



# CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail.  
Established 1864, Incorporated 1874

**Weekly Update December 11, 2020**

## Administration:

The application period for small business relief is open and entities have until December 15<sup>th</sup> to apply for aid. If you have a business that has been affected by COVID-19 pandemic or a result of State ordered shutdowns, please apply. You can contact the Baker County Economic Development Department at [bakercountyedc@gmail.com](mailto:bakercountyedc@gmail.com) or call 541-519-5377 for assistance.

It appears that Baker County will remain in the Extreme Risk Category for at least the next couple of weeks. This means that restaurants, bars and gyms will be closed to inside dining and activities. Most restaurants are open for take out so please continue to support these hard hit businesses.

It looks like the weather is finally going to change. We have snow in the forecast for the next week and we may be looking at a White Christmas. Remember to drive safely, but come on downtown and support our local businesses. They are open and have most everything for those special holiday gifts.

Have a safe weekend and keep up the social distancing, wear your face coverings and keep yourself, family and friends safe.

## Holiday Notice



### Here is the holiday schedule for City Hall:

**December 24—Closing at 2pm**

**December 25—Closed for Christmas**

**December 31—Regular Hours**

**January 1—Closed New Years Day**

*Happy Holidays!*



## **Finance Department:**

### **Utilities**

- ◆ Twelve customers signed up for new water/wastewater service and twelve customers disconnected service from December 4<sup>th</sup> thru December 10<sup>th</sup>. This includes all service changes.
- ◆ Zone 1 was billed December 7<sup>th</sup> and included 95 residential and 254 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 66 (19%) are signed up for direct payment and 21 (6%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ Zone 6 was billed today and includes 480 residential and 56 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 125 (23%) are signed up for direct payment and 41 (8%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ Twenty-nine residential customers (Zones 1, 4 and 5) were scheduled to have their water turned off for non-pay (over 60 days past due) seven were actually turned off until their past due balance was paid. Five of those have paid their past due and their service has been reinstated and two have not yet contacted the City.

### **Accounts Receivable**

Monthly accounts receivable billings were sent December 10<sup>th</sup>. The billings were as follows:

- Cemetery - \$3,420
- Wastewater Maintenance - \$4,255
- Water Construction and Meters - \$1,075
- Street Cuts and Miscellaneous - \$3,984
- Lien Searches - \$5,445
- Ambulance - \$459,378
- Airport Hangar Rent & Ground Lease - \$5,151
- Property and Weed Abatement - \$695
- Golf Course Equipment Lease Payment – \$5,579
- Baker County EMS Support - \$33,681
- Miscellaneous - \$3,849

Total Billed \$ 526,512

### **Accounts Payable**

The first of two accounts payable check runs for the month was generated December 10<sup>th</sup>.



*"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 the past week, BCPD opened 26 new cases and responded to 154 calls, making several arrests for outstanding warrants and detainers. BCPD officers responded to a report of an individual attempting to gain unlawful entrance to an occupied motor vehicle without the permission of the occupant. Upon contacting the suspect who admitted to trying to gain entrance to the vehicle by attempting to open the vehicle's locked front passenger door, officers cited and released the suspect on a charge of Attempted Criminal Trespass in the Second Degree.
  
- ✪ BCPD staff attended a regularly scheduled Safety/Wellness Committee meeting which included discussion regarding the development of the COVID-19 Exposure Risk Assessment and subsequent Infection Control Plan as required by Oregon OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Division) Temporary Rule Addressing COVID-19 Workplace Risks as applies to all City Departments, including the Police Department.
  
- ✪ The Baker City Police Department has a few Salvation Army Angel Tree Tags left on our tree here in the front lobby of the Police Department. If you would like an opportunity to participate by purchasing a special wished-for item for a local child, please stop by and collect a tag. Angel Tree gifts are due back to the Department by December 18th! Thank you to everyone that has already purchased a gift, making a local child's holiday all that brighter this year! We've had an amazing response to this year's drive and wish to thank our wonderful community for their outpouring of support.





