

CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail.
Established 1864, Incorporated 1874

Weekly Update December 6, 2019

Administration:

The Holiday season has arrived in Baker City. This weekend is packed with events and activities. The Festival of Trees has a number of events. Tonight is First Friday downtown with many artists showcased in various businesses. Tomorrow hails in the Holiday parade and Community Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at 5:00 pm sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. Preceding that is the "Cookie Crawl" sponsored by Baker City Downtown. Following the tree lighting ceremony will be the 'One Last Dance' event adjacent to Court Plaza. For those of you who remember the Shangri-La Lounge, it will take place on the metal dance floor one more time before it is removed. Come out and enjoy all the festivities and support our local businesses.

The City Council will meet on Tuesday for their last meeting of the year. They will hear from the Public Arts Commission on all of the fantastic things that they have accomplished this year. They will look to adopt the new Oregon Fire Code and discuss possible changes to the City Charter among other items.

Get out and enjoy the weekend and bundle up for all the nighttime activities.

Building Department:

	Permits Issued City	Inspections City	Permits Issued County	Inspections County
Building	1	18	3	16
Manufactured Dwelling	0	1	0	0
Electrical	6	7	7	15
Mechanical	15	10	7	9
Plumbing	4	3	1	0
Fence	0	NA	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	26	39	18	40

COMMERCIAL PERMITS:

- 1217 Campbell Street, Baker City—Repairs to existing structure

HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW:

Next regularly scheduled meeting is January 15, 2020, at 8:00 a.m. in the Building Department.

RESIDENTIAL PERMITS:

- 52256 Cornucopia Hwy, Halfway—Replacement cabin
- 2610 Indiana Avenue, Baker City—Carport addition
- 20234 Medical Springs Hwy, Baker City—Sunroom addition
- 43699 Pocahontas Road, Baker City—Pole barn addition



Planning Department:

Planning Commission Public Meetings

The Planning Commission denied CUP-19-101, a request by Verizon Wireless for a Conditional Use Permit to construct a ±70-foot-tall cell tower within the 1400 Block of D Street.

The Planning Commission meeting on December 18, 2019, has been cancelled. The next regularly-scheduled Planning Commission meeting is set for January 15, 2020, at 6:00 pm, in the Council Chambers at Baker City Hall.

Thank You to Planning Commissioner Alan Blair!

At the close of the December 4, 2019 Planning Commission meeting, Chairman Alan Blair announced his intention to resign his seat, effective December 31, 2019. Alan Blair has volunteered on the Planning Commission for 25 years, most of those as Chairman. He has led the Planning Commission through countless public hearings and land use changes over the years, and freely given his time and knowledge to train new Planning Department staff and Planning Commissioners. He was diligent in working through complex problems, and invested his time seeking long term benefits for Baker City.

Thank you, Alan, for your service and commitment to Baker City. We wish you the very best in retirement from this role!

Land Use Applications

- ◆ A Home Occupation and Sign Permit were approved for a nail salon at 2420 9th Street in the Residential High-Density Zone.
- ◆ A Partition Plat was approved to partition one parcel into two parcels at 2641 Grove Street in the Residential High-Density Zone. Notice of the decision was sent to surrounding property owners on November 26, 2019.
- ◆ A 16'x40' carport was approved at 1911 15th Street in the Residential Medium-Density Zone.



Boards, Commissions and Committees:

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

- ⇒ Tree Board—2 positions available
- ⇒ Planning Commission—1 position available

Most 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>



"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 previous two weeks, BCPD responded to over 288 incidents and opened 46 new cases, making numerous arrests for outstanding warrants and detainers. One case involved the arrest of a suspect sought in the investigation of sex abuse perpetrated against multiple juvenile victims. The following press release was issued in response to this incident:

On December 2, 2019, Baker City Police Department (BCPD) arrested Tyler James Arthur, 25 years of age, transient for the crime of Sodomy II. An investigation conducted by BCPD has identified multiple juvenile victims and additional information will be presented to the Baker County District Attorney's Office for further Grand Jury indictments.

