

CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail.
Established 1864, Incorporated 1874

Weekly Update February 1, 2019

Administration:

The City Council continues to work on City business and we have many new members spending a good deal of time learning to work together and coming up to speed on the many issues facing our City. They met for a work session this week to discuss the property maintenance ordinance. They will also be meeting next week to discuss goals for the upcoming year. If you see any of the Councilors out and about, give them kudos for the time and effort that they put in on behalf of all of us.

February is upon us but it sure feels like March. I guess we count our blessings that we don't live in the Midwest or Northeast. Tonight is First Friday in Downtown Baker City. Come out and enjoy. Have a great Super Bowl weekend.

City Council Agenda February 12th

- Ordinance 3371:
Chronic Nuisance
Properties
- Appointments to
Boards/Committees

Finance:

Utilities

- ◆ Sixteen customers signed up for new water/wastewater service and eleven customers disconnected service from January 18th thru January 31st. This includes all service changes.
- ◆ Zone 7 was billed January 22nd and it included 548 residential and 26 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 152 (26%) are signed up for direct payment and 24 (4%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ Zone 4 was billed January 25th and it included 715 residential and 58 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 205 (27%) are signed up for direct payment and 45 (6%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ Zone 8 was billed January 29th and it included 455 residential and 20 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 95 (20%) are signed up for direct payment and 19 (4%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ Zone 5 was billed today and includes 460 residential and 17 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 129 (27%) are signed up for direct payment and 29 (6%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ From January 21st thru February 1st thirty-three residential customers (Zones 3, 7 and 8) were scheduled to have their water turned off for non-pay (over 60 days past due). Nine of those customers actually had their service turned off until their past due balance was paid.

Payroll: Seventy-five employees were paid January 25th which included six volunteer firefighters, one part-time public work's assistant, one part-time plumbing inspector, and one part-time police officer.

Accounts Payable: The second of two accounts payable runs for January was generated January 31st.



Building Department:

	Permits Issued City	Inspections City	Permits Issued County	Inspections County
Building	3	13	1	15
Manufactured Dwelling	0	1	0	4
Electrical	7	13	5	8
Mechanical	2	13	0	4
Plumbing	0	8	1	5
Fence	0	NA	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	12	48	7	36

COMMERCIAL PERMITS:

- 2715 10th St., Baker City— Demolition of fire damaged portion of building.
- 3451 Broadway St., Baker City- Addition of non-structural interior wall.
- 1916 Main St., Baker City- Foundation only.
- Golden Loop, Oxbow-Storage facility.

RESIDENTIAL PERMITS:

- None to report this week.

HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW:

Next regularly scheduled meeting is February 6th at 8:00 a.m. in the Building Department Offices.

Planning Department:

Public Meetings

- ◆ The next Planning Commission meeting will be on February 20th at 7:00pm to continue the discussion about updates to the site design review chapter of the Development Code.

Land Use Decisions & Projects

- ◆ A land use review for a mobile dental van was approved at 2810 Cedar Street, located in the Residential-High Density (R-HD) Zone.
- ◆ A Site Design Review application was submitted for the construction of a ±2,685-square-foot addition to an existing commercial building at 1726 Campbell Street. The subject property is located in the General -Commercial (C-G) Zone and is the site of the Golden Crown restaurant. A public notice was sent to all property owners within ±100-feet of the property to solicit comments on the proposal.





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

FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the week of January 22nd through January 28th the Fire Department responded to a total of **40** emergency alarms. The breakdown for the responses are as follows:

AMBULANCE OPERATIONS

City Calls	26
Rural Calls	10
Patient Transported	30
No Patient Trip	6

TOTAL MEDIC RESPONSES 36

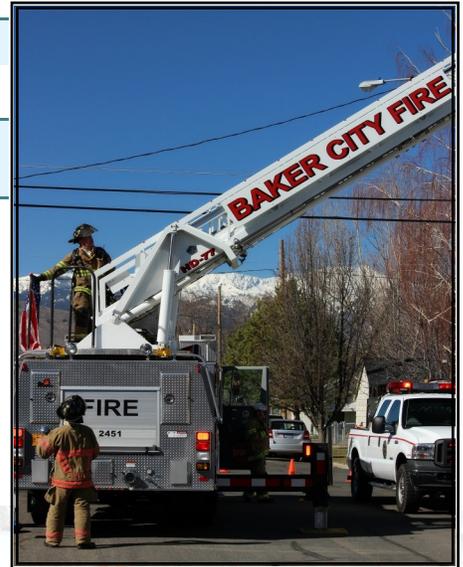


Airport Transfers	0
Out of Town Transfers Accepted	3
Out of Town Transfers Assigned	0
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2
Doubles (2 calls at once)	5
Triples (3 calls at once)	1
Public Assists	0

