

# CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail. Established 1874

## *Weekly Update March 23, 2018*

### **Administration:**

The Mayors Council meeting was held in Baker City this week. The Mayors gave an update on what is going on in their communities. We also heard from Idaho Power about water levels in Brownlee Reservoir as well as a short update on the B2H project. Timothy Bishop spoke about the TLT Strategic Planning process as well as an update on the summer event season. Brian McDowell, from Business Oregon, briefed the group on the programs offered for businesses and entrepreneurs. Sheriff Ash shared with the group that Parole and Probation now has a work crew and can be scheduled for cleanup around the various Cities in the County. Contact the Sheriff if your group or nonprofit needs some help cleaning up as spring approaches.

The Public Arts Commission held the official grand unveiling of the Cattle Drive now on display in the City Hall entryway. If you haven't seen the artwork, stop by and take a look. Over forty people braved the rainstorm to come out and celebrate Public Art in Baker City.



### **City Council Agenda**

**March 27, 2018**

- Fee Resolution
- Budget Resolution
- Excavator Bid Approval

### **Finance:**

Don't forget to save money by registering for the new paperless E-billing for utility bills. Customers that participate in this program will receive a \$1.00 discount on their utility bill each month. The registration forms are available online at [www.bakercity.com](http://www.bakercity.com) or at the Water Department. The City currently has 143 utility accounts signed up for E-billing.

#### **Utilities**

- ◆ Fifteen customers signed up for new water/wastewater service and thirteen customers disconnected service from March 16th through March 22nd. This includes all service changes.
- ◆ Zone 7 was billed March 20th and included 549 residential and 26 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 143 or 25% are signed up for direct payment.
- ◆ Zone 3 was billed today and includes 494 residential and 47 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 108 or 20% are signed up for direct payment.
- ◆ 22 residential customers (Zones 2 & 7) were scheduled to have their water turned off for non pay (over 60 days past due). Five of those were actually turned off until their past due balance was paid.



**Building Department:**

	Permits Issued City	Inspections City	Permits Issued County	Inspections County	<b>RESIDENTIAL PERMITS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 935 D Street, Baker City – Structural repair after fire</li> <li>• 40697 Cracker Crk Rd, Sumpter – New residence</li> <li>• 40697 Cracker Crk Rd, Sumpter – Accessory building</li> <li>• 42610 New Bridge Rd, Richland – Interior structural remodel</li> </ul> <b>HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW:</b> Next regularly scheduled meeting, March 28, 2018, 8:00 a.m. Building Department offices.
Building	2	8	3	4	
Manufactured Dwelling	0	0	0	0	
Electrical	5	6	9	5	
Mechanical	5	8	2	1	
Plumbing	3	6	2	2	
Fence	1	NA	N/A	N/A	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>	

**COMMERCIAL PERMITS:**

- 3055 10th Street, Baker City – Addition of gazebo



**Planning Department:**

**Public Meetings**

On March 21, 2018, the Planning Commission held a public work session to discuss potentially re-zoning specific properties throughout the city which have existing structures and uses that are not consistent with the current zoning allowances. The purpose of this work session is to create a scope for areas that could be considered for a future re-zone. Once a scope of potential areas is developed, the next step will be outreach to determine interest and concerns.

- The Commission also discussed the development of standards and language for the proposed creation of a Residential-Professional District. This district is intended to act as a buffer between the uses of the Central-Commercial district and surrounding residential zones, providing a desirable mix of residential and light commercial land uses in the center of the city.
- The public is encouraged to attend future work sessions and hearings and provide input on both matters.

**Land Use Decisions & Projects**

- An application was approved for the construction of a ±2,160 square foot, two-bay structure to house a warehouse and manufacturing/production business. The property is located at 3177 D Street, in the Industrial Zone. Notice of the decision was sent to nearby landowners, and the decision can be appealed until 5:00 pm on March 26, 2018.
- An application was approved for a +864 square foot garage, at 3790 Baker Street in the Residential Medium – Density (R-MD) Zone.



