

CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail.
Established 1864, Incorporated 1874

Weekly Update May 8, 2020

Administration:

Baker County had its first confirmed case of COVID-19 this week. Thankfully it appears that the individual is doing well and not in need of hospitalization. The County also submitted their phased re-opening plan to the State of Oregon. It is a carefully crafted plan that will try to ensure the safety of our citizens and visitors, while starting to open our businesses for economic recovery. It appears that the State will review each County plan and set a framework for reopening each county's economy on a case by case basis. For a copy of the County's plan and other pertinent information, please go to www.bakercountycovid19.com.

City staff have been busy with many spring projects. The all access playground area will see a lot of action in the next couple of weeks. Let's hope that upon completion, the little ones will be allowed back on playground equipment.

It looks to be great weather for the weekend. Get out and enjoy the sunshine and remember to keep up the social distancing and hygiene recommendations.

**City Council
for May 12
has been
cancelled**

Building Department:

	Permits Issued City	Inspections City	Permits Issued County	Inspections County
Building	4	14	3	10
Manufactured Dwelling	0	0	0	2
Electrical	3	6	3	9
Mechanical	5	4	2	3
Plumbing	1	8	2	2
Fence	4	NA	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	17	32	10	26

RESIDENTIAL PERMITS:

- 42021 Moody Road, Richland—Storage building
- 2125 21st Street, Baker City—Carport addition
- 2180 A Street, Baker City—Lean-to addition
- 46990 Oliver Road, Halfway—Residential addition
- 95 Second Street, Richland—Dormer addition
- 1775 Second Street, Baker City – Demolition of existing structure

COMMERCIAL PERMITS:

- 1916 Main Street, Baker City—Exterior siding, stucco

HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW:

To enable mandated social distancing guidelines, no new meetings will be scheduled unless a new application is received.



Planning Department:

PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The Baker City Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at the **Baker County Court-house**, 1995 Third Street, Baker City, Oregon, at **6:00 pm, on Wednesday, May 20, 2020**. This meeting will take place primarily via teleconference; however, in conformance with social distancing standards related to COVID-19, a limited number of people could be allowed to attend in person at any given time. The Planning Commission will review the following applications:

- ◇ VAR-20-017 & LUR-20-028: A Class C variance request to reduce the front/street setback by ±19.5 feet and reduce the side (east) setback by ±1 foot in the Residential – Medium Density (R-MD) Zone in order to build a ±360 square foot prefabricated carport. The subject property is addressed as 2350 D Street.
- ◇ SDR-20-045: A request by David Hays, on behalf of property owner, 52 LLC, to construct a 16-unit, multi-family housing development in the Residential – High Density (R-HD) Zone. This development will consist of three duplexes, two triplexes and one quadplex. The development is proposed to be accessed via a newly created private street off of Clark Street (south of the intersection with D Street). The subject property is located across Clark Street from the Leo Adler Baseball Field.



In response to COVID-19, and in the interest of public health and safety, it is highly recommended that you please attend via teleconference if you are able. If you are attending in person, please contact the Planning Department prior to the hearing. To join the teleconference, dial: **1-408-418-9388** (toll free). The meeting number (access code) is **967 968 262**. If there are technical problems with the conference call, staff has arranged for a backup option. The backup number is 1-253-215-8782, and the meeting number is 868 092 9441. This second line will ONLY be used if there are technical problems with the conference call number listed first. If you are having difficulties connecting to the meeting, please call Holly Kerns at 541-239-7552.

APPLICATIONS

- A manufactured home cover was approved at 2342 Mitchell Avenue in the Residential High-Density (R-HD) Zone. As the property is located within an identified flood zone, a floodplain development permit was also required.
- A property line adjustment was approved for 2940 Birch Street and an adjacent vacant parcel. Both properties are located in the Residential Low-Density (R-LD) Zone.



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

FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the week of April 28th through May 4th the Fire Department responded to a total of **28** emergency alarms.

AMBULANCE OPERATIONS

City Calls	18
Rural Calls	5
Patient Transported	15
No Patient Trip	8

TOTAL MEDIC RESPONSES 23

TRAINING/MAINTENANCE/ FIRE PREVENTION

INSPECTIONS/ COMMUNITY EVENTS

- 40 hrs of Station & Equipment Maintenance
- 15 hrs of Fire Training
- 3 hrs of EMS Training
- 13 Burn Permits Issued



EMERGENCY CALL BACKS

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

Request for Cover	9
Arrived for Cover	8

FIRE REPORTS

General Alarms	2
Dispatched Alarms	3
TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES	5

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.