FIRE REPORTS

General Alarms	0
Dispatched Alarms	4

TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES 4



EMERGENCY CALL BACKS

Requests for Cover	12
Persons Arrived for Cover	10
Incidents Not Covered	2

TRAINING/MAINTENANCE/FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTIONS/COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **64** hrs of Station and Equipment Maintenance.
- **12** Burn Permits Issued.
- **14** hrs of Fire Training.
- **20** hrs of Fire Prevention Inspections



The Fire Department provides free blood pressure readings at the Senior Center. Don't miss the next check on Tuesday, February 5th at 11 a.m.



"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 the past week, BCPD handled over 166 incidents and opened 32 new cases, making numerous arrests for outstanding warrants and detainers. On Wednesday, January 30th, a search warrant was executed at a residence in Baker City. The following press release was issued in response to this incident:

On January 30, 2019 at approximately 12:45 PM, the Baker City Police Department, assisted by the Oregon State Police, Baker County Sheriff's Office and Federal Law Enforcement served a search warrant at 1604 4th St #2 in Baker City, OR due to information obtained during a joint investigation. During the initial entry of the property, an illegal drug manufacturing laboratory was discovered and the search of the apartment was halted due to safety concerns.

Upon arriving at the residence, police arrested two subjects at the location. Suspects Andrew Ferns and Cheris Owens were lodged at the Baker County Jail for numerous drug related charges. Due to exposure from the laboratory, the suspects were taken to the St. Alphonsus Hospital to be decontaminated prior to their arrival at the Jail. Baker County Emergency Management provided a mobile decontamination unit.

A trained clandestine laboratory team was contacted and responded to Baker City, from various areas around Oregon. The team completed the search of the apartment using specialized safety equipment. During the search, it was confirmed the laboratory was being used to manufacture methamphetamine. In addition, the clandestine laboratory team located an illegal manufacturing operation of psilocybin mushrooms. Prior to leaving the residence, a hazardous material disposal company responded to remove the dangerous materials and properly dispose of them. The operation and cleanup was not complete until approximately 4:00 AM on 1/31/19.



Due to the nature of this incident, the officers who first entered the residence had to be decontaminated along with their equipment and vehicles. The Baker City Fire Department was instrumental in assisting the officers and making sure they were ready to return to duty.

At this time, the property has been posted with placards stating it is unlawful for anyone to inhabit the premises due to the operation of an illegal drug manufacturing laboratory and health concerns for anyone who might occupy the residence. The property owner will be responsible for following a standard procedure to make sure the location is properly sanitized and the risk of a dangerous exposure is nullified.

Arrested: Cheris Owens, 6/3/97; 1604 4th St #2, Baker City, OR 97814. Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine within 1000 feet of a school; Unlawful Manufacturing of Methamphetamine within 1000 feet of a school; Unlawful Possession of Psilocybin Mushrooms; Unlawful Manufacturing of Psilocybin Mushrooms.

Arrested: Andrew Ferns, 1/9/85; 1604 4th St #2, Baker City, OR 97814. Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine within 1000 feet of a school; Unlawful Manufacturing of Methamphetamine within 1000 feet of a school; Unlawful Delivery of Methamphetamine within 1000 feet of a school; Unlawful Possession of Psilocybin Mushrooms; Unlawful Manufacturing of Psilocybin Mushroom; Unlawful Delivery of Psilocybin Mushrooms.

Additional charges are being considered for both suspects in this incident.

- Gun locks are available upon request from the Baker City Police Department, located at 1768 Auburn Avenue. These locks, donated courtesy of Project ChildSafe, are available during regular business hours. Please note, the lobby is closed during the lunch hour. More information about Project ChildSafe can be found at <https://www.projectchildsafe.org/>.



