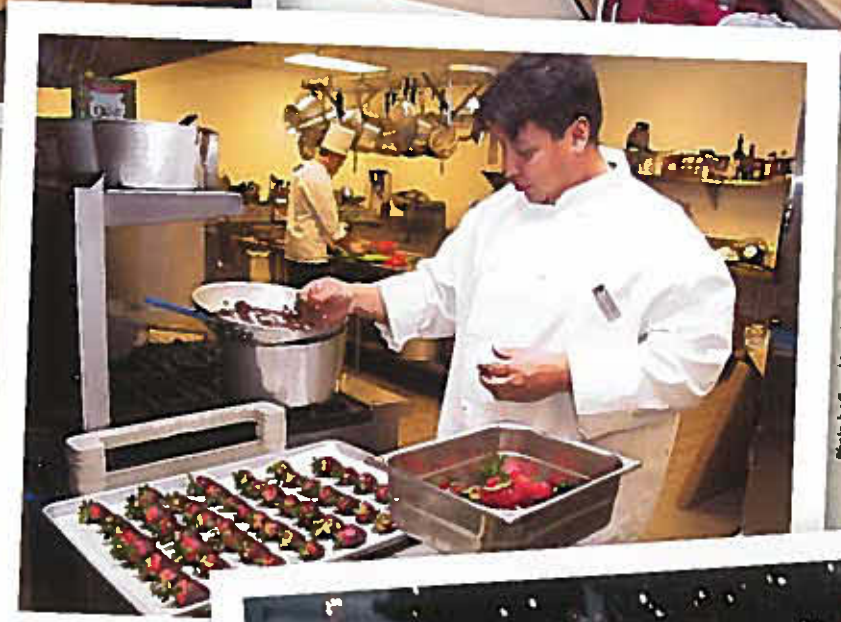


Photo by Grand Junction Parks

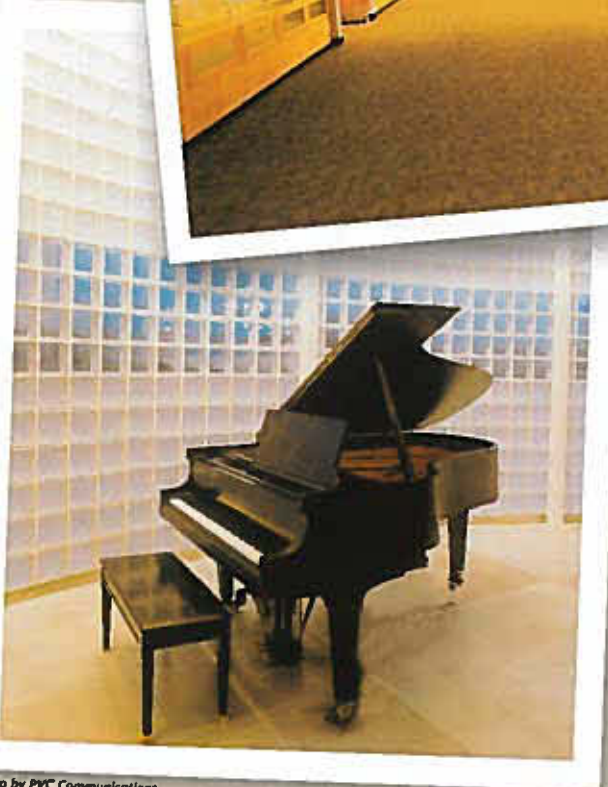


Photo by PVC Communications



Photo by City of Grand Junction

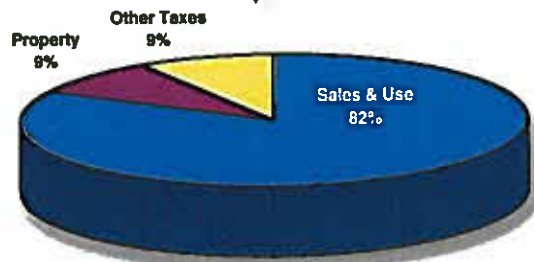
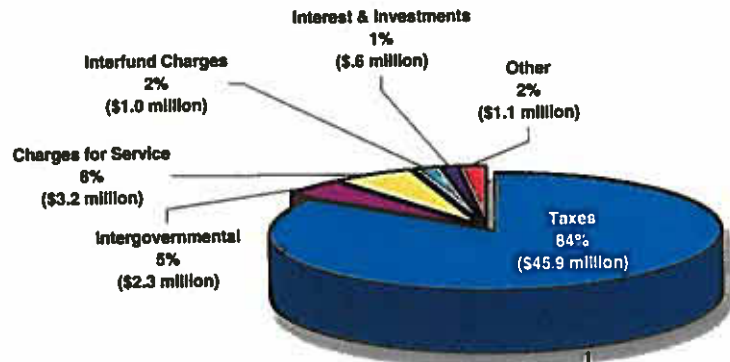


Photo by City of Grand Junction

2003 Budget

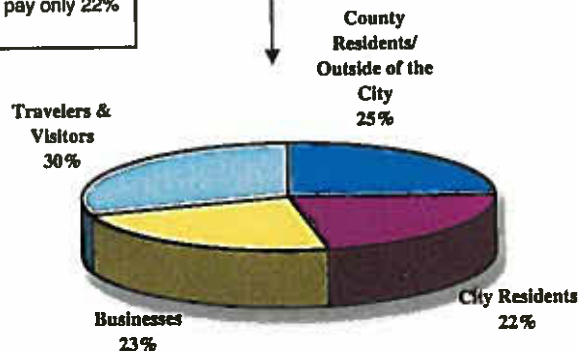
Where the Money Comes From

The main source of revenue the City will use for general government operations in 2003 is generated from taxes. Of the \$54.3 million in tax revenue collected, 69% will be in the form of sales and use tax with only 22% of that amount being paid by Grand Junction residents.

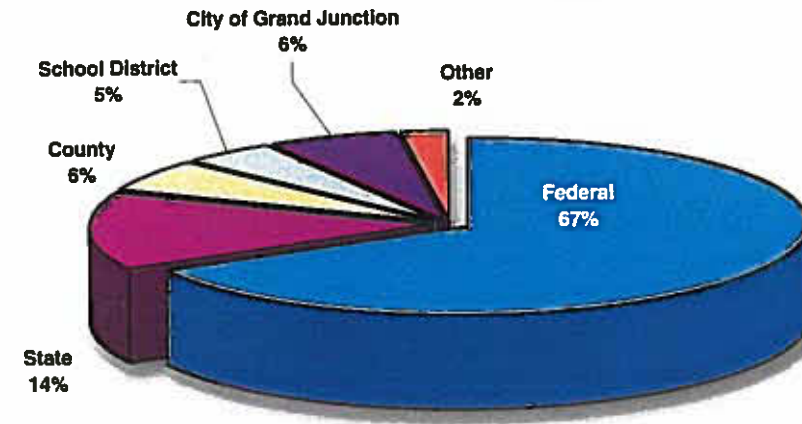


Although the total property tax bill on residential property has increased, homeowners are paying LESS Property Tax to the City of Grand Junction today than they were in 1985.

The City of Grand Junction expects to receive approximately \$37.4 million in sales and use tax revenue in the year 2003. Because of the City's position as a regional economic center, the citizens of Grand Junction are expected to pay only 22% of this amount, about \$8.2 million.



Where Your Tax Dollar Goes



Approximately 29% of the average person's wages (or 17 minutes of every hour) are required to pay taxes of one type or another. The City of Grand Junction receives about *SIX CENTS* of every \$1 in taxes paid by residents.