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

# FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the week of March 13th to March 19th the Fire Department responded to a total of **36** emergency alarms.

## AMBULANCE OPERATIONS

In City Responses	26
Out of City Responses	5
Patient Transported	18
No Patient Trip	13

## TOTAL MEDIC RESPONSES 31

Airport Transfers	1
Out of Town Transfers Accepted	1
Out of Town Transfers Assigned	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2
Doubles (2 calls at once)	7
Triples (3 calls at once)	0
Public Assists	0

## FIRE REPORTS

General Alarms	0
Dispatched Alarms	5
<b>TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES</b>	<b>5</b>

- Burn Complaint, Balm St.
- False Alarm, Courthouse.
- Detector Malfunction, 17th St.
- Burn Complaint, Colorado Place
- Fire, Plum/Court



## EMERGENCY CALL BACKS

Requests for Cover	7
Persons Arrived for Cover	5
Incidents Not Covered	2

## TRAINING/MAINTENANCE/FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTIONS/COMMUNITY EVENTS

- 58 hours of Station and Equipment Maintenance
- 153 hours of Fire / EMS or Safety Training
- 24 hours Community Events



The Fire Department provides free blood pressure readings at the Senior Center every Tuesday, at 11 am. Don't miss the next check on March 27th.



*"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**

BCPD handled over 250 incidents and opened 33 new cases this past week. Amongst those cases:

- ✪ BCPD personnel arrested an impaired driver for DUII who had a blood alcohol concentration of .25%, over three times the legal limit;
- ✪ BCPD personnel investigated six reported thefts and frauds;
- ✪ BCPD personnel investigated a runaway of a 12 year old girl;
- ✪ BCPD personnel arrested six individuals for outstanding warrants and one for a probation violation.

Chief Lohner and Lt. Newman attended an Eastern Oregon Law Enforcement meeting, held here in Baker City. In addition to chiefs, sheriffs and other command staff from the region in attendance, the Director from the Police Academy, State Police Superintendent, two FBI agents and Oregon's U.S. Attorney were also in attendance. The meeting was a time for information sharing.

Chief Lohner and Lt. Newman attended the monthly Elder Abuse meeting and the Community Risk Awareness Team meeting.

Lt. Newman met with members from the State Police, Sheriff's Office and ODOT to discuss an upcoming Distracted Driving Awareness Campaign.

Two Baker City Officers participated in the Literacy Program and spent time at Brooklyn School, reading to second graders.

BCPD personnel participated in several briefing trainings, including a review of various Officer Safety topics.

BCPD Administrative Assistant / Car Seat Technician Phoebe Wachtel continues to assist families with car seat installations each week.

### **Code Enforcement Weekly Activity**

#### **Property Maintenance**

- Started 3 new cases
- Followed up with 5 pending cases
- Closed out 2 pending cases with compliance gained
- Issued 2 citations for noncompliance

#### **Parking Violations and Complaints**

- Followed up on 9 parking violations
- Issued 1 parking citation
- Multiple verbal warnings

#### **Animal Violations and Complaints**

- 4 Dogs at large returned to owner
- 3 Horses at large returned to owner
- 1 Dog at large impounded
- Followed up with 2 barking complaints
- 1 Problem Pet Owner compliance check
- Followed up on 3 animal complaints



## Public Works: Street Department

Public Works received a call late last week about a possible "sinkhole" having formed along the edge of David Eccles Road. Upon inspection it appeared to be simply a spot where surface water had flowed into an old trench line causing some settlement. Upon further inspection it was determined to be more expansive than expected. Karl used the backhoe bucket to check the stability of the rim of the sinkhole. Soon it was obvious that the sinkhole was more of a cavern. Upon holding a cell phone at the furthest distance possible into the hole while avoiding falling into the abyss - Tom was able to take a couple of photos of the inside of the cavern. It appeared to be a wooden bridge structure with steel support stringers. The wood had rotted and the steel rusted. Public Works called for an underground utility locate for the area. The top of the structure is planned to be removed allowing further exploration and backfilling Friday.



