

CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail.
Established 1864, Incorporated 1874

Weekly Update September 18, 2020

Administration:

Today marks the end of the first two weeks of distance learning for our teachers, students and parents and the first time we've seen blue sky in a few days. This year continues to challenge us and it's important to recognize the amazing efforts being put forth by everyone involved. Be sure to thank teachers, students and parents for their patience and efforts to adapt and be sure to thank our firefighters and volunteers for their endeavors to contain the wildfires and to help those that have been displaced.

A weather inversion brought smoky air to Baker City last week. At one point our Air Quality was considered "Very Unhealthy", however throughout the week the smoke has been clearing out. Hopefully the cool front coming in this weekend will continue to get rid of the smoke so we can enjoy the nice fall weather headed our way.

Building Department:

	Permits Issued City	Inspections City	Permits Issued County	Inspections County
Building	4	14	5	26
Manufactured Dwelling	0	0	0	0
Electrical	13	8	12	25
Mechanical	8	10	7	14
Plumbing	8	9	2	4
Fence	1	NA	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	34	41	26	69

RESIDENTIAL PERMITS:

- 44943 White Tail Lane, Baker City—New residence
- 2840 Clark Street, Baker City—New duplex and new single family residence
- 49067 Bidwell Road, Baker City—New residence
- 15306 Pine Creek Lane, Baker City—New garage
- 2950 Grandview Drive, Baker City—Renovation
- 2740 Clark Street, Baker City—Renovation

COMMERCIAL PERMITS:

- 43769 Heilner Drive, Baker City—Hanger
- 29283 Rye Valley, Huntington—Addition to existing cell tower

HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW:

Next regularly scheduled meeting is **October 7, at 8am** in the Building Department offices



Finance Department:

Utilities

- Nine customers signed up for new water/wastewater service and nine customers disconnected service from September 11th thru September 17th. This includes all service changes.
- Zone 3 which includes 505 residential and 55 commercial accounts was billed today. Of those accounts 119 (21%) are signed up for direct payment and 32 (6%) are signed up for ebilling.
- Zone 6 which includes 487 residential and 64 commercial accounts was billed September 15th. Of those accounts 121 (22%) are signed up for direct payment and 44 (8%) are signed up for ebilling.
- In the past week, twenty-eight residential customers (Zones 2 and 6) were scheduled to have their water turned off for non-pay (over 60 days past due) and eleven were actually turned off. Of the eleven turned off, six have paid and their service has been reinstated and five have not yet contacted the City.

Payroll

Draw checks were issued September 15th.

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 2.48%. 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 September 15th. The original assessment in 2007 included one property owner for a total of \$69,541. The remaining balance outstanding is \$26,401 including interest.

City Council Agenda

September 22th

- Res 3873: Budget Change
- Abated Properties Discussion
- Parks and Recreation Board Appointments
- Liquor License: Philadelphias
- CRF Update
- TLT Commission Appt Discussion

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

- ⇒ Historic District Design Review Commission—2 positions available
- ⇒ Tree Board—2 positions available
- ⇒ Parks and Recreation Board (2-yr term) - 1 position

Positions are for a 3-year term unless noted. 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 September 8th through September 14th the Fire Department responded to a total of **31** emergency alarms.

AMBULANCE OPERATIONS		EMERGENCY CALL BACKS		FIRE REPORTS	
City Calls	18	Request for Cover	1	General Alarms	0
Rural Calls	4	Arrived for Cover	1	Dispatched Alarms	9
Patient Transported	15			TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES	9
No Patient Trip	7				

TRAINING/MAINTENANCE/ FIRE PREVENTION

INSPECTIONS/ COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **0** Burn Permits Issued—**BURN BAN IN EFFECT**
- **50 hrs** of Station & Equipment Maintenance
- **18 hrs** of Fire Training
- **4 hrs** of EMS Training
- **12 hrs** of Community Events



TOTAL MEDIC	22
Airport Transfers	1
Out of Town Transfers Accepted	0
Out of Town Transfers Not Accepted	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1
Doubles (2 calls at once)	0
Triples (3 calls at once)	0
Quads (4 calls at once)	0
Public Assist	2

Weed Complaint and Abatement

Weed Complaints or yard maintenance concerns should be reported to the Fire Department at 541-523-3711 x 508 or emailed to sclinkenbeard@bakercity.com



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.

Did you know....

It is legal to salvage road killed deer and elk.

