

CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail,
Established 1864, Incorporated 1874

Weekly Update April 3, 2020

Administration:

As I am writing this we do not have a case of COVID-19 in Baker County. As a community with a large number of citizens in the age group that are highly susceptible, our precautions seem warranted. The City is actively working with the County to get information to our businesses and their employees that have suffered economic hardship because of this pandemic. The Federal government has passed a massive aid bill and we are working to decipher the different programs and help those needing aid to navigate the system to put dollars back into the community.

Information on the health aspects of the virus as well as how resources will flow from Federal and State sources are changing everyday and sometimes hourly. The County has a website <https://www.bakercountycovid19.com> that has updated information about all aspects of the current crisis. For business information, click on the Business-Information tab. Many of these resources are grants to businesses to weather the closures from the Governor's March 17th order. If you have had an impact, please reach out to this website.

We have received no reports of damage from the earthquake that shook the valley this week. Let's hope the weather starts to warm and the sun comes out.

City Hall Update

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, City Hall is currently closed to the public.

To make a payment:

Use the dropbox for **checks or money orders** – ***NO CASH***
Call 541-523-6541 to use a credit/debit card at no additional charge
Please do not make cash payments in the dropbox

To sign up for water/wastewater service:

We have placed forms outside. Please complete the forms provided and place in the dropbox.

To sign up for payment arrangements:

We have placed forms outside. Please complete the form provided and place in the dropbox

For all other services, please call 541-523-6541 and we will assist you over the phone.



Dropbox at City Hall



Finance Department:

Utilities

Although City Hall is currently closed to the public, the Finance Office is still working hard to provide essential services to our customers. In addition to the forms on the City's website at www.bakercity.com, there are now many different forms available at the City Hall entrance which customers may complete and leave in the drop-box. During this time, staff is checking the drop-box periodically throughout the day. Certain City procedures such as verifying photo id for new service have been postponed until the City is able to reopen to the public. The City is able to receive payments in the mail, in the drop-box and over the phone with a debit/credit card at no additional cost to the customer. In addition, many customers are set-up for direct pay from their checking or savings account.

- ◆ During the two-week period from March 20th through April 3rd the City signed twenty-five customers up for new water/wastewater service and disconnected services for fifteen customers by request.
- ◆ Zone 7 was billed March 24th and included 556 residential and 26 commercial accounts. Of those accounts, 161 (28%) are signed up for direct pay and 27 (5%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ Zone 4 was billed March 27th and included 729 residential and 57 commercial accounts. Of those accounts, 210 (27%) are signed up for direct pay and 63 (8%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ At this time the City is waiving all late fees, door-tag fees and shut-off fees until businesses are able to reopen and employees can go back to work. The City is considering hardships due to the pandemic on a case-by-case basis. The goal of the Finance Office is currently to work with customers and allow longer periods of time to pay past due balances for those that have lost their jobs. Although we are working with all of our customers, it is not beneficial to allow those with no direct financial impact from the pandemic to build up past due balances that will make it impossible for them to catch-up in the future. For the week ended March 27th, the City had five potential turn offs for non-pay with two that were actually turned off. Both customers have now paid and their water has been turned back on.
- ◆ Zone 8 was billed March 31st and included 464 residential and 19 commercial accounts. Of those accounts, 113 (23%) are signed up for direct pay and 17 (4%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ Spring is here and Zone 5 was the first zone to have the water meters read since the winter break. Zone 5 was billed today and included 464 residential and 16 commercial accounts. Of those accounts, 130 (27%) are signed up for direct pay and 37 (8%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ For the week ended April 3rd, the City had eighteen potential turn offs for non-pay. Of those eighteen, four have not been paid and will be considered for turn-off next week.





Building Department:

	Permits Issued City	Inspections City	Permits Issued County	Inspections County
Building	2	8	1	5
Manufactured Dwelling	0	0	0	0
Electrical	2	1	3	5
Mechanical	1	1	3	0
Plumbing	2	4	0	0
Fence	0	NA	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	7	14	7	10

RESIDENTIAL PERMITS:

- 2130 20th Street, Baker City—Detached accessory structure addition

HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW:

Next regularly scheduled meeting is May 6 2020**, at 8:00 a.m. in the Building Department.

