

# CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail.  
Established 1864, Incorporated 1874

## **Weekly Update April 23, 2021**

### **Administration:**

The end of April closes out 4 months for me here in Baker City. Time marches on and it is easy to forget how much has happened in Baker this year. To name a few:

- ◆ Police Chief Ray Duman is retiring and Ty Duby will be the new chief beginning July 1.
- ◆ State projections indicate Baker City has crossed the 10,000 population count.
- ◆ Five new councilors took oaths of office and started their terms.
- ◆ Fire Department union negotiations are in process.
- ◆ The city and county held a joint meeting and received presentations from planning, 911, and Economic Development.
- ◆ The city and county are discussing Ambulance Services.
- ◆ The city and county are holding joint workgroup meetings to discuss Transient Lodging Tax structures.
- ◆ City hall opened its doors to the public after being closed due to COVID.
- ◆ City Council received input and passed COVID related resolutions and sent a letter to the Governors of-  
fice.

The list goes on and on.

This year will continue to be busy and productive as city staff work across all departments to improve the effective distribution of services we offer. Many of the improvements and changes will not be readily visible to the public. However, some changes will directly impact and improve how citizens interact with the city. The goal is to better use the resources we have and constantly improve the products produced. Thank you for your patience as we improve beautiful Baker City.

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

### **City Council Agenda**

**April 27 @ 7 pm**

- Fire Station Exhaust
- Annual Well Report
- Division Chiefs Salary Schedule
- CDBG Grant Administrator Award
- Fee Resolution
- Golf Board Ordinance
- Police Surplus
- Council Goals
- Council Committee Updates



# 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/CQZKNDC>



## 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**
- ⇒ **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>



*"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**

- ★ BCPD opened 33 new cases and responded to 193 calls, making several arrests for outstanding warrants and detainers.
- ★ Officers with the Baker City Police Department and the Baker County Sheriff's Office assisted Oregon State Police with the arrest of three individuals following a traffic stop. Initiated early Sunday morning at Elm and Estes Street, the stop lead to various drug and weapons charges including possession of methamphetamine, possession of substance suspected to be fentanyl, illegal possession of several firearms, a Taser and possession of a criminal amount of heroin and additional items of drug paraphernalia.
- ★ BCPD received a special visit from some Baker Middle School volunteers who came by the Department to pick up garbage around the building and grounds of the Department. We appreciate you and thank you for your service!
- ★ Face coverings, shields and/or masks are required in the front entrance of the Baker City Police Department, which is open to the public.



## **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>.

The Planning Commission has a vacancy to finish out a term expiring January 2024. If you are interested, please fill out an application at <http://bakercity.com/FormCenter/Boards-Commissions-2/Volunteer-Form-33>

### **APPLICATIONS**

- An accessory structure was approved at 1719 Birch Street in the Residential-Medium Density (R-MD) Zone.



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

# FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the week of April 13th through April 19th the Fire Department responded to a total of **25** emergency alarms.

| AMBULANCE OPERATIONS               |           | EMERGENCY CALL BACKS |   | FIRE REPORTS  |          |
|------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------|---|---|----------|
| City Calls                         | 17        | Request for Cover    | 4 | General Alarms  | 3        |
| Rural Calls                        | 4         | Arrived for Cover    | 1 | Dispatched Alarms   | 1        |
| Patient Transported                | 9         |                      |   | <b>TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES</b>   | <b>4</b> |
| No Patient Trip                    | 12        |                      |   | <b>TRAINING/MAINTENANCE/ FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTIONS/ COMMUNITY EVENTS</b>  |          |
| <b>TOTAL MEDIC RESPONSES</b>       | <b>21</b> |                      |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14 Burn Permits Issued</li> <li>• 39 hrs of Station &amp; Equipment Maintenance</li> <li>• 28 hrs of Fire Training</li> <li>• 4 hrs of EMS Training</li> <li>• 0 hrs of Safety Training</li> <li>• 4 hrs Community Events</li> <li>• 2 hrs Fire Prevention Inspections</li> </ul>  |          |
| Airport Transfers                  | 0         |                      |   | <div style="background-color: #ff0000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>Weed Complaint and Abatement</b><br/>           Weed Complaints or yard maintenance concerns should be reported to the Fire Department at<br/>           541-523-3711 x 508 or emailed to <a href="mailto:sclinkenbeard@bakercity.com">sclinkenbeard@bakercity.com</a> </div> <div style="background-color: #008000; color: yellow; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>New Year, New Burn Permit</b><br/>           FREE burn permits are available in person at the Fire Station.         </div> |          |
| Out of Town Transfers Accepted     | 0         |                      |   |   |          |
| Out of Town Transfers Not Accepted | 0         |                      |   |   |          |
| Motor Vehicle Accidents            | 0         |                      |   |   |          |
| Doubles (2 calls at once)          | 1         |                      |   |   |          |
| Triples (3 calls at once)          | 0         |                      |   |   |          |
| Quads (4 calls at once)            | 0         |                      |   |   |          |
| Public Assist                      | 0         |                      |   |   |          |

## Public Works: Cemetery

A new telescopic flag was installed at Mt. Hope Cemetery this week.