If you are interested in salvaging the meat from road kill deer, please call 541-524-2047 and we will put you on a call list.



"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

★ Last week, BCPD opened 45 new cases and responded to 172 calls, making several arrests for outstanding warrants and detainers. The Baker County Narcotics Enforcement Team (BCNET) executed a search warrant and the following press release was issued in response to this operation:

On September 15, 2020 at approximately 0900 a search warrant was executed at 1690 Indiana Avenue, Baker City. This location had received numerous complaints for drug activity and had created community concern with transient traffic in the area.

Baker County Narcotics Enforcement Team (BCNET) obtained information that led to a search warrant being issued for the residence and several people that were associated with this residence.

The Northeast Oregon Regional SWAT team executed the search warrant and secured six individuals that were present. The SWAT team was called upon to assist with the warrant execution based upon the number of people that lived at or frequented that address. The Oregon State Police also assisted with uniformed officers and members of the Criminal Investigation Division. The following individuals were arrested:

- John Gordon Hanna, 54 years old, no fixed address, charged with; Unlawful Distribution of Methamphetamine and Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine and Frequenting a Place where Controlled Substances are used and/or sold.*
- Amanda R. Crews, 42 years old, no fixed address. charged with; Unlawful Distribution of Methamphetamine and Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine and Frequenting a Place where Controlled Substances are used and/or sold.*
- Jace T. Prowell, 29 years old, no fixed address, charged with; Frequenting a Place where Controlled Substances are used and/or sold, Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine.*
- Stacey Lee Bork, 31 years old, 1690 Indiana Avenue, charged with; Idaho extraditable warrant for drugs, Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine and Frequenting a Place where Controlled Substances are used and/or sold. Bork was lodged at the Baker County Jail.*
- Adrianna Dione Morris, 22 years of age, no fixed address, charged with; Frequenting a Place where Controlled Substances are used and/or sold and Baker County Justice warrant for Contempt of Court (cite only).*
- Robert Eugene Charbonneau, 30 years of age, 2535 Court Avenue, Baker City, charged with Frequenting a Place where Controlled Substances are used and/or sold.*

BCNET Detectives seized approximately one ounce of methamphetamine and approximately 10 grams of psilocybin mushrooms along with scales and drug packaging material. Also seized were three handguns, two with obliterated serial numbers.

The Baker County Narcotics Enforcement Team (BCNET) is comprised of the Baker City Police Department, Baker County Sheriff's Office, Baker County Parole and Probation with the assistance of the Oregon State Police and Baker County District Attorney's Office. The Northeast Oregon Regional SWAT Team is comprised of the La Grande Police Department, Union County Sheriff's Office, Baker City Police Department and the Baker County Sheriff's Office.

★ BCPD has posted a list of unclaimed property on the Department's Facebook page: [Unclaimed Property](#). If you think you may be the owner of any of the listed items, please contact Evidence Technician, Lynn Magnuson at 541-524-2014 ex. 606.



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POLICE DEPARTMENT continued

- ★ Please remember that if you have friends or families visiting Baker City who are staying at local hotels or in any neighborhood and have bicycles or other valuables, these items should be taken inside or otherwise stored out of sight. Thefts are rampant and criminals aren't hesitating to cut bike locks or enter open garages and other areas to steal. Please keep all valuables secured out of sight.
- ★ Face coverings, shields and/or masks are required in the front entrance of the Baker City Police Department, which is open to the public. This policy is in response to Governor Kate Brown's order requiring face coverings be worn in public indoor spaces by anyone 5 years of age and older.

Code Enforcement Weekly Activity

Property Maintenance

- Responded to four new complaints
- Followed up on five previous complaints
- Made three preventative contacts
- Opened twenty-six new cases
- Closed one case

Parking violations

- Issued one orange tag
- Responded to five new complaints
- Followed up on two previous complaints
- Issued two citations
- Issued one warning citation

Animal violations and complaints

- Responded to eight animals running at large
- Followed up on four previous complaints
- Impounded two dogs
- Responded to one dangerous dog case
- Performed two animal welfare checks

Miscellaneous

- Twenty-nine miscellaneous community contacts
- Two community service stops
- Two officer assists
- One park check
- Three court hearings
- FOUR FOUND ITEMS

Planning Department:

PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The regularly scheduled Baker City Planning Commission meeting for September 16, 2020, was cancelled.