Because the victims are juveniles, no more information will be released at this time and the identity of the victims will not be disclosed.

★ This past week, Patrol Officer Recruit Justin Prevo was sworn in as the Department's latest addition to the patrol team. Officer Prevo is a graduate of Baker High School and served with U.S. Army for nine years as a wheeled vehicle mechanic, non-commissioned officer. Please join us in welcoming Officer Prevo to the Baker City Police Department and our community!



Officer Prevo getting sworn in

★ COPs (Citizens on Patrol) Volunteers put in time and a great amount of creativity in designing the Department's first-ever contribution to the Festival of Trees with an awesome Capa-themed Christmas tree! If you have the opportunity, be sure to check out all the holiday festivities taking place this weekend!

★ Tickets for the 4th Annual Baker City Police Department K9 Drug Prevention Fundraiser coming up on Saturday, December 14th, 2019 at the Baker County Event Center are available at the [Baker City Police Department](#), Barley Brown's Tap House and Thatcher's Ace Hardware. Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$10 for kids 12-6 and under 6 are free. You don't want to miss this great event for a great cause! More information can be found at the Facebook event page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2713529715366561/>.



Capa-themed Christmas tree

★ 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/>.

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



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

FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the week of November 26th through December 2nd the Fire Department responded to a total of **54** emergency alarms.

AMBULANCE OPERATIONS

City Calls	34
Rural Calls	11
Patient Transported	28
No Patient Trip	17
TOTAL MEDIC RESPONSES	45



FIRE REPORTS

General Alarms	4
Dispatched Alarms	5
TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES	9

EMERGENCY CALL BACKS

Requests for Cover	8
Persons Arrived for	7

Airport Transfers	2
Out of Town Transfers Accepted	1
Out of Town Transfers Not Accepted	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	7
Doubles (2 calls at once)	5
Triples (3 calls at once)	2
Quads (4 calls at once)	0
Public Assist	3



TRAINING/MAINTENANCE/ FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTIONS/ COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **44 hrs** of Station & Equipment Maintenance
- **1** Burn Permit Issued
- **4 hrs** of Fire Training

The Fire Department provides free blood pressure readings at the Senior Center every Tuesday, at 11 am. Don't miss the next check on December 10th.



Fire Department



The Fire Department, with assistance from Baker Rural, Haines, and North Powder fire departments, worked a serious crash on I-84 on Wednesday evening (11/27). Fire crews worked together in conjunction with Roadrunner and Baker Valley Towing companies to extricate a victim who was heavily entrapped in his van. The victim's van struck the rear of a semi that was in the lane of travel after jack-knifing in the median. Crews were unable to fly the victim to the trauma center due to weather conditions. Initially the victim was transported to St. Alphonsus, but eventually he was transferred to the Boise trauma center. After the accident, Baker City and Baker Rural personnel spent two hours searching and successfully finding the family's pet golden retriever that had run away from the accident scene. He was reunited with a very grateful family.



The fire Department responded to a propane leak at Spence Equipment on Saturday. The fire personnel, with assistance from a Valley Wide Cooperative representative, were able to stop the leak and mitigate the hazard within an hour of receiving the call. Valley Wide completed the permanent repairs on Tuesday.

Public Works: Community Projects

Crews have been working to decorate the downtown areas for the Holiday season. Wreaths, garlands, candy canes, and snowflakes were all installed, and of course, the Christmas tree was decorated in time for the Twilight Parade and Tree Lighting ceremony.



Public Works: Water Department



Public Works has been involved with the new Park Springs development near the Sam-O Pool. A new 6" water valve was installed near the south edge of Baker Street so that the developer could install a 6" x 8" adapter near the valve, then lay 8" ductile iron pipe to serve the subdivision lots.