Boards, Commissions and Committees

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
- ⇒ Tree Board—2 positions 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 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 32 new cases. Officer Woodward cited and released a suspect on charges of Criminal Mischief after receiving reports that the suspect had significantly damaged a local resident’s fence including the gate and several fence slats. This is the same suspect that was arrested by Oregon State Police, only days before, for third-degree criminal mischief for reportedly throwing knives at light poles, trees, birds and squirrels at Geiser Pollman Park and along Madison Street. Additional charges, pending a review of this case by District Attorney’s Office, may be forthcoming.

- ★ Recently, local law enforcement agencies have received numerous inquiries regarding rumors circulating that homeless or transient persons are being bused to Eastern Oregon from larger metropolitan areas. BCPD recognizes that while the number of homeless persons in our community has increased over the last couple of years, for a variety of reasons, there is currently no evidence that people are being bused or otherwise transported to this area specifically. Resources do exist for transient persons to request assistance with a bus ticket or fuel voucher and while a person may gain assistance to travel from one area to another area, there does not appear to be an organized approach to moving people out of a particular area to different or less populated area. Despite travel restrictions, people are still traveling along Interstate 84 and staying in local motels and this may give the impression that there are more transient persons in Baker City at this time. Warmer weather also increases the mobility of transient persons and as the weather continues to improve it will add to the number of people who are traveling through the area.

- ★ This past week, the Baker County Health Department received notification from the Oregon Health Authority that Baker County now has one confirmed case of COVID-19. Up-to-date information regarding the County’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic can be found at the following website: <https://www.bakercountycovid19.com/>. Everyone is encouraged to continue washing their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds each time; stay home whenever possible; only leave your home for essential services and needs (groceries, medical, work); only purchase reasonable amounts of basic products, leaving enough for others and practice social distancing, when appropriate.

- ★ BCPD personnel participated in several briefing trainings, including a review of various officer safety topics.



Three Cheers to our Baker High School Class of 2020!

We will be turning the clock Purple and Gold each weekend through the remaining school year to support you!



Public Works: Stormwater Department



Sometimes, debris piles up in one of the storm line drainage ditches—which also serves as an irrigation ditch for some farmers.

Here you can see the tumbleweeds have partially blocked the ditch along 17th Street last Friday. Nate and Riley used a backhoe and dump truck to remove the blockage.

Public Works: Wastewater Department

A call was received last week from a resident who was having wastewater plugging problems on Place Street.

Jake responded to the location and promptly cleaned the line, which solved the problem.

If the problem reoccurs, the line will be scheduled for cleaning on a regular schedule.



Public Works: Street Department



Preliminary demolition work began to replace a dumpster pad near the Geiser-Pollman park and the adjacent sidewalk. The new sidewalk will provide improved pedestrian safety and be in compliance with current ADA requirements.



Below left: Here you can see that the cross slope of the sidewalk is over 5%.



Right: Two 4" ductile iron bollards were strategically placed at the edge of the Police Department's parking lot to protect newly installed electrical panels.





Public Works: Street Department continued



Public Works dug up the intersection of 4th and Court Street (for a second time) to cut off and cap the old 6” cast iron water line that was abandoned after the new larger and stronger 8” ductile iron pipe was installed.

While this completes the water line pipe work for the project, the gravel in the water line trench on Court Street will have to be dug out and replaced with over 100 tons of hot asphalt before the project is complete.



Public Works: Water Department



A new fire hydrant and two new control valves were installed on 8th Drive this week.

Residents were out of water service for approximately 3-4 hours while the work was being done.



The crew of Justin, Brian and Matt began installing the 24” PVC water pipe between the Elk Creek Settling Tank and Salmon Creek.

Here the very first joint laid is being backfilled.

266’ of the large diameter pipe was precisely installed along with 2” electrical conduit, trace wire and warning tape.

After the pipe is properly placed, material is put next to the pipe and thoroughly compacted using a “Jumping Jack” compactor.





Public Works: Shop



Left: 5" steel plates were welded on the torque arms to get this rig back from Elk Creek. More parts were ordered and this truck should be ready in a couple weeks.



Right: We removed the sander and serviced it for next winter.



Left: We installed a new half shaft on the left rear and this rig is back to work.



Right: We installed the newly rebuilt lift cylinder.



Both left and right: We installed a new directional beacon. We also started installing an inverter to charge our electric tools.



Code Enforcement Weekly Activity

Property Maintenance

- Responded to five new complaints
- Followed up on three previous complaints
- Responded to five RV/camping complaints
- Made two preventative contacts
- Opened six new cases

Parking violations

- Issued eight orange tags
- Issued one citation
- Responded to eight new complaints
- Followed up on five previous complaints
- Issued three written warnings

Miscellaneous

- Nineteen miscellaneous community contacts
- Three community service stops
- TWO FOUND ITEMS

Animal violations and complaints

- Responded to three animals running at large
- Two Dangerous Dog follow ups
- Two livestock permit follow ups
- One livestock permit approved
- One livestock permit revoked
- Impounded one dog
- One animal welfare check
- Responded to four barking complaints