

CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail.
Established 1864, Incorporated 1874

Weekly Update March 20, 2020

Administration:

This has been an extremely trying week for all citizens of Baker City and very traumatic for businesses within the hospitality sector. Most events and meetings have been cancelled at City Hall, and with the closure of restaurants and bars to in-house consumption, our hospitality industry is grinding to a halt. The tourism economy in Oregon will be decimated over the next weeks and potentially months, but we are hopeful that some relief will come from State and Federal sources that will be of aid to these critical businesses in our community. It is important for all of us to keep washing our hands, maintaining our social distancing and staying away from large crowds in order to avoid a total business shutdown.

I believe that together we will be able to weather this event. Local people have stepped up and are ordering take out food and buying gift cards for future use. This is a great time to do some pre-Christmas shopping if you have the means.

We have some nice weather for the weekend. Get out and enjoy the sunshine and keep your distance from everyone. And don't forget to wash your hands!

City Hall Update

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Baker City Hall is still open to the public, however we are monitoring and adjusting on an hourly basis.

To allow us to best serve you, we are urging our customers to please do business through phone or email whenever possible.

Public Works: 541-524-2047 **City Manager:** 541-524-2040

Human Resources: 541-524-2036 **City Recorder:** 541-524-2033

Building Department: 541-524-2054 Press 1 for Inspections
Press 2 for Dawn Kitzmiller
Email: Permits@bakercity.com

Finance/Water Department: 541-523-6541

You can pay your water/utility bill by phone or by using our locked drop box by the front door!





Building Department:

	Permits Issued City	Inspections City	Permits Issued County	Inspections County
Building	5	11	1	10
Manufactured Dwelling	0	0	0	0
Electrical	7	8	7	11
Mechanical	2	0	2	4
Plumbing	5	1	0	0
Fence	3	NA	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	22	20	10	25

RESIDENTIAL PERMITS:

- 1330 Hughes Lane, Baker City—New residence
- 630 Broadway Street, Baker City—Deck alteration/repair
- 1545 3rd Street, Haines—Remodel

COMMERCIAL PERMITS:

- 2005 Washington Avenue, Baker City—Commercial demolition
- 475 Washington Street, Huntington—ADA wheelchair ramp and rails
- 2170 Main Street, Baker City—Truss repairs

HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW:

Next regularly scheduled meeting is April 15 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.*

Finance Department:

Utilities

- Eight customers signed up for new water/wastewater service and four customers disconnected service from March 13th thru March 19th. This includes all service changes.
- Zone 6 was billed March 17th and included 478 residential and 56 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 119 (22%) are signed up for direct payment and 47 (9%) are signed up for ebilling.
- Zone 3 was billed today and included 498 residential and 52 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 114 (21%) are signed up for direct payment and 39 (7%) are signed up for ebilling.

LID Billings

LIDs are billed every six months over a twenty year period. Interest is charged at the Local Government Investment Pool Rate plus 1% which is currently an annual rate of 3.36%. These LIDs can be paid off at any time with interest charged through the payoff date.

- One 2007 G Street Wastewater Extension LID was billed March 19th. The original assessment in 2007 included one property owner for a total of \$69,541. The remaining balance outstanding is \$28,284 including interest.



"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 two separate incidents, arrests were made of suspects who had been involved in a fight with another individual, creating a disturbance. In both incidents, substance abuse was noted to have contributed to the behavior of the individuals arrested.
- ★ BCPD received and investigated a report of the theft of two bicycles taken from an out-of-town visitor's vehicle while parked in the private parking lot behind the Geiser Grand. If you have any information regarding this case, please contact Officer Lance Woodward at lwoodward@bakercity.com or by calling 541-524-2014 ex. 610. Please see the attached description/pictures for more information.
- ★ As the situation with the COVID-19 crisis continues to evolve day-by-day and sometimes, hour-by-hour, we would like to reassure the public that we are still here answering calls for service.
 - ⇒ BCPD personnel will be limiting in-person contact, instead taking routine calls over the phone whenever possible. We are available to respond to emergencies as needed.
 - ⇒ The front office remains open at this time; however, car seat appointments are not being scheduled until further notice.
 - ⇒ It is also strongly recommended that people wishing to pick up evidence, first call the office at 541-524-2014 to make an appointment with the evidence technician.
 - ⇒ Up-to-date information, including local recommendations, concerning COVID-19 can be found on the Baker County Health Department's website at the following link: <https://www.bakercounty.org/health/health.html>. Thank you.
- ★ BCPD personnel participated in several briefing trainings, including a review of various officer safety topics.