To the left, the small hole looks innocent enough. A photo taken when holding cell phone camera under the ground surface depicted otherwise.

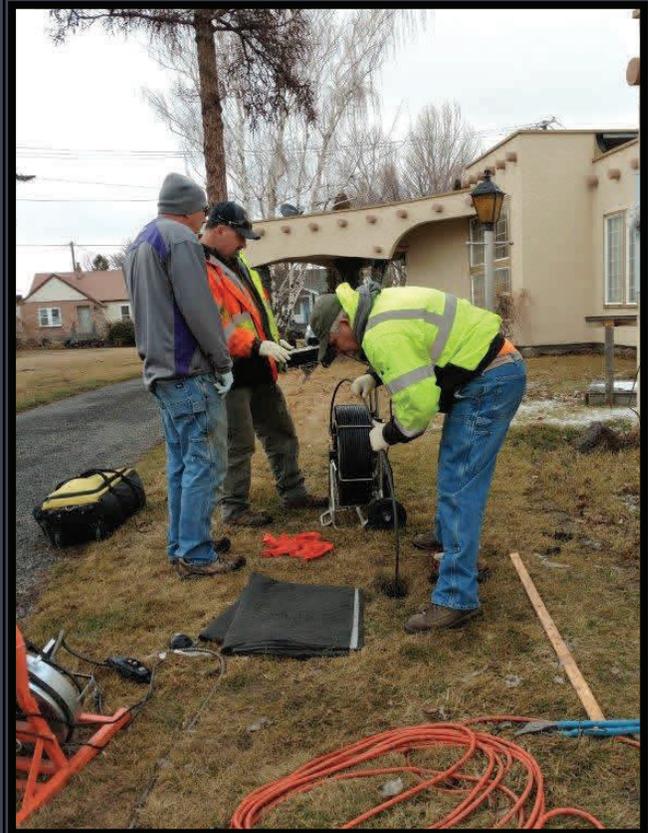


Karl left the backhoe extended over the hole until lit barricades could be placed surrounding the area. The work will continue the following week.



## Public Works: Wastewater Department

Crews continued to clean several wastewater collection lines throughout town this week. A professional drain cleaner hired Public Works to inspect and locate a residential lateral along Myrtle Street this week. Karl and Rick were able to successfully inspect the line between the cleanout and the house and also between the cleanout and the main line in the street.



## Public Works: Dog-Park Assistance

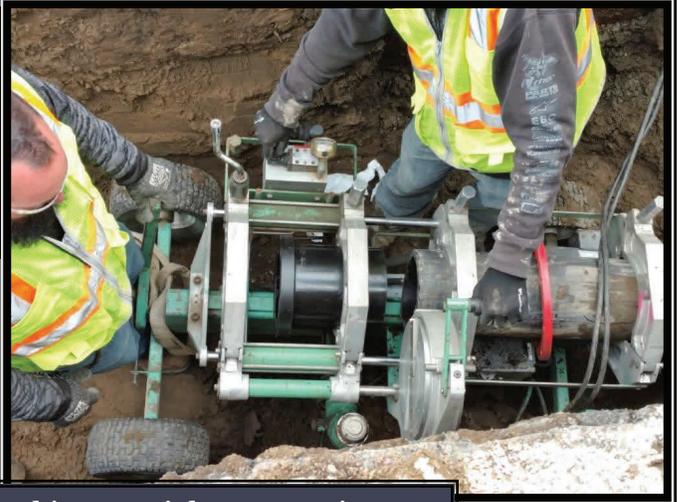


New water pipe installation work was done this week at Sam-o-Park. This work was done for irrigation for the new Dog Park there.



## Public Works: Water Department

Crews worked at the end of last week assisting the pipe boring crew from Yakima in the completion of their portion of the Estes Street Water line Project. To the right, the crew from Yakima are fusing a piece of flanged 8" H.P.D.E. pipe onto the west end of the pipeline.



