

# CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail.  
Established 1864, Incorporated 1874

**Weekly Update April 16, 2021**

## Administration:

The economic downturn of 2008 was difficult for my family. As the economy worsened, I worked three jobs and still struggled to make ends meet. I was grateful beyond measure for the generosity of family, friends, neighbors, and my church family. I remember opening my door and finding a block of cheese outside of it one morning. That was a generous and timely gift from an anonymous donor. We set our thermostat to 40 because it would not go any lower and I could not risk turning it off for fear of freezing my pipes. I remember a generous offer to help me pay for heat during the cold of winter and some warm firewood. At some point in life many of us have struggles because of the economy, health issues, or even pandemics. It may leave us with an unmet need. Unlike people in wagons entering an empty valley, we have resources available to assist us in times of need. This weekly report and our utility department can direct you to sources of assistance for those with unmet water and sewer needs. Additionally, each one of us can be that anonymous donor for someone else. A surprise block of cheese did wonders for me and gave me courage to continue moving forward and get back on my feet. Service clubs, churches, and countless non-profit organizations do wonders in this community. Thank you for helping those in need.

BAKER CITY RESOURCES, please call directly for details:

Community Connections      541-523-6591

Salvation Army              541-523-5853

Department of Human Services (DHS)      541-523-3648

## Parks and Recreation Board

### YOU AND YOUR THOUGHTS MATTER!

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board are asking for your assistance. They are conducting a community parks survey in preparation for the 2021 update of the Baker City Parks Master Plan. They would like to know what you think of our parks and pathways, as well as any improvements you would like to see. Please take a minute to complete the survey by using the web link or scanning the QR code below. Thank you for helping to plan for the future of our parks!



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CQ2KNDC>



## Code Enforcement Weekly Activity

### Property Maintenance

- Conducted three property inspections
- Completed one property abatement

### Miscellaneous

- Two patrol assists
- Three found items
- Three found bicycles

### Parking violations

- Tagged one vehicle for removal
- Issued one parking citation
- One vehicle towed
- Three vehicles chalked for overtime parking

### Animal violations and complaints

- Four dog running at large complaints
- One dog impounded
- One pig impounded
- One other animal complaint
- One kennel permit complaint
- One trapping complaint
- Four livestock animals at large complaints
- Two animal welfare checks

## 2021-2022 City Council

### Mayor:

Kerry McQuisten [mayor@bakercity.com](mailto:mayor@bakercity.com)

### Acting Mayor:

Lynette Perry [lperry@bakercity.com](mailto:lperry@bakercity.com)

### Councilors:

Shane Alderson: [salderson@bakercity.com](mailto:salderson@bakercity.com)

Joanna Dixon: [jdixon@bakercity.com](mailto:jdixon@bakercity.com)

Heather Sells: [hsells@bakercity.com](mailto:hsells@bakercity.com)

Jason Spriet: [jspriet@bakercity.com](mailto:jspriet@bakercity.com)

Johnny Waggoner Sr.: [jwaggonersr@bakercity.com](mailto:jwaggonersr@bakercity.com)

[Www.bakercity.com](http://www.bakercity.com)

## Looking for Volunteers!!

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

⇒ **HDDRC: 2 positions**

⇒ **Public Arts Commission: 1 position**



**Applications are due by April 22, 2021.**

⇒ **Planning Commission: 1 position**

(remainder of 4-year term expiring 1/2024)



**Applications are due by May 6, 2021.**

Positions are for a 3-year term unless noted. Anyone interested in volunteering should visit

<http://bakercity.com/2149/Boards-Commissions> to fill out a volunteer form.

The direct link to the volunteer form page is:

<http://bakercity.com/FormCenter/Boards-Commissions-2/Volunteer-Form-33>



## Planning Department:

### PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The April 21<sup>st</sup> Planning Commission meeting has been cancelled. The next Planning Commission meeting will be held on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

### APPLICATIONS

- A Basic Utility (Well and Well house) was approved near the Quail Ridge Golf Course, located at 2801 Indiana Avenue in the Residential-Low Density (R-LD) Zone.

How will Baker City meet the need for housing for the next 20 years? A new Housing Needs Analysis estimates future needs. What steps should the City take next? Learn more & join the conversation!

## OPEN HOUSE

### Monday, April 19th

3:30pm via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81819675944>

Meeting ID: 818 1967 5944

Call: 1-253-215-8782

- OR -

5:30pm in Council Chambers at  
Baker City Hall

Questions?

Contact Holly Kerns or Tara Micka in  
the Baker City Planning Department at  
541-523-8219





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

# FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the week of April 6th through April 12th the Fire Department responded to a total of **36** emergency alarms.