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

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 Fire Department is to provide dependable and efficient emergency services.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the week of March 10th through March 16th the Fire Department responded to a total of **30** emergency alarms.

AMBULANCE OPERATIONS

City Calls	21
Rural Calls	5
Patient Transported	18
No Patient Trip	8
TOTAL MEDIC	26

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	3
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

- **42 hrs** of Station & Equipment Maintenance
- **18 hrs** of Fire Training
- **8 hrs** of Community Events
- **22** Burn Permits Issued



EMERGENCY CALL BACKS

Request for Cover	6
Arrived for Cover	5

FIRE REPORTS

General Alarms	0
Dispatched Alarms	4
TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES	4



Public Works: Shop



Left: When the engine shut down, we towed this rig, ran some diagnostics, and reset the inertia switch.



Right: This truck had a bad battery cable. We replaced it and this rig is back in service.



Left: We replaced the O2 sensor, but then discovered that the cam sensor was not working. Parts have been ordered.



Right: We are replacing the Fuel Injector Control Module.



Left: This rig is the newest addition to the BCPW Fleet. We are prepping it so it can pull our equipment trailer.



Right: We replaced the air compressor in this rig. It is back in service.

Public Works: Wastewater Department



In preparation for the CIPP crew to perform lining work next week, Karl performed "surgery" on the interior of a manhole. For safety a tripod and a gas detector was used during the work.

Before (right, above) and after (right, below) showing the top of the terra cotta pipe which had to be cut away so that the liner that will be installed won't block the flow coming down the lateral shown in the corner of the manhole.





Public Works: Wastewater Department continued



Left: Karl and Jake used the push cam to inspect a wastewater lateral for a professional drain cleaner who was assisting an owner on Campbell.

The monitor showed that the inside of the lateral was badly deformed and will completely fail in the future. A repair estimate has been prepared for the homeowner.



A call was received from a homeowner on 8th Drive describing that in the process of working in a manhole that was located in the backyard, the fence was left in a way such that her dog could escape. To prevent the dog from escaping, a small section of fence was temporarily installed. A permanent repair on the fence will be performed after all the lining work is complete.



Public Works: Parks Department



A Kubota skid-steer was rented to auger holes for playground equipment at South Baker park. Tommy and Kris performed the work.

Baker City Parks & Playgrounds cares about our community. Nothing makes us feel as good as fresh air and sunshine. Our parks contractor, Grass Master, Inc., is working to disinfect playground equipment, tables, and structures on a regular basis. We remind you to practice social distancing and stay home if you or your children are not feeling well. Support our local businesses and be kind to each other!





Public Works: Street Department



During the COVID-19 pandemic, special pick-up locations have temporarily been set up at several restaurants throughout Baker City.

Locations are designated by two traffic cones and a street barricade with sign attached.

Public Works: Water Department



As spring approaches, water turbidity comes into play. It is important that the water treatment operator has quick and safe access into the water diversion structures. He will need to adjust flows from different sources as needed to provide clear and safe drinking water to residents.



Blain took the CAT grader up Elk Creek Road to plow snow. This enabled Scott to haul the snowmobiles up to a safe turnaround spot so he can access the Elk Creek settling tank and the Elk Creek diversion.



Progress on the Court Street water line project is going well and is ahead of schedule. Justin, Blain, Brian and Nate are performing the installation work. Nearly all of the 8" ductile iron pipe will be in place this week.



The Baker County Road Department assisted on the project by using the asphalt grinder they recently purchased from ODOT. They used it to grind the asphalt from the trench line.



Due to a mechanical problem, the remainder of the trench was jack-hammered and cut by saw.



In addition to grinding asphalt, the Road Department is assisting Public Works through the use of their skid-steer loader.





Public Works: Water Department continued



When working within the curb lines on a narrow street such as Court Street, it is very useful to be able to utilize a super maneuverable piece of equipment such as this skid-steer.



Scott, Tommy and Riley used the Vector truck to hydro-excavate on the north side of the water reservoir to access two water valves and install valve covers.



Dennis and Tom met with a well inspector from the Water Resources Department to begin the process for decommissioning the 50 foot +/- deep well in preparation for the planned Simplot development on Settler's Loop.



Planning Department:

PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The Baker City Planning Commission is scheduled to hold a public hearing at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 25th, 2020. **Due to COVID-19, the Planning Commission will be conducting the meeting via teleconference to only discuss postponing the hearing.** Staff has recommended postponing this hearing until May 27, 2020. **The date and time of the continuance will be announced on the Baker City Website and in the Baker City Herald newspaper.**

Please see the attached flier for detailed information regarding these revisions. Copies of the staff report and all materials are available for inspection at the Baker County Courthouse at 1995 3rd Street. All materials can be viewed for no cost, or provided at a reasonable cost. Digital versions can be e-mailed for free or are available online at <http://bakercity.com/2157/Planning-Department>. If you have additional questions, please contact the Planning Department.

