

# CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail.  
Established 1864, Incorporated 1874

## ***Weekly Update March 27, 2020***

### **Administration:**

As we enter day nine or ten of our stay at home order and the closure of our bars and dine in eateries, I would like to thank all our citizens for their patience and helping to keep us all safe. This has been an extreme hardship for our many businesses and their workers but hopefully this short term pain will get our economy back and thriving as the tourist season begins. I would also like to thank all of our health care workers and first responders. They are doing a great job of meeting the needs of the community.

With the passage of the massive aid bill by Congress, we are working with our Federal, State and local officials to get information out to our businesses and affected workers in a timely manner. We will do our best to keep everyone up to date as we believe resources will be headed your way in the future. Try to keep a positive attitude as this event progresses because we will eventually work through this and get life back to normal.

The main message that needs to be stressed are: keep washing your hands, maintain the social distancing and call your healthcare provider before going to a clinic or the hospital as to not overwhelm the system.

I have seen a lot of folks out walking over the past days. Keep up the social distancing and wish for warmer weather.

### **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



**Building Department:**

	Permits Issued City	Inspections City	Permits Issued County	Inspections County
Building	6	16	2	6
Manufactured Dwelling	0	0	0	0
Electrical	3	4	3	4
Mechanical	2	1	0	0
Plumbing	2	10	2	1
Fence	1	NA	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>

**RESIDENTIAL PERMITS:**

- 3480 10th Street, Baker City—Home renovation
- 28630 Love Ranch Road, County—New residence
- 3495 9th Drive, Baker City—Garage addition
- 2251 Mitchell Street, Baker City—Demolition

**COMMERCIAL PERMITS:**

- 3425 13th Street, Baker City—Installation of sprinkler system
- 3425 13th Street, Baker City—Installation of fire alarm system
- Beaver Street, County—Modifications to an existing cell tower
- 975 Campbell Street, Baker City—ATM sign installation

**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.*



**Planning Department:**

**PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING**

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.**

**APPLICATIONS**

- ◆ An accessory parking lot for Brooklyn Elementary School was approved on property identified as 1353 Washington Avenue in the Residential Medium-Density (R-MD) Zone.
- ◆ A re-plat of property identified as 730 H Street was approved in the Residential Low-Density (R-LD) Zone. The request creates one additional parcel.



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

# FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the week of March 17th through March 23rd the Fire Department responded to a total of **27** emergency alarms.

## AMBULANCE OPERATIONS

City Calls	14
Rural Calls	4
Patient Transported	7
No Patient Trip	11

**TOTAL MEDIC 18**

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

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

- **34 hrs** of Station & Equipment Maintenance
- **14 hrs** of Fire Prevention Inspections
- **20** Burn Permits Issued



## EMERGENCY CALL BACKS

Request for Cover	4
Arrived for Cover	1

## FIRE REPORTS

General Alarms	0
Dispatched Alarms	9
<b>TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES</b>	<b>9</b>



*"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*



## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

- ★ 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, taking routine calls, whenever possible, over the phone. We are available, however, 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.
  
- ★ Law enforcement agencies, including BCPD, continue to receive inquiries about Governor Kate Brown's Executive Order 20-12, *Stay Home, Save Lives*, and in response, Oregon State Police has issued the following statement, including frequently asked questions to provide some guidance.
  - **Is it martial law?**  
No, not even close. There are no curfews and citizen movements are not restricted under the Governor's Executive Order. While details are offered in the order relating to social distancing, specific business closures and non-essential social gatherings- citizen movements are generally unrestricted.
  
  - **Do I need documentation for my employer deeming me essential?**  
No. The Governor's Executive Order closes certain businesses, outlined in section (2). These businesses reflect operations that would make close contact difficult or impossible due to the nature of the business. Officers are not asking or looking for any type of special paperwork from your employer.
  
  - **Do I need a special placard on my car, when going to work or if I drive for work?**  
No. There is no special documentation or placards for citizens going to work or permitted activities.
  
  - **Will I be pulled over for driving on the highway?**  
Not for violation of the Governor's Executive Order, which specifically outlines efforts to avoid large gatherings- not restrict the movement of citizens. If, however, you are committing a traffic violation or crime that would be enforced independent of the order, you may be stopped, like any other day.
  
  - **Are the state lines closed and are there roadblocks?**  
No, traffic is moving freely within Oregon and our border states. There are no roadblocks or restrictions of vehicle movement. Washington State is operating under a similar executive order from their Governor, so Oregonians should be aware of these provisions when traveling in their state.



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## **POLICE DEPARTMENT continued**

- **If my business is closed, can I still go to work if my employer makes me? Won't I be arrested?**  
While the order prohibits the public from congregating at a closed business, the employer may still have work to do on site. As long as employees are not conducting business that is prohibited by the Executive Order, it is okay to still be at the worksite. No "passes" or paperwork is required.
  
- **Are the rest areas open?**  
Yes
  
- **Are police arresting or ticketing people in public for violation of the Governor's Executive Order?**  
Citizens that violate the Governor's Order in an Emergency Declaration could be arrested or cited, which is a C Misdemeanor- the lowest level of criminal conduct designation. All Oregon law enforcement are united on the premise that police action is extremely undesirable, and we hope to educate citizens if congregating in violation of the Governor's Order. Citation or arrest would be an extreme last resort if a citizen failed to comply with the lawful direction of a police officer.
  
- **What about my kids that may congregate in a place without my permission, like a skate park?**  
Police know our children don't often take their parent's advice and may ignore direction when away. Like adults found to be congregating in a location, officers will likely approach the youths and educate them on the order. Citations and arrest are extremely unlikely, reserved for only the most extreme circumstances.