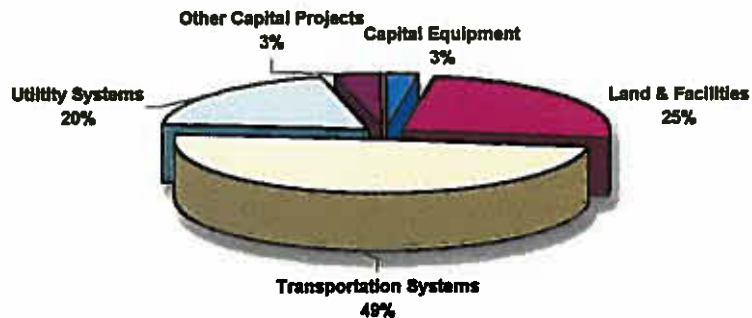
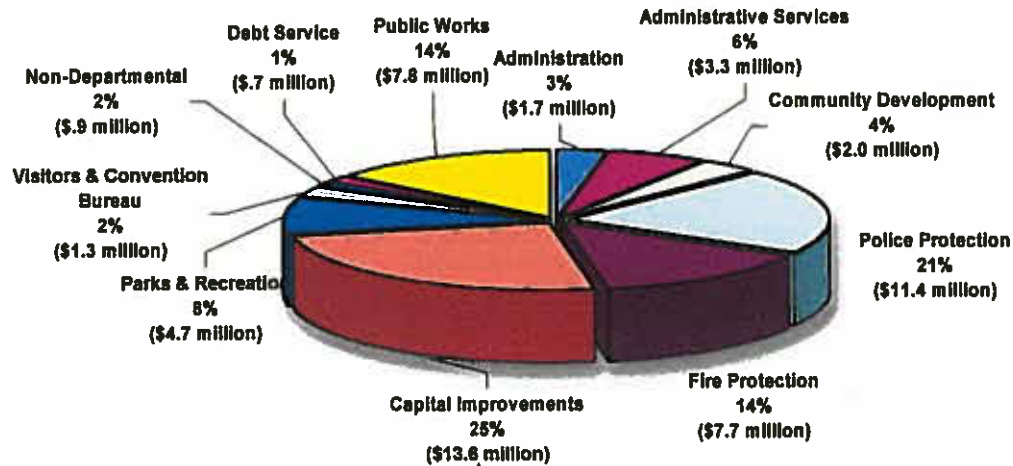
Finance

Despite a national trend of sagging retail sales, Grand Junction saw a growth rate of sales tax revenue which is expected to hit 7.6%. The City is projecting a growth rate of 7.0% in 2003. In the summer of 2002, lodging tax was up 9% over the previous year, in spite of wildfires and the national economic downturn.

In 2003, the largest portion of the City's budget, 30%, will go toward Capital Improvement Projects that improve the City's streets, parks and infrastructure.