APPLICATIONS

- A new home was approved at 795 Scenic Vista Lane in the Residential Low-Density (R-LD) Zone.
- An attached garage was approved at 3495 9th Street in the Residential Medium-Density (R-MD) Zone.
- An accessory structure was approved at 3100 Auburn Avenue in the General Industrial (I) Zone.



IN ACCORDANCE WITH ORS 277.186: THIS IS TO NOTIFY YOU THAT BAKER CITY IS PROPOSING CHANGES TO LAND USE REGULATIONS THAT MAY AFFECT THE PERMISSIBLE USES OF YOUR PROPERTY AND OTHER PROPERTIES, AND MAY CHANGE THE VALUE OF YOUR PROPERTY.

Notice to mortgagee, lien holder, vendor, or seller:

State law requires that if you receive this notice it shall be promptly forwarded to the purchaser.



PROPOSED UPDATES

REVISIONS AND ADDITIONS
TO THE COMPREHENSIVE
PLAN & MAP, DEVELOPMENT
CODE, AND ZONING MAP FOR
the City of Baker City

A set of revisions to the Baker City Development Code, the Baker City Comprehensive Plan, and the Baker City Zoning Map are proposed. Updates and revisions to the guiding land use planning documents and maps of Baker City are needed periodically to reflect changes within our community. The proposed revisions and additions include:

	REVISIONS TO:	ADDITIONS
DEVELOPMENT CODE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Standards for accessory dwelling units (ADUs)</i> ▪ <i>Site Design Review procedures</i> ▪ <i>Number of maximum parking spaces permitted for developments</i> ▪ <i>Public noticing requirements</i> ▪ <i>Siting standards and material restrictions for manufactured homes</i> ▪ <i>Requirements for street and sidewalk improvements</i> ▪ <i>Property line adjustment application procedures</i> ▪ <i>Eave height restriction for accessory structures in residential zones</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Floodplain development standards</i> ▪ <i>Standards for mobile vending units</i> ▪ <i>Standards for hostels</i> ▪ <i>A Residential-Professional District near the downtown area allowing larger signs for businesses in a residential zone</i> ▪ <i>Increased front street setback for self-service storage facilities</i> ▪ <i>Re-use or re-development of existing buildings with no increase in footprint as a shorter review process (Type I)</i>
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>An update to the Baker City Comprehensive Plan based on an analysis of local and regional economic trends, evaluation of the community's opportunities and barriers to economic growth, and a determination of the types and amounts of land and infrastructure needed to support expected employment for 20 years.</i> 	
ZONING MAP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Proposed re-zoning of identified properties throughout the City</i> 	



PUBLIC HEARINGS TO BEGIN SPRING 2020

March 25th, 2020

Planning Commission Hearing

April 14th, 2020

First City Council Hearing (*tentative*)

April 28th, 2020

Second City Council Hearing (*tentative*)

All public hearings will be held at City Hall, 1655 1st Street, Baker City. All public hearings will be conducted according to Section 4.1 of the Development Code and in accordance with the rules of procedure adopted by the Council, which are available at City Hall.

Any interested party may testify or submit written comments at, or prior to, the public hearings.



Making changes to land use regulations is a Legislative (Type IV) procedure, which means all changes are initially considered by the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing to gain input from the community before making a recommendation to City Council. The Council will hold a series of public hearings before making a final decision on the proposed changes.

Documents are available for inspection at the Baker County Courthouse located at 1995 3rd St., Baker City; for copy at a reasonable cost; or on the City's website (<http://bakercity.com/2157/Planning-Department>)

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

This list of proposed revisions and additions was developed with input from the public over the past few years during the following Planning Commission work sessions:

- 2017 11/29 and 12/20
- 2018 1/17, 2/21, 3/21, 4/18, 7/18, 8/15, 9/19, 11/7 and 12/19
- 2019 1/16, 2/20, 3/20, 4/10, 6/19, 7/17, 8/21, 9/16 and 10/16
- 2020 1/15

COME LEARN ABOUT THE PROPOSED CHANGES

The Planning Department will host a series of open houses for the public regarding the proposed updates and re-zoning effort

JOIN US FOR AN OPEN HOUSE

February 24th, 2020 5:30pm to 6:30pm
March 4th 2020 5:30pm to 6:30pm

Council Chambers Baker City Hall - 1655 1st Street Baker City



STAY INVOLVED

- ✓ **ASK** Let the Planning Department answer your questions
- ✓ **LEARN** Review the proposed drafts in person or online
- ✓ **SHARE** Spread the word with family, friends and neighbors

Visit: <http://www.bakercity.com/>
Email: planning@bakercounty.org



Stop by: 1995 3rd Street in Baker City
Call: 541-523-8219



What you need to know about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

What is coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)?