***Until further notice, the group will only meet if a new application is received. Please check with the Building Department for specifics.*

COMMERCIAL PERMITS:

- 3425 13th Street, Baker City—Fire line installation
- 113 Record Street, Halfway—Roof system replacement

Planning Department:

PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The Baker City Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at **6:00 p.m., on Wednesday, April 15, 2020, via teleconference only**, to consider the following:

- **VAR-20-030:** A Variance request to allow a future property line adjustment to correct a property line and accessory structure discrepancy at 3750 Campbell Street; and
- **CUP-20-032:** A Conditional Use Permit request to convert an existing dwelling into a real estate office at 2333 Main Street.



In response to COVID-19 and in the interest of public health and safety, the upcoming Planning Commission hearing will be available to the public via teleconference only. If you would like to participate in the teleconference, please call **1-877-820-7831** and enter in code **8204693**, when prompted.

CONTINUANCE

The Baker City Planning Commission held a public hearing via teleconference on March 25, 2020, during which time they elected to continue the public hearing for ZT-20-013 (updates to the Baker City Development Code, Comprehensive Plan and zoning map) until Wednesday, July 15, 2020. **The date and time of the continuance will be announced on the Baker City Website and in the Baker City Herald newspaper.**



"The mission of the Baker City Police is to work in partnership with our community members, to actively promote the safety and welfare of our citizens, along with enriching their quality of life through the delivery of professional police services."



POLICE DEPARTMENT

- ★ During this past week, BCPD opened 35 new cases. In one incident, BCPD responded to an early-morning call of an individual causing a disturbance at a local residence. The suspect, James Edward Grove, was found to be at a residence refusing to leave and was chased out of the home by the resident with a firearm. Grove is currently serving three years' probation for a conviction of Burglary I and Theft I. It was later determined that Grove had also barred one of the other residents from being able to leave their bedroom. This individual was not hurt during the incident. In addition, Grove had picked up a piece of wood and threw it through a window of the home. Prior to this incident, Grove had been granted a plea agreement in exchange for testifying before Baker County Grand Jury on March 19th in the investigation of the shooting death of Angela Parrish. Shawn Greenwood is accused of her murder which took place on January 13th.
- ★ BCPD would like to remind everyone that even in these challenging times, we continue to watch over the city day and night. Be safe and remember to practice social distancing!
- ★ BCPD personnel participated in several briefing trainings, including a review of various officer safety topics.



Photo credit: Officer Koby Essex





The mission of the Baker City Fire Department is to provide dependable and efficient emergency services.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the week of March 24th through March 30th the Fire Department responded to a total of **29** emergency alarms.

AMBULANCE OPERATIONS

City Calls	22
Rural Calls	5
Patient Transported	20
No Patient Trip	7

TOTAL MEDIC 27

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Fire Department is **POSTPONING** the free blood pressure readings at the Senior Center every Tuesday, at 11 am.

We will resume once social distancing is not required.

Airport Transfers	1
Out of Town Transfers Accepted	0
Out of Town Transfers Not Accepted	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	0
Doubles (2 calls at once)	2
Triples (3 calls at once)	0
Quads (4 calls at once)	0
Public Assist	1

TRAINING/MAINTENANCE/ FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTIONS/ COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **43 hrs** of Station & Equipment Maintenance
- **6 hrs** of Fire Training
- **16 hrs** of EMS Training
- **6** Burn Permits Issued



EMERGENCY CALL BACKS

Request for Cover	6
Arrived for Cover	5

FIRE REPORTS

General Alarms	0
Dispatched Alarms	2
TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES	2



Boards, Commissions and Committees

The City of Baker City is seeking volunteers for the following:

- ⇒ Public Arts Commission—1 positions available
- ⇒ Historic District Design Review Commission—2 positions available
- ⇒ Budget Board—1 position available
- ⇒ Tree Board—2 positions available

Positions are for a 3-year term. Anyone interested in volunteering should visit www.bakercity.com to fill out a volunteer form. You may also email admin@bakercity.com or call 524-2033 for more information. The direct link to the volunteer form page is: <http://bakercity.com/2149/Boards-Commissions>

Public Works: Shop



Left: This rig got a new fuel sending unit and new LED cab lights and turn signals.



Right: This rig got a new fuel injection control module and is back in service.



Left: The crusher bucket received a new spring and anvil and is back in service.