Public Works: Watershed

A private property owner is currently cutting logs on his property up Elk Creek. Jake and Scott have met with the logging crew to show them, and physically mark on the ground, where the buried water transmission line is located.



← Jake is pictured here marking the location of the Baker City water line.

A portion of the marked water line near the head of Washington Gulch. →

The logging operation deck site. →



Public Works: Water Department



Justin and Brian installed a new water service for a house that is being constructed on Balm Street.

Pictured here are photos of a new water service being installed on 9th Street.



Justin excavating to locate the buried main line. →

← Brian attaching the tapping tool to the 6" ductile iron water main line.



New water service lines are attached to main lines while maintaining full pressure within the main lines so that service to other customers is not interrupted.

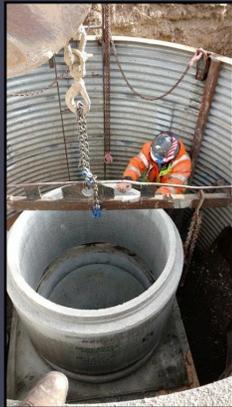
← The service line is attached to the "corp stop" with the valve in the off position.





Public Works: Wastewater Department

New water and wastewater connections were installed for a house which is being constructed on 9th Street. Pictured right, the 4" lateral was connected using an insert-a-tee fitting.



The new manhole near the intersection of Place and Plum Streets was completed this week.

A rubber like mastic material is heated and used to seal the joints between precast concrete sections of the manhole.



The finished product. →



On Thursday, Blain and Riley worked to uncover a previously used wastewater lateral on Balm Street for a new residence which is nearing completion there.

Karl and Jacob worked to inspect a wastewater lateral for a drain cleaning professional on 5th Street.

The lateral recently became plugged and the homeowner has plans to repair it.





Public Works: Lagoon

With the mild weather this January Pond "A" has begun to thaw.

A moderate snow pack can be seen on the Elkhorn Mountains in the background.



The Public Works Department met with consulting engineers to discuss and determine how to best approach some of the upcoming projects dealing with Baker City's wastewater collection and treatment systems.

Pictured left, one of the engineers is examining controls at the "H" Street lift station. This station is scheduled to be replaced within the next year.

Public Works: Announcements



A call was received from Dispatch on Thursday reporting that tacks had been spread on the Leo Adler Memorial Pathway. Dennis walked that portion of the pathway and picked up a handful of tacks before they could puncture any more tires (one pedestrian reported a flat tire on a stroller).



There is still time to bid on surplus property.

Interested parties must login to www.govdeals.com and register.

The auction will close on Tuesday, February 5, 2019.



Public Works: Street Department

Matt has been able to sweep streets this week as temperatures climbed above freezing.

Here he is cleaning the Elgin sweeper near the end of his shift.

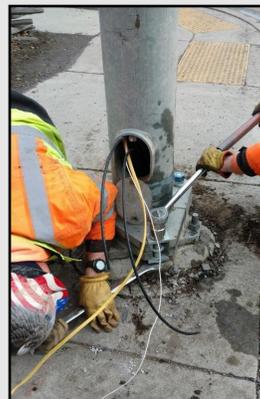


Tommy and Nate used "cold mix" asphalt to fill potholes in several different streets throughout town.

OSHA requires that operators are regularly trained for the operation of equipment. Pictured below, an O.D.O.T. trainer is observing and evaluating a Public Works employee safely operating the forklift.



The street light was reinstalled on Campbell Street with the help of O.T.E.C.





Public Works: Shop

There was a problem with the side broom not going down on the street sweeper.

A valve was sticking and causing the problem. It has been cleaned and transmission fluid added. It is back in service.



The wheel seal on the right side of this backhoe started leaking. Parts have been ordered and repairs should be completed next week.

Pictured right, Scott is replacing the block heater cord.



Reminders: 2019 Dog Licenses

Don't forget your 2019 dog license!
Dog licenses can be purchased at
City Hall in the
Water/Finance Department.

Licenses will also be available for purchase
at the February 13th vaccination clinic at
1:00 p.m. at the Community Events Center
2600 East Street, Baker City.

January & February Rates:

Spayed/Neutered	\$4.50
Un-Altered	\$6.00

March-December Rates:

Spayed/Neutered	\$8.50
Un-Altered	\$10.00



Ask about
multi-year
licenses