

CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail.
Established 1864, Incorporated 1874

Weekly Update December 18, 2020

Administration:

Tis the season for me to be thankful for my life here in Baker City and Baker County. I have enjoyed my nearly 17 years of public service. This will be my last Weekly Report as Christmas and New Years will fall on a Friday and we will not be producing anymore reports through the end of the year. I would like to thank all the City and County employees who provide the essential services that many times we take for granted and have helped me succeed in my service to our citizens. I have enjoyed working with many folks in my career and I am proud of the many things that we have accomplished that make our City a great place to live, work and raise our families. My roots are here and Baker County will always be my home.

I am hopeful that the holiday season will bring all of us joy and happiness. 2020 has been an extremely challenging year for all with the COVID shutdowns and the polarization of our politics. Let's hope that we can regain our civility in the new year and come together as Americans to keep our great democracy intact. Have a great holiday season and a happy new year.

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

- ◆ Six customers signed up for new water/wastewater service and eight customers disconnected service from December 11th to December 17th. This includes all service changes.
- ◆ Zone 2 was billed December 15th and included 466 residential and 13 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 102 (21%) are signed up for direct payment and 22 (5%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ Zone 7 was billed today and includes 564 residential and 26 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 165 (28%) are signed up for direct payment and 31 (5%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ Fifteen residential customers (Zone 6) were scheduled to have their water turned off for non-pay (over 60 days past due). Of those fifteen, one was actually turned off until their past due balance was paid. They have now paid and their service has been reinstated.

Payroll

Draws were paid December 15th.

Building Department:

	Permits Issued City	Inspections City	Permits Issued County	Inspections County
Building	10	31	4	28
Manufactured Dwelling	0	2	0	2
Electrical	13	18	12	27
Mechanical	11	14	12	14
Plumbing	7	7	1	5
Fence	7	NA	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	48	72	29	76

RESIDENTIAL PERMITS:

- 895 Fairway Drive, Baker City—New residence
- 945 Hillcrest Drive, Baker City—Garage conversion
- 38736 W. Sutton Crk Rd, Baker City—Detached accessory structure
- 116 3rd Street, Richland—Residential reroof
- 2115 19th Street, Baker City—New residence
- 1000 Idlewood Dr, Baker City—Detached accessory structure
- 890 Scenic Vista, Baker City—New residence
- 1400 Cracker Street, Sumpter—Detached accessory structure
- 1011 Walnut Street, Baker City—Garage
- 945 Hillcrest Circle, Baker City—Remodel/conversion
- 1695 Auburn Street, Baker City—Deck additions
- 3060 Grandview Drive, Baker City—Detached accessory structure
- 2355 16th Street, Baker City—Detached accessory structure
- 38736 W Sutton Crk Rd, Baker City—Detached accessory structure

COMMERCIAL PERMITS:

None at this time



"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 33 new cases and responded to 145 calls, making several arrests for outstanding warrants and detainers. The following press release was issued in response to an incident that occurred at a local retail store:

On the afternoon of December 15, 2020, at around 3:41 PM, Baker City Police officers were dispatched to a shoplifting call at Bi-Mart located at 700 Campbell Street, Baker City, Oregon. As officers were responding, the caller reported that the shoplifting suspect was being held down by a bystander and had threatened the bystander with a knife. The bystander happened to be an off-duty Oregon State Police Sergeant who saw the incident take place and acted.

When officers arrived, the suspect was quickly detained and after an investigation was arrested. During the incident, the suspect was found to be in possession of a switchblade dagger concealed on his person that was open, ready for use.

The bystander and suspect received minor scrapes and scratches in the incident. The following person was arrested as a result of this investigation: Alexander Harold Wise (DOB 12/26/2001) transient and charged with: Robbery in the First Degree, Theft in the Second Degree, Carrying a Concealed Weapon, Harassment and Disorderly Conduct in the Second Degree.