*Additional information regarding Executive Orders issued by Governor Kate Brown can be found at the following link: [Executive Order -Governor Brown](#).*

- ✪ Electrical work, completed by Arros Electric, started last week for the installation of a transfer switch at the Baker City Police Department. The installation of this transfer switch was made possible by a grant received from the Oregon Military Department Office of Emergency Management Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for the purpose of establishing backup power to the police department. This project included the placement of a cement pad and fence closure at the back of the building. This phase of the project was completed last fall by Public Works. This space will be used for the eventual placement of a generator that will provide backup power in the event of a prolonged power outage.
  
- ✪ BCPD personnel participated in several briefing trainings, including a review of various officer safety topics.



## Public Works: Parks Department



Workers with parks contractor, Grass Master, Inc., in cooperation with the Baker City Parks Department and Baker City Police, removed debris from beneath two of the bridges along the Leo Adler Memorial Parkway on Thursday. It was evident from the material removed that camps were being established. These types of situations create a risk to bridge structures. Both bridges in this case have wooden decking, making them susceptible to fire in the event that the materials under them are ignited, either by accident or intentionally. Section 95.07 of the Baker City Municipal Code states in part, "It shall be unlawful for any person to set up tents or any other temporary shelter or to use house trailers, campers or automobiles for the purpose of overnight camping in any city park, nor shall any person remain in any city park after closing hours." The goal of the Parks Department is to maintain our city parks and pathways in a manner that provides a safe and enjoyable recreational experience for our citizens and visitors to our community.

The Portland Trail Blazers and Moda Health released a cool video about the Moda assist program this week. There are several highlights for Baker City and Geiser Pollman Park.

[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=2435266496574192&id=272683489499181?sfnsn=mo](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2435266496574192&id=272683489499181?sfnsn=mo)

## Public Works: Wastewater Department



A local contractor reported a damaged lateral. When a phone line was installed years ago, the installer broke the top of the wastewater lateral pipe. It was not discovered until this week. Ownership of the line was identified and the information supplied to the contractor.



Right: Karl and Jake respond to any sewer emergencies. Here they are discussing a problem with a resident at 9th and Carter.





## Public Works: Wastewater Department continued

Every year, there are wastewater mysteries that need to be solved. Two of this year's mysteries are shown below. The first one is on D Street between 5th and 6th Streets where four houses are connected to an inaccessible 6" orangeburg wastewater line. If this line were to plug, there would be no way to clean it by conventional methods. The best way to solve this dilemma is to construct an access point (manhole). The crew began excavation Tuesday morning and poured supporting concrete to construct the manhole on Wednesday morning.



The top of the pipes will be cut out to provide access and the line will be video inspected for the first time.



Excess concrete was taken to the city yard and used to make eco-blocks



The second mystery is the wastewater lateral which crosses Auburn Avenue. It has been developing blockage problems recently. The lateral crosses Auburn and goes right to the brick garage (left). There are no main lines in front of the property so a new line is planned to be installed next week at the owners expense.

Unfortunately there is also a concrete flush vault at this location which will have to be demolished.



## Public Works: Street Department



Matt continues to sweep Baker City streets to keep them clean.





## Public Works: Stormwater Department



Karl and Jake worked in conjunction with Jeff, from Baker Valley Irrigation District, to perform maintenance on a 30" CMP that conveys both stormwater and irrigation water. High pressure water from the jetter truck was used to clean the line. 6,400 gallons of water was used to clean the line!

Right, Above: Before cleaning the line

Right, Below: After cleaning the line.



Jeff installed a piece of 30" CMP into the ditch and connected the pipe at each end. Public Works will install this concrete vault over the 30" CMP and attach a lid so that future maintenance can be performed.



## Public Works: Water Department

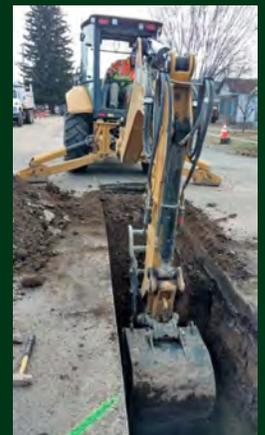


Installation of the Court Street water main line running from 4th to 7th Street is complete except for one connection near 6th Street.

Once the water lines are installed they must be pressure tested to 140 psi to verify there are no leaks. The line is then cleaned and disinfected with a strong chlorine solution.



The solution is then discharged, and the pipe is filled with standard water. The water is sampled and sent to a testing laboratory and once verified safe, the service lines are connected to the new lines.



## Public Works: Water Department continued



Several abandoned lines were encountered during the installation of the Court Street water line. The push-cam was used on this 6" terra cotta line to determine it was abandoned. A large concrete flush-vault was directly in the way of the new water line route and had to be jackhammered to allow room for the pipe. Then the tunnel between the vault and the active wastewater manhole was filled with controlled low-strength material (CLSM).



The City of LaGrande assisted by performing an 8" hot-tap connection near the intersection of 7th and Court.

The Baker County Road Department's skid steer was very useful on this project.

Thank you Baker County!!!



Here you see Jay working on the Court Street project marking utility lines.

Blain and Nate installed a new water service for a house under construction on the south side of Hughes Lane. Here Nate is attaching a tapping sleeve to the main water line.





## Public Works: Shop



Left: We replaced a hydraulic line on this excavator. Here you see Scott topping off the hydraulics.

Right: While this vehicle was in for service, we also replaced the seat cover and floor mats.



Left: this police cruiser blew its transmission. We took it to Ford for the repairs.

Right: The steering column shock had started leaking so we installed a new one.



Below: Some of the vehicles that had their fluids checked and snow tires removed.



## 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](http://www.bakercity.com) to fill out a volunteer form. You may also email [admin@bakercity.com](mailto: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>



# 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](http://www.cdc.gov/COVID19)