## Public Works: Leo Adler Pathway



A section of the pathway was repaired this week.

The base material was removed and a layer of steel reinforced concrete placed to assure it will remain in place.

The surface of the repair will be patched using hot asphalt.

## Public Works: Street Department



Several locations in town were patched using hot asphalt.

Left: Here, the crew is using the Layton Box Paver to patch a water line trench on Washington Avenue.



Right: Here, the crew works patching water and wastewater trenches on College Street.

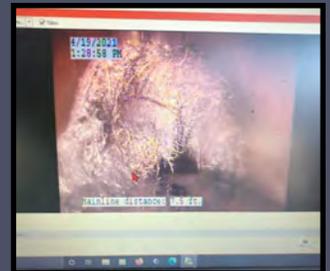
Several pallets of landscape blocks were removed from around trees along Resort Street this week. Volunteers did the work over the weekend and Public Works transported the blocks early Monday morning.

## Public Works: Wastewater Department

A report was received about a wastewater problem on South Bridget Street. Upon attempting to clean the mainline, it was discovered that tree roots had entered the 6" terra cotta pipe at nearly every joint section.



The crew used a special "Bulldog" nozzle to successfully blast away the roots and restore the flow.



Left: A new wastewater lateral was installed on Campbell Street late last week. The trench line was patched Thursday after complete installation of the new PVC line.



## **Public Works: Wastewater Department continued**

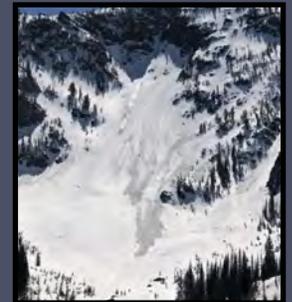


A failing wastewater lateral was replaced on College Street last Friday. Precise elevations were measured to assure that the slope of the pipe would meet 2% grade requirements. Both sets of shielding were used on the project to protect workers.

## **Public Works: Water Department**



A snowshoeing/hiking trip was made to Goodrich Reservoir to check on the level of the Reservoir and adjust the flow from the outlet. The Reservoir still has a layer of ice and snow on its surface.



Right: Here you can see that a few small avalanches have come down the slope above the Reservoir.



Snow was plowed from the pipeline road south toward Little Mill and Big Mill Creek Diversions. It is important to have access to water control structures so that flow rates can be adjusted as the weather changes from spring to summer.



A new water service was installed this week for a new residence on Foothill Road.

## **Public Works: Stormwater Department**



The local YMCA requested that Public Works clean a drainage structure in their parking lot.

The bottom of the manhole had some build-up of silt which was blocking flow of water.



## Public Works: Airport



The septic system at the airport has been having issues for several years. This week, a contractor excavated the septic and drain field area. Public Works then used a push-camera to inspect and locate the drain line. While the line was in satisfactory condition, the septic tank most likely will have to be replaced.



Right: Great view of the Eagle Cap Mountains, an American flag and a helicopter taking off.



## Building Department:

|                       | Permits Issued City | Inspections City | Permits Issued County | Inspections County |
|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Building              | 5                   | 17               | 0                     | 14                 |
| Manufactured Dwelling | 0                   | 0                | 0                     | 0                  |
| Electrical            | 7                   | 12               | 11                    | 16                 |
| Mechanical            | 37                  | 26               | 5                     | 7                  |
| Plumbing              | 11                  | 13               | 1                     | 2                  |
| Fence                 | 4                   | NA               | N/A                   | N/A                |
| <b>TOTAL</b>          | <b>64</b>           | <b>68</b>        | <b>17</b>             | <b>39</b>          |

### COMMERCIAL PERMITS:

- 975 Campbell Street, Baker City—ATM upgrade
- 2485 10th Street, Baker City—Sign replacement

### HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW:

Next regularly scheduled meeting is May 5, 2021, at 8:00am in the Building Department Offices, if needed.

### RESIDENTIAL PERMITS:

- 3210 K Street, Baker City—dwelling demolition
- 1390 D Street, Baker City—New dwelling
- 44879 Barbara Circle, Baker City—Detached accessory dwelling



# 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.**