APPLICATIONS

- A single-family dwelling was approved at 895 Fairway Drive in the Residential Low-Density (R-LD) Zone.
- A single-family dwelling was approved at the northwest corner of the intersection of 13th and Estes Streets in the Residential Medium-Density (R-MD) Zone.
- An accessory structure was approved for 950 L Street in the Residential Low-Density (R-LD) Zone.



Public Works: Wastewater Department



The wastewater excavation work on Birch Street was backfilled and completed on Tuesday of this week. Last Friday, 38' of 8" PVC pipe was installed at a depth of around 12' to supply service for the new homes planned at the Silver Birch subdivision development. Excavation conditions were very difficult with groundwater filling the bottom of the deep trench and the sides of the trench sloughing off into the excavation.

Groundwater continued to flow into and through the new pipe raising concern that there might be a leak in the newly installed pipe. Monday, Rick and Kris used the push-cam to inspect the pipe and determine the source of the water inflow. The water was entering from around a temporary nightcap that was installed at the end of the line. The nightcap will be removed when the contractor begins laying the remainder 600'+ of the 8' pipe.



The line was installed successfully and a long 2" x 4" placed at the end of the pipe so that the contractor will be able to follow the board down to the end of the pipe when they begin their portion of the work.

The stormwater pipe for the First Street storm line arrived recently. It is planned to be installed this fall.



A representative from Sewer Equipment of America stopped by Friday to demonstrate a new hydro-evacuation and line cleaning truck. Their approach is to simplify equipment so that there isn't a computer controlling every aspect of the equipment's operation.



Public Works: Water Department



Scott checked on the water level of Goodrich Reservoir this week. The water level continues to draw down toward the drain in the bottom of the reservoir.



The Public Works crew has been working diligently toward completion of the 2020 portion of the pipeline replacement project.



With current fire restrictions in place, the USFS was able to grant a waiver so that the PW Mountain Line crew could continue work installing the 24" pipeline in the ground. This will allow the reconnection to the existing line happen as soon as possible. The crew has been allowed to work the hours of 4:00am to 1 pm with a one-hour "fire watch". Two fire suppression trucks are onsite at all times and available for use.

Thank you to the USFS for granting the waiver!

Extremely hard rock was encountered just as the crew thought they could dig right through the last 500' to the tie-in location. Here (right), Brian hammers through the rock, Riley prepares to check grade and Justin prepares to dig out the rubble.



Left: Scott and Riley work to attach one of the last ductile iron angle point fittings to the pipe near the tie-in point. Once the old concrete line is connected to the newly installed 24" PVC line, water from Salmon Creek, Little Salmon Creek and a few small natural springs can once again be brought to Baker City for municipal use.

The tie-in of the 2020 Mountain Pipeline Project is complete!! Water will be flushed down the line to clear out any debris. Hopefully additional water will be heading to town by the end of the day.

There is still road work, work around the Elk Creek settling tank and other miscellaneous items to complete this fall.





Public Works: Shop



Left: This rig had an injector leaking. We replaced it and it is back in service.

Right: This police car had a bad switch on the overhead lights and the driver's electric window motor was bad. We replaced the motor and repaired the switch.



Left: We serviced this rig, repaired the a/c and performed a safety check.

Right: We replaced the rear work light on this rig.



Left: We are replacing the shocks and performing a safety check and service.

Right: The quick connect hydraulic cylinder sheared a bolt so we drilled it out and made the repair.



Left: The control box for the boom stopped working. We replaced the box and this rig is back to work.



Public Works: Watershed Hunting Access Permits

Baker City Watershed Hunting Access Permits



Permits are available at the Baker City Public Works Department at City Hall front entrance

- Hours to request a permit are: **Monday through Friday, 11:30 AM—12:30 PM and 4:00 PM—5:00 PM.** A mask is required.
- Outside of the above hours permits can be requested through email at bakercitywatershedhunting@gmail.com. The required items listed below will need to be sent in along with the request. This process may take 1-2 business days to complete.

The following information will be required when applying for a permit (either in person or via email):

1. Hunter's name, address and phone number
2. Hunting ID #
3. Hunting tags (will need to see electronic tags)
4. Vehicle make/model and plate number you will be driving to the watershed
5. If you will have a non-hunting companion – that individual's name, address and driver's license #

Permits will not be issued until Forest Service fire classification is no longer at high or extreme. If you have questions please call (541) 524-2047. Permits will be issued no sooner than 3 business days prior to your hunt.