

# CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail.  
Established 1864, Incorporated 1874

## ***Weekly Update November 13, 2020***

### **Administration:**

The City Council held meet and greet gatherings with the three candidates for the City Manager job this week. The current Council members, incoming Councilors and interested citizens had a chance to meet each candidate, gain insight into their background and ask questions of the applicants. The City Council will meet next week and discuss a potential job offer to one of the candidates.

As of Thursday, Baker County had recorded 53 positive cases of Covid-19 in the last nine days. Let's all please keep up the social distancing, wear your face coverings and follow the guidance from our health professionals. It is apparent that this pandemic is not going away anytime soon and it is up to all of us to use care so that we protect the vulnerable and keep our businesses and schools open.

Winter seems to be upon us today. The roads will be treacherous for the next couple of days as the snow keeps coming down so be careful and avoid those fender benders.



### **Planning Department:**

#### **PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING**

The scheduled Baker City Planning Commission meeting for November 18, 2020 has been cancelled.

The next regularly scheduled Baker City Planning Commission meeting is December 16, 2020.

#### **APPLICATIONS**

- A detached shop/garage to a single family dwelling was approved at 1000 Idlewood Drive in the Residential Low-Density (R-LD) Zone.
- A new ±1,534 square foot residential manufactured home was approved at 2251 Mitchell Avenue in the Residential High-Density (R-HD) Zone.
- A new ±240 square foot detached carport was approved at 2355 16<sup>th</sup> Street in the Residential Medium (R-MD) Zone.



*"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**

- ★ Over the past two weeks, BCPD opened 117 new cases and responded to 389 calls, making several arrests for outstanding warrants and detainers. BCPD investigated a possible arson after receiving a report that a fire had been started inside an apartment located at 2450 Broadway Street. The suspect, who has been identified, allegedly lit his jacket on fire and threw it into his apartment. The fire was quickly extinguished, prior to the arrival of the Baker City Fire Department, but caused an estimated \$600 in damage to the flooring of the apartment. Pending charges could include Arson I, a Class A felony, based on allegations that the subject deliberately started the fire, possibly endangering the other residents who live in the apartment building.
- ★ BCPD patrol staff assisted with traffic control during Baker High School's Homecoming Court Parade held in celebration of BHS Homecoming 2020. Congratulations to all the members of this year's Baker High School Homecoming Court!
- ★ BCPD sworn staff completed Use of Non-Lethal Force and Taser Certification training. This training, held in Baker City, was taught by instructors from Oregon State Police and the Union County Sheriff's Office and included scenario-based components and practice deploying a Taser.
- ★ In support of "Getting Students Excited About Books!" Storytime sponsored by the Eastern Oregon Early Learning Hub, School Resource Officer Lance Woodward is featured reading, "The Big, Big Wall" written by Reginald Howard and illustrated by Ariane Dewey and Jose Aruego. The YouTube video can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/6odAbOIO4BE>. Great job Officer Woodward!
- ★ 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.

### **Looking for Volunteers!!**

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

- ⇒ **Historic District Design Review Commission—2 positions available**
- ⇒ **Tree Board—2 positions available**

Positions are for a 3-year term unless noted. 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>



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

# FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the week of **October 27th** through **November 9th** the **Fire Department** responded to a total of **63** emergency alarms.

AMBULANCE OPERATIONS		EMERGENCY CALL BACKS		FIRE REPORTS	
City Calls	42	Request for Cover	8	General Alarms	2
Rural Calls	7	Arrived for Cover	1	Dispatched Alarms	12
Patient Transported	29			<b>TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES</b>	<b>14</b>
No Patient Trip	20				

## TRAINING/MAINTENANCE/ FIRE PREVENTION

TOTAL MEDIC RESPONSES		INSPECTIONS/ COMMUNITY EVENTS	
Airport Transfers	4	• 18 Burn Permits Issued	
Out of Town Transfers Accepted	0	• 118 hrs of Station & Equipment Maintenance	
Out of Town Transfers Not Accepted	4	• 113 hrs of Fire Training	
Motor Vehicle Accidents	0	• 24 hrs of EMS Training	
Doubles (2 calls at once)	4	• 1 Hr of Safety Training	
Triples (3 calls at once)	0	• 0 hrs Community Events	
Quads (4 calls at once)	0	• 0 hrs Fire Prevention Inspections	
Public Assist	1		

**The Burn Ban has been Lifted!**  
**Remember, you still need a FREE permit, available in person at the Fire Station.**

**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](mailto: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.



### Building Department:

	Permits Issued City	Inspections City	Permits Issued County	Inspections County
Building	8	44	5	46
Manufactured Dwelling	0	13	0	0
Electrical	8	17	16	32
Mechanical	8	11	12	11
Plumbing	10	11	8	10
Fence	4	NA	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>99</b>

#### COMMERCIAL PERMITS:

- 17569 Deer Park Loop, Baker City—Cell tower modifications
- 1120 Campbell Street, Baker City—Interior remodel
- 205 Settlers Loop, Baker City—Warehouse addition
- 720 Birch Street, Baker City—Commercial re-roof

#### HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW:

Next regularly scheduled meeting is **November 18 at 8am** in the Building Department offices.