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China.

Can people in the U.S. get COVID-19?

Yes. COVID-19 is spreading from person to person in parts of the United States. Risk of infection with COVID-19 is higher for people who are close contacts of someone known to have COVID-19, for example healthcare workers, or household members. Other people at higher risk for infection are those who live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19. Learn more about places with ongoing spread at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html#geographic>.

Have there been cases of COVID-19 in the U.S.?

Yes. The first case of COVID-19 in the United States was reported on January 21, 2020. The current count of cases of COVID-19 in the United States is available on CDC's webpage at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>.

How does COVID-19 spread?

The virus that causes COVID-19 probably emerged from an animal source, but is now spreading from person to person. The virus is thought to spread mainly between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet) through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It also may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads. Learn what is known about the spread of newly emerged coronaviruses at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html>.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

Patients with COVID-19 have had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of

- fever
- cough
- shortness of breath

What are severe complications from this virus?

Some patients have pneumonia in both lungs, multi-organ failure and in some cases death.

How can I help protect myself?

People can help protect themselves from respiratory illness with everyday preventive actions.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.

If you are sick, to keep from spreading respiratory illness to others, you should

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

What should I do if I recently traveled from an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19?

If you have traveled from an affected area, there may be restrictions on your movements for up to 2 weeks. If you develop symptoms during that period (fever, cough, trouble breathing), seek medical advice. Call the office of your health care provider before you go, and tell them about your travel and your symptoms. They will give you instructions on how to get care without exposing other people to your illness. While sick, avoid contact with people, don't go out and delay any travel to reduce the possibility of spreading illness to others.

Is there a vaccine?

There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. The best way to prevent infection is to take everyday preventive actions, like avoiding close contact with people who are sick and washing your hands often.

Is there a treatment?

There is no specific antiviral treatment for COVID-19. People with COVID-19 can seek medical care to help relieve symptoms.



For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19



2020 CENSUS

How the 2020 Census will invite everyone to respond



What to Expect in the Mail

When it's time to respond, most households will receive an invitation in the mail.

Every household will have the option of responding online, by mail, or by phone.

Depending on how likely your area is to respond online, you'll receive either an invitation encouraging you to respond online or an invitation along with a paper questionnaire.

Letter Invitation

- Most areas of the country are likely to respond online, so most households will receive a letter asking you to go online to complete the census questionnaire.
- We plan on working with the U.S. Postal Service to stagger the delivery of these invitations over several days. This way we can spread out the number of users responding online, and we'll be able to serve you better if you need help over the phone.

Letter Invitation and Paper Questionnaire

- Areas that are less likely to respond online will receive a paper questionnaire along with their invitation. The invitation will also include information about how to respond online or by phone.

WHAT WE WILL SEND IN THE MAIL	
On or between	You'll receive:
March 12-20	An invitation to respond online to the 2020 Census. (Some households will also receive paper questionnaires.)
March 16-24	A reminder letter.
	If you haven't responded yet:
March 26-April 3	A reminder postcard.
April 8-16	A reminder letter and paper questionnaire.
April 20-27	A final reminder postcard before we follow up in person.

The 2020 Census

4 Ways to Respond



1. Secure Internet
New and Quick, Respond Online.

It's safe, secure and confidential. Your information and privacy are protected. It's economical both for you and for the taxpayers. It's greater saving time and it's user friendly—offering you help screens and the ability to review your answers.



2. Respond by Phone

Our enumerators are ready to take your information question by question from the convenience of your phone from any location.



3. Respond by Mail

Wait until you receive your paper form through the mail or dropped at your residence. It can be filled out at home and dropped into your mailbox or post office.



4. In-person Interview

Our enumerators will visit residences that choose not to self respond.

Multiple Languages Available

Phone & Internet	Paper Mailer	In-Person Interview
English Chinese Korean Arabic Polish Japanese Haitian Creole	Spanish Vietnamese Russian Tagalog French Portuguese Haitian Creole	Numerous Community individuals hired to interview others in their own community and language

Each completed survey is a building block to a better America.

Shape your future START HERE >