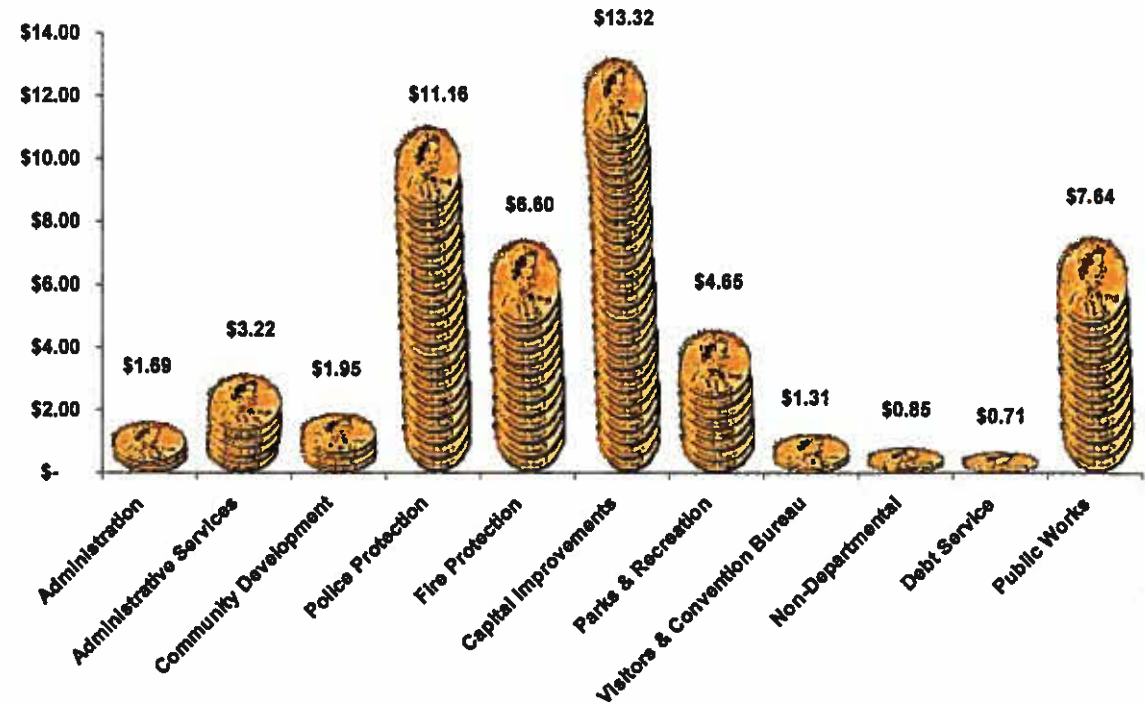
MAJOR Capital Improvement Projects	2002	2003
Storm Drainage Improvements	\$883,000	\$3,896,889
CSEP	\$519,923	\$4,495,275
Water System Improvements	\$2,753,520	\$4,209,500
Equipment Replacement Program	\$876,464	\$1,147,136
E-911 Communications Center Equipment	\$823,332	\$1,176,643
Sewer System Improvements	\$2,535,062	\$2,960,841
SSEP	\$4,665,187	\$424,241
Fire Station #5 Construction	\$150,400	\$1,307,122
Street Overlay/Maintenance Program	\$972,789	\$1,903,740
Alley Improvements	\$326,000	\$340,000
Sidewalk Improvements	\$499,783	\$515,000
29 Road; Interstate 70-B -to- F Road	\$819,375	\$1,238,865
Riverside Parkway, Hwy 340 to Hwy 50	\$227,871	\$1,300,000
Independent Avenue, 25.5 Rd to 1st Street	\$1,436,529	\$0
Canyon View Park/Area Improvements	\$1,202,490	\$0

Where The Money Goes....



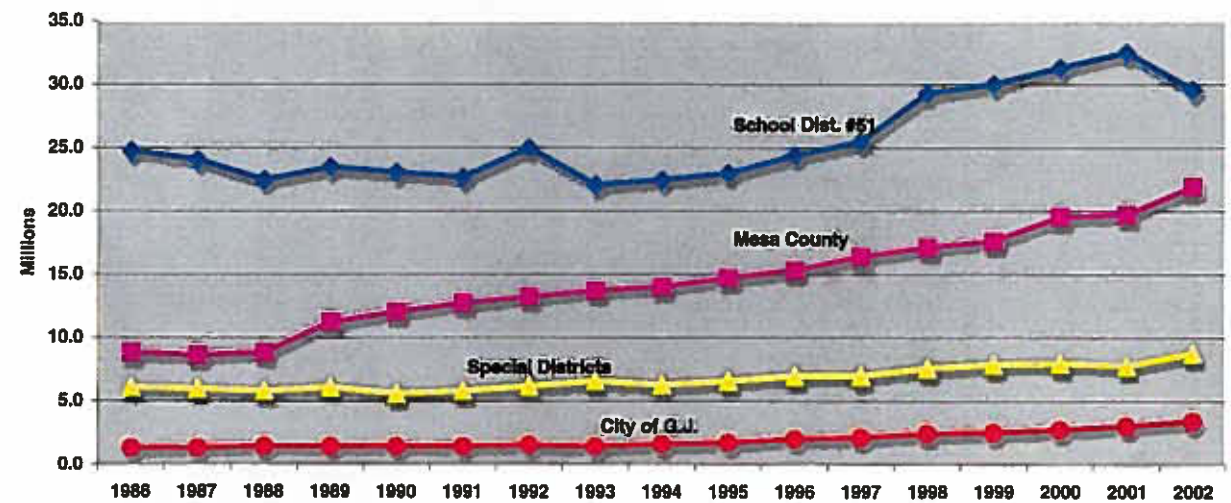
Capital Improvements of streets, parks and other infrastructure continue to be the major category of expenditure accounting for 25% of the total general government expenditures. Of the \$13.6 million in capital improvements, transportation and storm water systems account for 69%.