#### RESIDENTIAL PERMITS:

- 15710 Goodrich Crk Ln, Baker City—New residence
- 295 Elm Street, Baker City—New residence
- 1705 18th Street, Baker City—New residence
- 1203 Reservoir Road, Baker City—New residence
- 2458 Church Street, Baker City—Detached accessory structure
- 625 Broadway Street, Baker City—Detached accessory structure
- 475 Sawmill Gulch Road, Sumpter—Detached accessory structure
- 18228 W Campbell Loop, Baker City—Detached accessory structure
- 13740 Red Fox Lane, Baker City—Detached accessory structure

#### REMINDER:

**There are still openings for commissioners on the HDDRC Board!**

### Public Works: Street Maintenance

A winter weather advisory was issued for Friday into the early hours of Saturday morning.

Once snow began to pack on Baker City streets, a Public Works truck began spreading a mixture of salt and gravel to improve traction for motorists.

Once enough snow had fallen, the sanding truck headed out to sand major intersections.





## Public Works: Street Department



Leaves continue to fall from trees onto Baker City streets (pre-snow). Public Works attempts to sweep up the leaves before they flow into stormwater catch basins (And before the first major snowfall!)



A new street light will be installed on an existing power pole located on Clark Street. It will be placed to illuminate the intersection where a private drive from a new development intersects Clark Street.

## Public Works: Water Department



The gates for the Elk Creek Settling Tanks enclosure were installed this week. The structure is now fully enclosed.

On Monday, a 1" diameter unmarked water line was broken on Cedar Street.

A large volume of water immediately began flowing from the line under approximately 100 psi pressure.



A crew immediately responded to the site and closed the necessary water valves to slow the flow of water.

The Vactor truck was then used to suck up the water and expose the broken line so it could be repaired.





## Public Works: Stormwater Department



The First Street stormwater project was completed last week. Fill material was backfilled to form a firm, compacted base. The remaining trench lines were patched using hot asphalt hauled from LaGrande.



A new stormwater catch basin was installed last week in the low point of a shallow ditch along 17th Street. This catch basin will intercept water before it continues to flow north across and under several residence's driveways.



## Public Works: Wastewater Department



A representative from a company called InfoSense, Inc. demonstrated an acoustic pipe inspection system for assessing blockages or partial blockages within wastewater collection pipes. This tool emits variable pitch sound waves from the transmitter located on the top of one manhole to the receiver set on the top of the next manhole. The readings take about 3 minutes and then rates the pipe blockage on a scale between 1 and 10. On any ratings between 1 and 3, it is suggested that the line be cleaned or video-inspected very soon.



The information is then uploaded and shown on Google earth with the lines tested shown in colors corresponding to their rating score.



# Public Works: Wastewater Department continued

A dye test and several push-cam projects were completed this week.



Right three: A resident on Court Street had experienced wastewater drain problems. Upon cleaning and video-inspecting the line it was determined that the old terra cotta (clay) line had failed. An underground utility was called in and the excavation began the next morning.



Far left: Here you see the broken 6' diameter terra cotta lateral, and the 8" storm and water lines.

The repairs were completed.



A new wastewater lateral was installed for a business on Washington Street. It was a very difficult installation.



The main line is very deep and within a narrow alley between Main and First Streets.

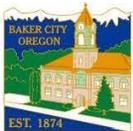


There were several utility lines in the vicinity including buried gas lines, an abandoned water line, power, phone and fiber optics lines. The wastewater main line was successfully located, tapped and backfilled. The alley surface was even patched at the end of the day.





## Public Works



# It's that time of year again!

In prep for this year's snow plow season, Baker City Public Works is asking citizens to help our snow removal crews by **removing all travel or utility trailers, non-working or infrequently used vehicles and any other miscellaneous items currently being stored on the street or directly next to the street.** Our citizens play a key role in the success of our snow removal program!



## HDDRC Grant Opportunity

Dear Historic District Property Owner;

### **Notice of grant opportunity for structures in the Historic District:**

Every two years, due to our City's status as a "Certified Local Government", we have the opportunity to award funds to property owners for repair/maintenance on historic properties. This is a matching grant opportunity with specific guidelines, and the application window is now open. For more information, please visit the Baker City website, and go to the Historic District Design Review Committee page. You are also welcome to join us at any HDDRC meeting, or call the Building Dept. 541-524-2054.

We are personally reaching out to all property owners within the Historic District to notify you all of the above opportunity. We know that times are tough right now, and you may not have planned for any building maintenance/repairs. But if the opportunity to receive at least some of that money back was available --- (which it is!) --- maybe you would want to consider doing it!

Please contact the Building Department for an application form for the initial review of any proposed project. While a more detailed application is required should your project be selected, you will have additional time to pull that together. We are looking for your basic project description and costs for consideration. We have \$12,000 to award to historic qualifying properties.

If you have a project to submit for approval, please complete the application and email it to:

[dkitzmiller@bakercity.com](mailto:dkitzmiller@bakercity.com) or mail/deliver it to Baker City Hall. Questions? 541-524-2054

This could be a wonderful opportunity for you. We look forward to working with you!

*Dawn Kitzmiller – On Behalf of the Historic District Plan Review Commission*





## **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](mailto: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.