AMBULANCE OPERATIONS		EMERGENCY CALL BACKS		FIRE REPORTS	
City Calls	27	Request for Cover	9	General Alarms	1
Rural Calls	4	Arrived for Cover	2	Dispatched Alarms	4
Patient Transported	17	<b>TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES</b>			
No Patient Trip	14	<b>5</b>			
<b>TOTAL MEDIC RESPONSES</b>		<b>31</b>			
<b>TRAINING/MAINTENANCE/ FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTIONS/ COMMUNITY EVENTS</b>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 16 Burn Permits Issued</li> <li>• 26 hrs of Station &amp; Equipment Maintenance</li> <li>• 53.5 hrs of Fire Training</li> <li>• 7 hrs of EMS Training</li> <li>• 0 hrs of Safety Training</li> <li>• 0 hrs Community Events</li> <li>• 5 hrs Fire Prevention Inspections</li> </ul>					
Airport Transfers	0	<b>New Year, New Burn Permit</b> <b>FREE burn permits are available in person at the Fire Station.</b>			
Out of Town Transfers Accepted	1				
Out of Town Transfers Not Accepted	4				
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1				
Doubles (2 calls at once)	4				
Triples (3 calls at once)	1				
Quads (4 calls at once)	0				
Public Assist	0				
<b>Weed Complaint and Abatement</b> Weed Complaints or yard maintenance concerns should be reported to the Fire Department at 541-523-3711 x 508 or emailed to <a href="mailto:sclinkenbeard@bakercity.com">sclinkenbeard@bakercity.com</a>					

## Public Works: Leo Adler Pathway



A portion of the pathway has been slowly migrating toward the Powder River ever since the pathway was constructed.

In an effort to repair this section, a stable, steel reinforced concrete base will be constructed, then patched with asphalt.





## Public Works: Shop



Left: We replaced the cutting edges so the crew could use this rig for patching.



Right: The exhaust stack broke, so we repaired it and this rig is back in action.

Work continues on the chip spreader. We are replacing the Potentiometer and more hydraulic hoses.



## Public Works: Water Department



Water flow adjustments were required as turbidity raised in the streams of the Elkhorn Mountains.

A two man crew was able to do minor field repairs on snowmobile equipment and get adjustments done.

Some water is shown to be leaking from the old concrete pipeline. This section is scheduled to be replaced.





## Public Works: Stormwater Department



A local resident called 911 to report that a portion of the Settler's Slough ditch was about to overtop its bank and cause a flooding problem.

Public Works responded to culvert ends at several locations and used a backhoe to remove the debris.

## Public Works: Wastewater Department



Left: A lateral was traced and located which resulted in helping a plumber determine where to dig to perform repair work.

Right: On Clark Street, a manhole cover that was installed last year was uncovered and had a 1 foot concrete riser attached to its top. This will help efficiency when the manhole will be raised to the street surface once paving starts next week.



A very difficult wastewater repair was completed for a house on Campbell Street.

## Public Works: New Services Installation

Construction of a new dwelling on College Street required that new services be installed. Two crews worked to perform the installation work in one undertaking.

The wastewater lateral installation was more involved than most due to being the most upstream connection on that particular mainline. To improve flow characteristics and reduce the chances of the lateral from plugging, a portion of the concrete mainline was replaced with PVC to help move material down the line. The fitting was precisely adjusted to match the 2% slope of the new pipe.





## Public Works: Street Department



Several calls were received to report that a partial load of grain had somehow been deposited downtown. Public Works and ODOT both responded to the site in a cooperative effort to get the spillage cleaned up.



Asphalt chunks were crushed using a portable rock crusher. The recycled product will be used as base material for future Public Works projects.



The last couple of weeks seem to have been exceptionally windy. Here, a branch was reported and found to be precariously balanced atop a street light pole. OTEC was contacted and removed the branch due to proximity of the energized power line.

An access road above the city reservoir, which is shared between a property owner and Public Works, was graded to improve the drivability.



Grading work was done on a short section of Clark Street south of "D" Street. This section of street is planned to be paved by a developer next week.

Public Works assisted one of the businesses on Main Street by setting up traffic control so a crane could hoist materials to a 3rd story roof.