Monthly Cost of Service



The average homeowner will pay \$649 in annual taxes received by the City, or \$54 per month in support of all general government services provided by the City of Grand Junction

(Millions)



The City of Grand Junction receives less than 1/10th of the property tax paid by the homeowners.



Photo by Clif Taylor
4th of July Parade



Photo by Gretl Daugherty

Community Development

In 2002, the City received \$494,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Six projects received this funding, including the Grand Valley Catholic Outreach for equipment and materials for their Soup Kitchen relocation; Western Region Alternative to Placement (WRAP) as a match for state funds for client services; Homeward Bound of the Grand Valley, Inc. for the purchase of bunk beds for the Community Home; Western Slope Center for Children for an interior remodel of their new facility; Grand Junction Housing Authority for their affordable housing project study and the City of Grand Junction for the Bass Street Drainage Improvement project.

Public Works – Transportation

Transportation consultants Kimley-Horn and Associates spent much of 2002 identifying a route for the proposed Riverside Parkway that would connect River Road with lower downtown. Physical barriers such as the Colorado River, the railroad tracks, the railroad bridge, the Fifth Street Bridge, and the displacement of businesses and attractions in lower downtown complicated the process. A Design Action Committee made up of property owners and affected interests such as trucking, business, the Botanic Gardens, the Riverfront Commission and Urban Trails Committee met monthly to discuss alternative routes. At year end, the committee was moving closer to a recommended route to present to City Council in December.