- ★ BCPD staff completed required COVID-19 Infection Control training 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. Department staff also completed Cyber Security online training as required by CIS (CityCounty Insurance Services).
- ★ As this year's Salvation Army Angel Tree Tag toy drive comes to a close, we've been especially humbled this year by the fantastic response from all our wonderful neighbors and community members. Thank you for all the donations of truly thoughtful, heartfelt presents purchased and donated, that will make this holiday especially magically for so many children in our community! Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!





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

FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the week of December 8th through December 14th the Fire Department responded to a total of **32** emergency alarms.

AMBULANCE OPERATIONS		EMERGENCY CALL BACKS		FIRE REPORTS	
City Calls	21	Request for Cover	5	General Alarms	2
Rural Calls	9	Arrived for Cover	3	Dispatched Alarms	0
Patient Transported	24			TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES	2
No Patient Trip	6				
TOTAL MEDIC RESPONSES	30	TRAINING/MAINTENANCE/ FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTIONS/ COMMUNITY EVENTS			
Airport Transfers	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0 Burn Permits Issued • 28 hrs of Station & Equipment Maintenance • 15 hrs of Fire Training • 0 hrs of EMS Training • 0 hrs of Safety Training • 0 hrs Community Events • 0 hrs Fire Prevention Inspections 			
Out of Town Transfers Accepted	4				
Out of Town Transfers Not Accepted	1				
Motor Vehicle Accidents	4				
Doubles (2 calls at once)	2				
Triples (3 calls at once)	1				
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.

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: Shop



Left: We winterized this dump truck.



Right: We installed new air horns and toggle switches.



Left: We replaced the radiator, belt tensioner bearing and idler, the water pump and the fan clutch. This rig is back in service.



Right: We serviced this rig and performed a safety check.



Left: We finished repairs and installed new crusher jaws. This rig is back in service.



Right: We replaced the passenger headlight.

Public Works: Snow Removal



Snowfall over the weekend and Wednesday night required Public Works Crews to salt and sand hundreds of locations throughout town.

Many people in town plow their driveways and even portions of city streets. Sometimes they leave berms of snow at intersections creating a hazard to motorists.





Public Works: Street Department



At the City stockpile site, large chunks of concrete and asphalt are being broken up and will be crushed into usable base rock for future construction work.

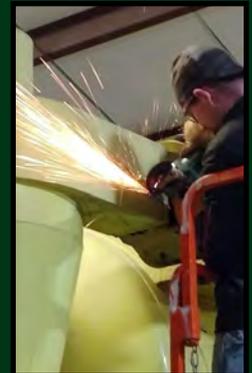
Public Works: Water Department



Left: At the reservoir, an abandoned line was reinspected to determine if a water leak still existed.



Right: For several weeks water has been slowly flowing into an excavation near a house currently under construction. The source of the water is still being investigated.



While excavating around utilities, the Vactor truck lost suction. Some of the components had rusted to the point where the suction pulled the rusty metal into the debris tank.

The truck was taken back to the equipment shed and repairs began immediately.



While the Vactor truck was being repaired, the crew continued to work at the site to install a stormwater drain pipe and determine the source of water.





Public Works: Wastewater Department



Left: The new trench shielding unit was put to work last Friday to protect the workers during the installation of a wastewater lateral serving a new house on 6th Street.



Right top: Here the shielding unit is in place as observed by two building contractors.



Right: The hydro-excavation unit on the Vector truck was used to carefully remove material from around the live wastewater main line pipe without damaging it.



Left: A 4" diameter hole is precisely drilled into the main line for making the final connection.

Right: The new lateral was installed at a 22.5 degree slope for a short distance. The contractor then laid the remaining portion of the lateral line at a +2% slope to the new house.



Last week a hidden manhole was discovered while video-inspecting an alley wastewater line. It was constructed around 100 years ago and was simply covered with a steel plate.



The location was excavated and the buried manhole was exposed. The steel plated that covered it had nearly rusted away, but the manhole itself was very well constructed and will be used for future access to the line.

A new concrete top with a manhole ring and lid was installed before the area was smoothed over with a backhoe.

Any debris that had fallen into the trough area was cleaned out from the downstream manhole.





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.