Right: Repair work had to be done to the controls at the reservoir entry gate to maintain proper security. Here, Kris and Nate are doing the repair work.



Public Works in conjunction with the Baker City Fire Chief worked to pressure test the 6" fire line that was recently installed at the New Directions Northwest complex. Blain and Brian pressurized the line to 200psi of water pressure. The pressure held and the test was approved by Chief Clark.



Public Works: Wastewater Department



There have been some problems with the lift pumps becoming partially plugged recently. When wet wipes and other items become entangled within the pump mechanisms, it causes them to be inefficient. Rick, Karl and Jake worked on the pumps several times, with some success, to clear the blockages.

Right: The flow chart shows the amount of liquid being pumped from the well into cell "A".



The contractor has begun excavation work at the "H" Street lift station site. Bypass float system, generator and pump are in place near the intersection of 8th Drive and H Street.

While excavating down to the designed elevation for the new lift station, an underground steel tank was uncovered deep below the surface. This tank is believed to have housed a below ground pump which pumped wastewater up and into a pipe several feet higher in elevation. The contractor had to adjust the trench shoring to accommodate the old tanks location.





Public Works: Wastewater Department continued

A residence on 5th Street has been having wastewater lateral problems lately. The owner decided to have the old line replaced. The work had to be rescheduled due to the heavy snow, but began this week. Blain, Karl and Nate performed the replacement work.



The asphalt was pulverized using the Volvo loader and rented asphalt zipper unit.



Blain excavated enough material from the trench so the Vector could hydro-excavate the remainder of the material from around the pipes without damaging them.



Left two: Karl carefully looks for overhead power and communication lines before using the electronic controls to move the boom into position.



Right two: Here you can see the old lateral which has been exposed near the main line under the street. A large root mass was removed from inside the pipe.



Left: Jake and Riley assisted with the project by video-inspecting the remaining lateral from the house to the street.

Right: If you look closely at this picture, you can see a small light on the push camera head just peeking out from the inside of the existing wastewater lateral running between the house and the street. This section of line between the house and the street was observed to be cast iron and in good condition.



Here the new 4" PVC pipe has replaced the old terra cotta line and is ready for use.

Left: Nate beginning to place washed rock around the new pipe.



Public Works: Street Department



Early snow started just before Thanksgiving. Enough snow had fallen that crews began plowing streets. Starting midnight Thanksgiving Day, a crew of 8 began plowing and hauling snow from the more heavily travelled streets throughout the downtown corridor.

A second two-man crew began work at 6:30am to assist the Turkey Trot volunteers setting up the road closure signs and barricades for the event.



Next the pathway was plowed and the Turkey Trot route down Main, Resort and Grove Streets (which had already been plowed) was sanded to provide traction for runners.



Left and right: The crew loading and hauling snow from around the Courthouse early Monday morning.



These photos show the results of the snow plow efforts. Snow has been plowed to the center of main streets. And the snow berms are then loaded and hauled to open lots near 10th and Broadway and north of Campbell. A thank you goes out to the Ellington's and Angie, the Baker County Fairgrounds manager, for allowing Public Works to deposit snow on those properties.



The crew worked the midnight shift Thanksgiving Day, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday to haul off the snow berms.



Left: Significant snowfall at the airport kept airport personnel busy plowing the runway, taxiway and ramp areas. Public Works assisted to keep the runway safe for air travel.

Right: Several signs were knocked down over the 4 day weekend. Temporary stop signs were placed until the damaged ones can be repaired.





Public Works: Shop



We are repairing the transmission and replacing the carburetor on this plow for the airport.



We replaced the foot brake valve and this rig is back to work.



We replaced the stereo and wiring in the truck.



We installed the snow wing on the grader so the plow crew can pull away the snow from driveways and intersections.



The tailgate pin fell out and bent the mount on one side. We straightened it and reinstalled.



We installed new quick connect hydraulic fittings on the thumper.