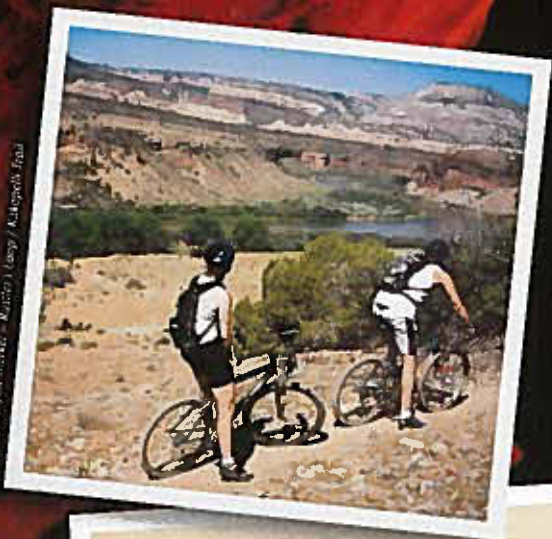


Photo by Dan (no name) - Riverfront Commission



Photo by Justin McPhee

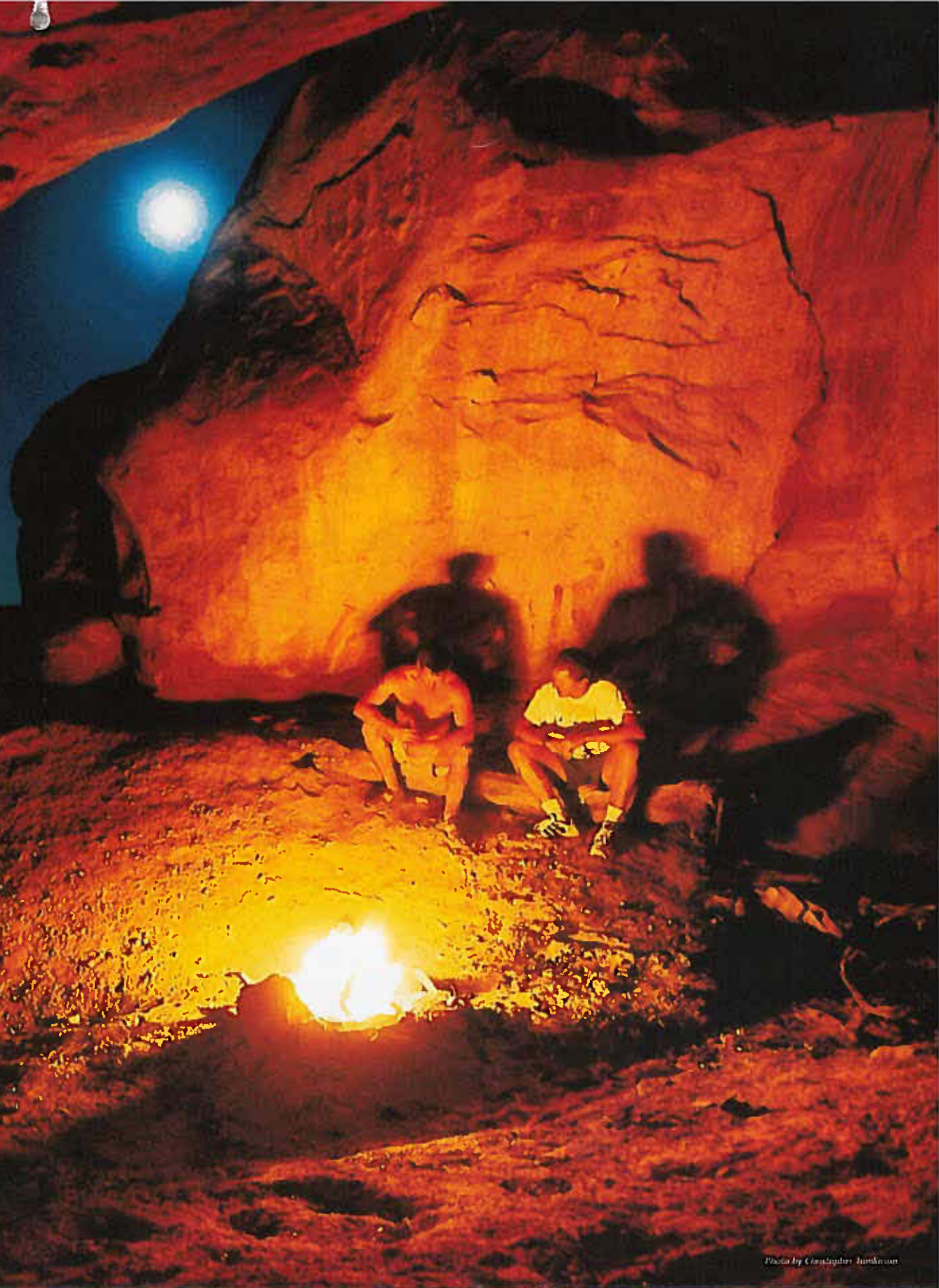
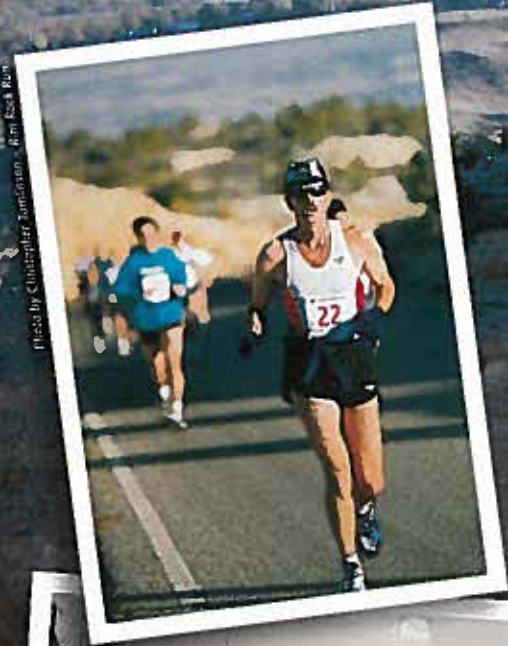