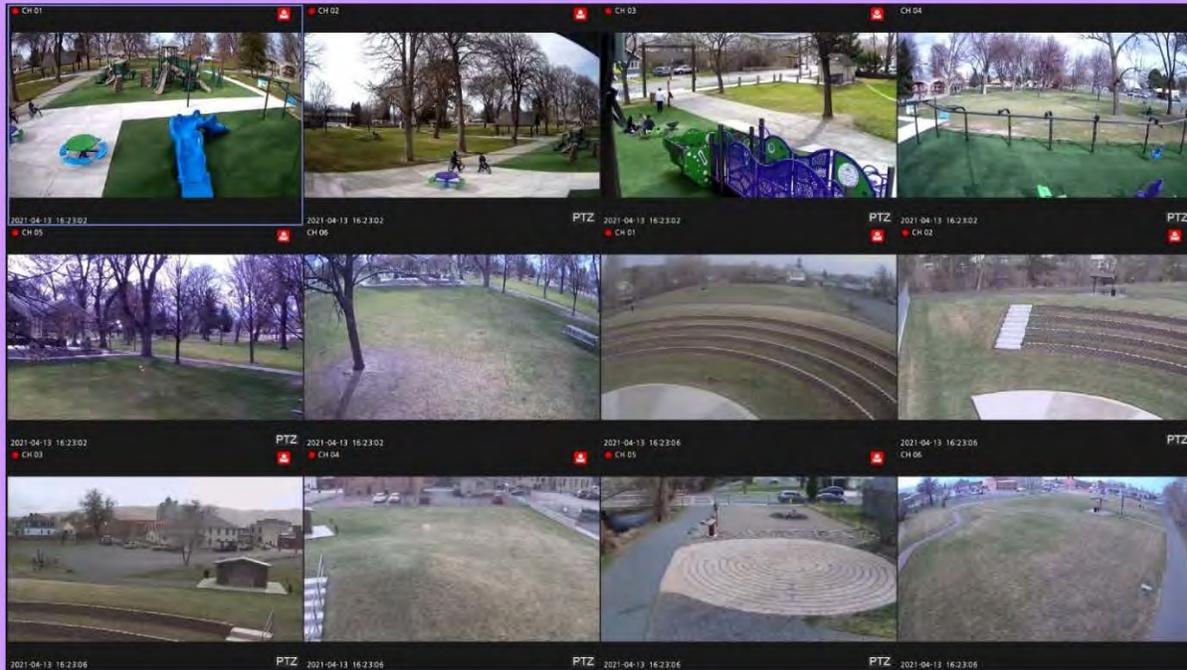


All of the GovDeals items have been paid for and most have been picked up.



# Public Works: Parks Department

Spring is springing and our community parks are seeing increased use. The new security systems are up and running at Central and Geiser Pollman parks. These cameras are capable of pan, tilt, and zoom for both live stream and recorded footage. The cameras record anytime they sense motion. Both Parks Department and Police personnel will have access to the cameras. They will definitely be a beneficial tool in our efforts to control unfavorable behaviors, malicious activities, and crime in our parks. Thank you to the *Leo Adler Foundation* for partnering with Baker City on this necessary and worthwhile improvement!



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# WATER SYSTEM CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL PROGRAM

- ✓ **Required by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Drinking Water Regulations and the EPA**
- ✓ **Backflow devices are required by state and federal law to be tested annually**
- ✓ **Keeps drinking water clean and safe for you and your neighbors**

## FAQs

### WHY DO I NEED BACKFLOW PROTECTION?

Irrigation systems are considered non-potable water systems. Backflow protection stops animal waste, fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides from entering your drinking water system.

### HOW CAN IRRIGATION WATER ENTER MY DRINKING WATER SYSTEM?

The most common way contaminated water enters a drinking water system is by back-siphonage. This can occur when water pressure is reduced during times of high volume use, ie, a shower, clothes washer and dishwasher all operating at the same time.

### HOW DOES BACKFLOW PROTECTION STOP CONTAMINATION?

A properly installed and maintained backflow preventer will allow water to flow in only one direction.

### WHAT IS BACKFLOW?

Backflow is the undesired reversal of the flow of liquids such as irrigation water into the drinking water system. The two forms of backflow are:

Back-siphon— the action of flow reversal caused by a reduction in line pressure

Back-pressure— the increase of water pressure caused by elevation or mechanical pumping

The installation of a backflow preventer will protect drinking water systems from possible contamination from irrigation systems.

### COMMON CROSS- CONNECTION EXAMPLES

These common household and commercial connections to the public water system pose a threat to our clean water if not protected by the appropriate Backflow Prevention Assembly.





**2021  
Annual  
Mt. Hope  
Cemetery  
Cleanup**

**April 12 - April 26**

**Please remove all  
decorative items  
during this time. Items  
may be placed on  
grave sites again  
beginning April 27th.**

**Thank you for  
your cooperation.**