Right: Here you see Scott replacing the self-leveling solenoid on this equipment.

Public Works: Parks Department

Two cubic yards of concrete was hand shoveled around the base posts of the relocated South Baker playground equipment this week.





Public Works: Stormwater Department



The stormwater manhole on 17th Street was installed this week.

Brian and Riley cut out an arch shape from a pre-cast water vault and carefully placed it over the newly installed 30" CMP.



Here you see the prepping of the manhole vault and setting the vault over the 30" pipe. Scott and Tom placed concrete around the pipe to form a monolithic mass. The top of the pipe will be cut out next week to provide access for maintenance.

Public Works: Water Department



Left: A new 1" water service was installed on Oak Street for a new building near the Campbell Street intersection. Justin, Brian and Nate performed the excavation and installation work.



Right: The fire hydrant located at the intersection of Court and 6th Streets was replaced. Unfortunately there was a grade conflict with another utility line and adjustments had to be made.



Left: The final main line connection on Court Street has been made. Several remaining water meter connections will have to be made this month. Because of recent precipitation, the street has become rather muddy. Clean-up work will continue until the street surface is acceptable.

Public Works: Street Department



Idaho's 6.5 magnitude earthquake on Tuesday could be felt here in Baker City. Public Works Director Michelle Owen had Dennis, Rick, Tommy and Kris perform special safety inspections that evening. The group performed cursory inspections on all city bridges, the wastewater treatment plant, the water treatment facility and City Hall. All were found to be unaffected by the earth's shaking.



Public Works: Wastewater Department



The manhole on D Street between 5th and 6th Streets was completed earlier this week. The tops of the terra cotta and orangeburg pipes were cut out and the 6" orangeburg pipe going North was video inspected for 90'.

Here you see the location ready for concrete, then concrete in place.



Left: Karl cutting the tops of the two pipes to provide access.

Right: The video camera going in and the inside image of the orangeburg pipe.



Right: After the concrete manhole parts were assembled, the site was backfilled and compacted. The surface will be patched after hot asphalt becomes available in LaGrande.



A resident was experiencing wastewater problems on Kirkway earlier this week. Tom met with the contractor and drain cleaner on site.

The vertical pipe in a drop manhole had become plugged with paper towels and other fabric, possibly used because of the toilet paper shortage. Once the blockage was disturbed, a huge rush of surcharged water flowed down the line and into the manhole.



Work began to replace a wastewater lateral which extends across Auburn Avenue just west of 4th Street. A concrete flush vault had to be demolished and a concrete alley approach had to be sawed out with a portion of it being removed. Blain began excavation.

Far right: This heavy cast "flapper" was once used similar to a conventional toilet "flapper" Once it is raised off the bottom, fresh tank water rushed down the line cleaning it out. This system hasn't been used in approximately 50 years.



Brian and Riley hydro-excavated down to the elevation of the existing lateral near a clean out. The elevation of the pipe was then measured to determine the necessary slope of the new 6" PVC pipe.





2020 Census FAQ

What is the census?

The census is a count of every person who lives in the United States and its territories. It happens every 10 years. In early 2020, you will be asked to count everyone who lives in your home as of April 1. Responding to the 2020 Census is a chance to shape your future.

What's in it for me?



Your responses inform where over \$675 billion is distributed each year to communities nationwide for clinics, schools, roads, and more.



Census data gives community leaders vital information to make decisions about building community centers, opening businesses, and planning for the future.



Responding also fulfills your civic duty because it's mandated by the U.S. Constitution. The United States has counted its population every 10 years since 1790.



Your responses are used to redraw legislative districts and determine the number of seats your state has in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Is my information safe?

Your responses to the 2020 Census are safe, secure, and protected by federal law. Your answers can only be used to produce statistics. They cannot be used against you by any government agency or court in any way—not by the FBI, not by the CIA, not by the DHS, and not by ICE.

When can I respond to the census?

In early 2020, every household in America will receive a notice to complete the census online, by phone, or by mail. In May, the U.S. Census Bureau will begin following up in person with households that have yet to respond.

What will I be asked?

You will be asked a few simple questions, like age, sex, and the number of people who live in your home, including children.

What won't be asked?

The census will never ask for Social Security numbers, bank or credit card numbers, money or donations, or anything related to political parties.

For more information, visit:

2020CENSUS.GOV

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2020**