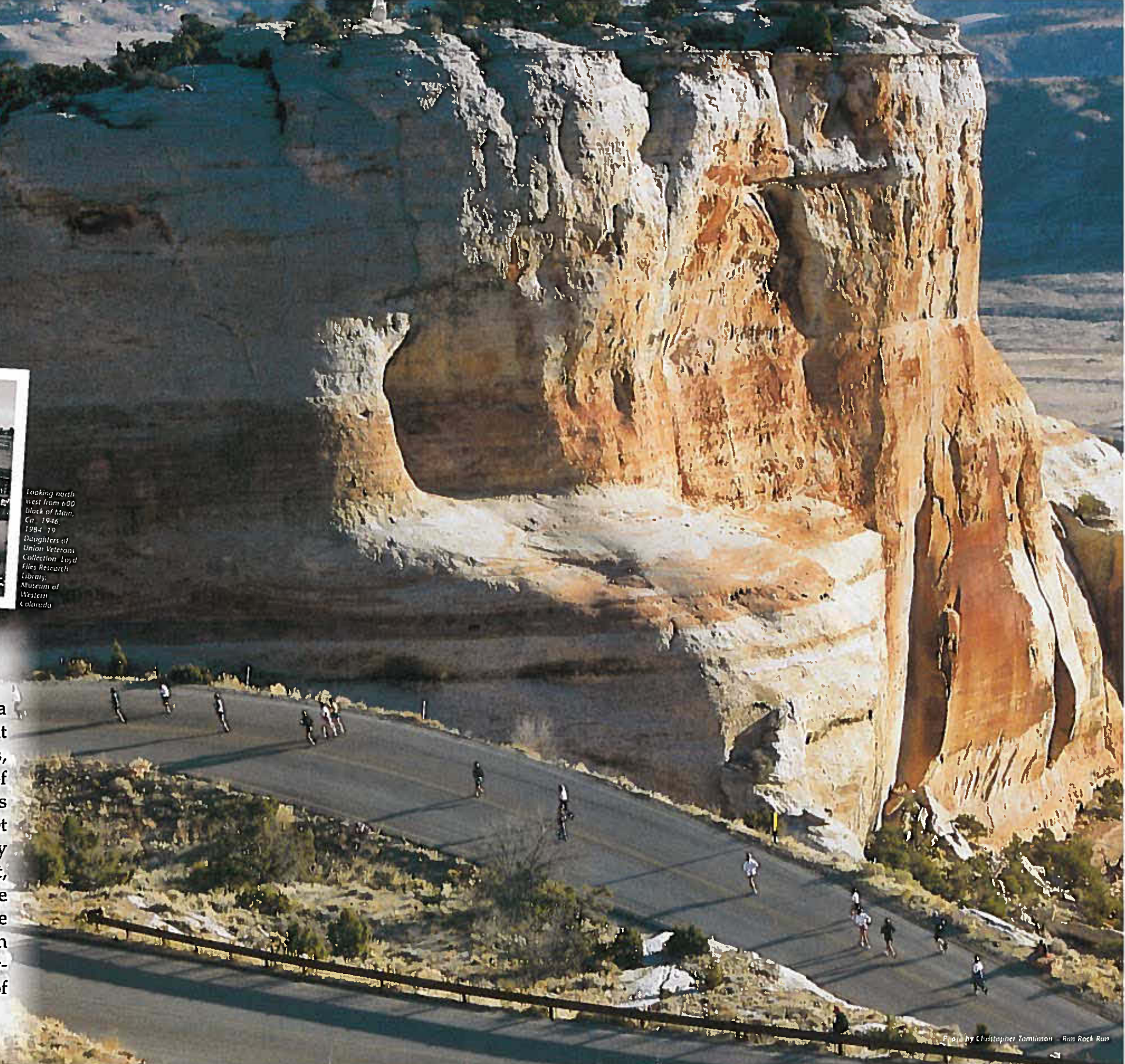
Photo by Christopher Johnson



Looking north
west from 600
block of Main,
Co. 1946.
1984-19
Daughters of
Union Veterans
Collection, Loyd
Fries Research
Library,
Museum of
Western
Colorado

Community Development

The City, in conjunction with Mesa County, the Downtown Development Authority and several landowners, studied the potential redevelopment of Westside downtown. The study area is bounded by the railroad, Main Street and 5th Street. The area is anchored by the historic D&RGW Railroad Depot, Two Rivers Convention Center, the Museum of Western Colorado and the Mesa County Justice Center. The plan identifies the opportunities to encourage and enhance the redevelopment of this core area of Grand Junction.



Administrative Services