To the left, Blain is taking special care to orient a Ductile Iron fitting onto the end of the H.D.P.E. pipe.

A new Fire Hydrant was installed near the intersection of South Bridge Street and Hwy. 30. Hydrants that are out of service are always "bagged" promptly and reported to the Fire Department. Hydrants are extremely heavy. Below, Justin has moved a new fire hydrant near the backhoe using the forklift. Then, Justin and Scott carefully moved the hydrant into the backhoe bucket for transportation to the installation site. Two backhoes were used for the installation of the new hydrant.



The 6" line running between the water main line and the new fire hydrant must be secured - otherwise the pipes will simply blow apart because of the high water pressure. This process of securing the lines from blowing apart is called "thrust blocking". Concrete blocks are set in the trench against undisturbed ground tightly between the trench bank and the hydrant. Next, steel stakes are driven between the concrete blocks to compress the blocks and provide the necessary resistance against the force of the water pressure. In this photo, Scott is driving one of the steel stakes between the pieces of concrete blocks.





## Public Works: Water Department (Cont.)

A new 2" fire line was requested for a project on 10th Street (Hwy. 30) last week. A cost estimate was prepared and Doug obtained the proper permits from O.D.O.T. (required because 10th Street is a State Highway through town). Work began Monday.

A safe and proper traffic plan was prepared and utilized for the project. Blain and Brian performed the work.



Here Brian is installing a 2" tapping saddle and "corp stop" around the 6" cast iron mainline.



The "tapper" is then attached onto the "corp stop". The "tapper" protrudes through the "corp stop" and actually cuts a hole through the cast iron mainline. Then the "tapper" is retracted partially back through the "corp stop", the "corp stop" is then turned to the off position and the "tapper" is retrieved the remainder of distance. It is all done without having to turn off any water valves or getting workers wet.

A 2" valve is installed onto the 2" copper water line. A plumber will complete the remainder of the installation between the valve and the building.



## Public Works: Shop

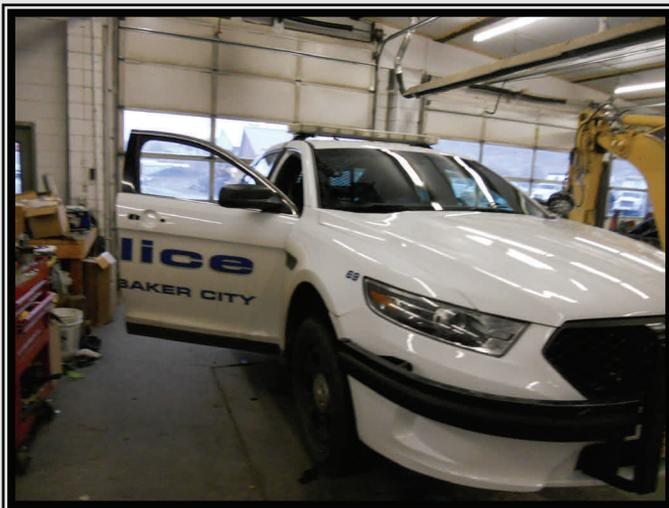


This week Brian also completed work in the shop. One of the projects was welding a headache rack on a Public Works pickup.



Brian also built a stand for the band saw to get it up to working height. With Brian's help the past few weeks shop crew were able to complete several projects.

Scott and Wes replaced the coolant pump for the turbo and intercooler, and the radiator hose seal so that one of the ambulances is now back in service.



It is that time of year again where shop crews switched out all the Baker City Police vehicles studded tires to summer tires.

However, today Oregon and Washington departments of transportation extended the studded tire season through Sunday, April 15. Travelers normally can use studded tires from Nov. 1 through March 31. State laws allow for transportation departments to extend the season when necessary based on projected weather forecasts.

For more information on studded tires copy and paste: [http://www.oregonlive.com/roadreport/index.ssf/2018/03/odot\\_and\\_wsdot\\_extend\\_studded.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/roadreport/index.ssf/2018/03/odot_and_wsdot_extend_studded.html)