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

# FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the week of **December 1st** through **December 7th** the Fire Department responded to a total of **33** emergency alarms.

AMBULANCE OPERATIONS		EMERGENCY CALL BACKS		FIRE REPORTS	
City Calls	21	Request for Cover	6	General Alarms	1
Rural Calls	10	Arrived for Cover	4	Dispatched Alarms	1
Patient Transported	23			<b>TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES</b>	<b>2</b>
No Patient Trip	8				
<b>TOTAL MEDIC RESPONSES</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>TRAINING/MAINTENANCE/ FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTIONS/ COMMUNITY EVENTS</b>			
Airport Transfers	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Burn Permits Issued</li> <li>• 29 hrs of Station &amp; Equipment Maintenance</li> <li>• 1 hr of Fire Training</li> <li>• 6 hrs of EMS Training</li> <li>• 1 hr of Safety Training</li> <li>• 0 hrs Community Events</li> <li>• 0 hrs Fire Prevention Inspections</li> </ul>			
Out of Town Transfers Accepted	0				
Out of Town Transfers Not Accepted	0				
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1				
Doubles (2 calls at once)	3				
Triples (3 calls at once)	0				
Quads (4 calls at once)	0				
Public Assist	0				

**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.



### Public Works: Water Department



A new water sample line was installed earlier this week. Treated water will travel through a 3/8" PEX pipe to a testing station in one of the water vaults.



Dennis tested water coming from a recent excavation to determine if the water had been treated.



### Public Works: Water Department



Public Works inspected a stormwater line on Fairway Drive. The drain line runs under the ground, across a parking lot and into a drainage. The line was found to be in usable condition.



### Public Works: Water Department



The well drilling at the golf course is coming along. Good progress has been made this week, but it is a slow, steady pace. The alignment of the hole is staying very straight, which is critical.



## Public Works: Wastewater Department



A property owner on Idlewood Drive called Public Works to request assistance in solving a wastewater problem. Karl and Jake responded to a manhole on Cedar Street and used the video-inspection camera to inspect the lateral.



Unlike most manholes which are located in either city streets or alleys, this manhole was located in the back yard of a residence making accessibility difficult.



Here you can see that tree roots are blocking the flow of wastewater. There is also a piece of fabric plugging the line. A drain cleaning professional was hired by the property owner to successfully dislodge the item and restore the flow.



Public Works video-inspected a 6" terra cotta line in an alley where a wastewater cleaning snake had become stuck. With a little "brute force", the snake was extricated from the line.



A new wastewater lateral was installed on 3rd Street. The grade of this lateral worked out to be exactly 2% from the house foundation to the main line in 3rd Street. Grade line of wastewater laterals are always important.

The existing main line was exposed using the Vactor truck and Volvo excavator.



## Public Works: Wastewater Department continued



This particular terra cotta was lined on the inside with a CIPP liner.

To attach onto a “lined” pipe, the outside terra cotta needs to be removed and then a perfect hole is cut in the tough CIPP liner.

Lastly, an Insert-a-tee is gently forced into the perfect hole.



The high pressure Vector nozzle was used to surgically cut a hole under the curb line so that the new 4” PVC pipe could be inserted perfectly on the 2% grade.



Tree roots have an uncanny ability to search out and find the most nutrient rich materials. Here you can see where the high pressure water has scoured the bark from the surface roots near the wastewater line.



Left: A special glued adapter is used to couple the PVC from the street to the ABS pipe from the house.

Right: Anytime a natural gas line is exposed during a city excavation project, Cascade Gas is notified so that they can inspect and protect the gas line. Here the line was wrapped for added protection before the trench was backfilled and compacted.



Once the new lateral was installed, the old lateral was plugged and decommissioned. Then the trench was backfilled and compacted.



A new heavy duty aluminum “trench box” was purchased this fiscal year. The parts were assembled and one of the sections will be used Friday during the installation of a new wastewater lateral in an alley between 5th and 6th Streets.





## 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!

**\*\*\*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.