The Administrative Services Department at the City has six divisions that provide a variety of services to the City and its customers. The divisions include the Budget and Accounting division, the City Clerk's office, Customer Service, Information Systems, Human Resources and Purchasing.

The Customer Service area is where businesses file sales and use tax returns and residents pay City utility bills, parking tickets and municipal court fines. To make bill-paying more convenient, residents may now pay their utility bills with a credit card over the phone, or residents may have their bill automatically deducted from their checking or savings account. The Customer Service division can also provide a temporary license to sell merchandise at special events.

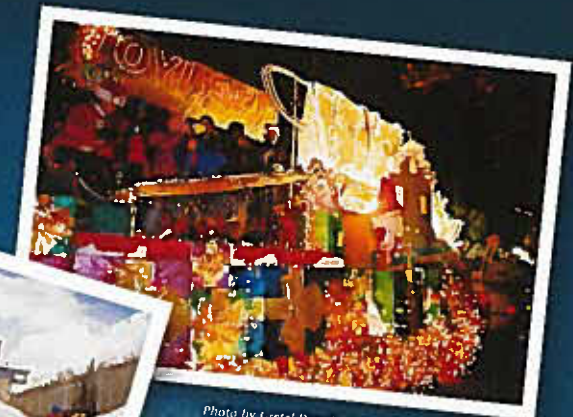


Photo by Gretel Daugherty - Downtown Parade at Lights



Photo by Steve Maxwell - Skiing at Powderhorn

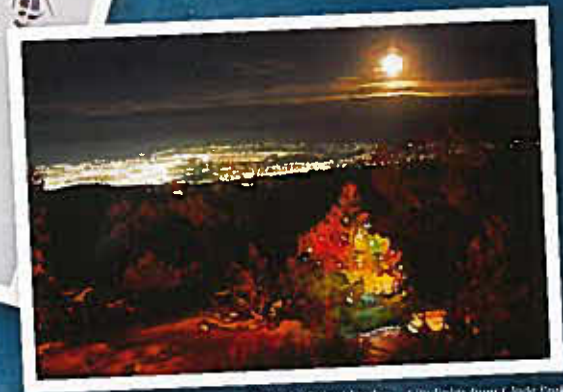


Photo by Robert Entden - City Lights from Chase Park