

CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail.
Established 1864, Incorporated 1874

Weekly Update April 30, 2021

Administration:

Baker County today once again enters the extreme risk category for COVID control measures. This change in category brings uncertainty for many in the county. City Council discussed their concern and praise for Baker residents at their meeting on Tuesday night. They used phrases and posed questions including; how can we support our citizens? We believe our citizens to be bright, intelligent, and capable of making safe and responsible decisions. What do our businesses need? How do we let our citizens know we support them and want them safe and well? Although individual councilors vary in their opinions, all of them are concerned for the health, safety, and welfare of the people of Baker City.

City staff share similar sentiments of concern. We recognize business owners and their employees worry about the shutdowns and the impacts to their livelihoods. The city wishes to be of assistance while we are in the extreme risk category. If you own a business and have an idea of something you would like to try to mitigate the impacts of this current shutdown, please email Robin Nudd, Community Development Director, at rnudd@bakercity.com. We will quickly review your idea and see if it is something the city can permit. Examples might include: a restaurant needing barricades to use a sidewalk to temporarily expand seating capacity, or a parallel parking space dedicated for curbside pickup. Our citizens are clever and capable and we want to support you.

To see what is happening in Baker County according to OHA, follow the link below. Select the COVID-19 Testing Over Time Tab. Select from the dropdown Baker County. It will update the graph.

<https://public.tableau.com/profile/oregon.health.authority.covid.19#!/vizhome/OregonHealthAuthorityCOVID-19DataDashboard/COVID-19EPICases>

ATTENTION BAKER CITY BUSINESSES:

As the County moves into the extreme category, please consider expanding your business's "footprint" temporarily. If you think you might need a sidewalk or street closure to make this happen, please follow this link to fill out the application and return to Robin Nudd at rnudd@bakercity.com or fax to 541-524-2024.

All proposals will be considered. <https://www.bakercity.com/DocumentCenter/View/1568/Sidewalk-Street-Closure-Application-2019>

Don't forget: You can also request signage, cones and barricades to designate parking for takeout or curbside pickup. Give us a call at 541-519-2421 or email rnudd@bakercity.com



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

Acting Mayor:

Lynette Perry lperry@bakercity.com

Councilors:

Shane Alderson: salderson@bakercity.com

Joanna Dixon: jdixon@bakercity.com

Heather Sells: hsells@bakercity.com

Jason Spriet: jspriet@bakercity.com

Johnny Waggoner Sr.: jwaggonersr@bakercity.com

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>



Finance Department

NOTICE OF BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

A public meeting of the Budget Committee of the City of Baker City, Baker County, State of Oregon to discuss the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, will be held at Baker City Hall, 1655 First Street in the City Council Chambers. The meeting will take place on the 17th day of May 2021 at 6:00 p.m., and if needed, additional meetings will be held on the 18th, 19th, and 20th days of May 2021. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the budget message and to receive comment from the public on the budget.

At this meeting, a special time will be reserved to receive written or oral comments on the possible use of State Revenue Sharing Funds.

A copy of the budget document may be inspected or downloaded on or after May 10, 2021, via the City’s website at www.bakercity.com. This is a public meeting where deliberation of the Budget Committee will take place. All persons who would like to submit written comment on the City’s 2021-22 proposed budget or the City’s possible use of State Revenue Sharing Funds may do so by submitting their comments to publiccomment@bakercity.com by 1:00 p.m. on May 17th. These comments will be read aloud during the applicable public hearing on May 17th. Any person who would like to make oral comment on the proposed programs with the Budget Committee or discuss possible uses of State Revenue Sharing Funds may appear at the meeting. Those who would like to make oral comment remotely may request a phone call during the applicable public hearing by emailing publiccomment@bakercity.com.

Trouble Paying your Water and Wastewater bills? Baker City has resources to help:

- Community Connections 541-523-6591
- Catholic Church 541-523-4521
- OR Dept. of Human Resources 541-523-5846
- Christian Church 541-523-5425
- Salvation Army 541-523-5853
- First Presbyterian Church 541-523-5201

Please call directly for details.

Planning Department:

PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The next Planning Commission meeting will be held on May 19th.

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

- A freestanding sign was approved at NAPA Auto Parts, 2485 10th Street, in the General Commercial (C-G) Zone



EXISTING



PROPOSED



"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 40 new cases and responded to 186 calls, making several arrests for outstanding warrants and detainers.
- ★ Members of BCNET (Baker County Narcotics Enforcement Team), with assistance from various law enforcement partners, executed a search warrant in Ontario, Oregon, resulting in the arrest of an individual on multiple drug and weapons charges in addition to outstanding warrants. The following press release was issued in response to this operation:

On Monday April 26th, 2021, the Baker County Narcotics Enforcement Team with assistance from the Ontario Police Department, the Oregon State Police and our Federal law enforcement partners executed a search warrant on an individual, vehicle and hotel room in Ontario, Oregon at about 2:30pm. This arrest was a culmination of an ongoing investigation initiated by the Baker County Narcotics Enforcement Team into Methamphetamine, Heroin and Fentanyl distribution, as well as crimes involving firearms in the Baker County Area as well as surrounding jurisdictions. As a result of the investigation, over 2 pounds of suspected Methamphetamine, about 3 ounces of suspected Heroin, about 1 1/2 ounces of suspected Fentanyl was located along with another items indicative of narcotics trafficking.

In addition to the narcotics, officers found a loaded 9mm handgun in the suspect's waistband upon arrest as well as another 9mm handgun and two AR-15 rifles in the suspect's hotel room. One of the rifles was a short-barreled rifle that is illegal to possess without the proper federal documentation. One of the AR rifles contained a 50 round-drum magazine. Multiple weapons were loaded.



In addition to the drug charges, the suspect had a state-wide felony parole board warrant as well as a Wasco County warrant for a traffic offense. JACOB KYLE GRAMMON, age 25, was transported to the Malheur County Jail and lodged for the warrants. Additional charges are being reviewed by the Malheur County District Attorney's Office and the United States Attorney's Office.

Jacob currently has no fixed address. He had recently been staying at 1604 4th Street in Baker City.

The Baker County Narcotics Enforcement Team is comprised of members from the Baker City Police Department and is supported by the Baker County Sheriff's Office the Baker County District Attorney's Office and the Oregon State Police.

- ★ Face coverings, shields and/or masks are required in the front entrance of the Baker City Police Department, which is open to the public.



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

FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the week of April 20th through April 26th the Fire Department responded to a total of **39** emergency alarms.

AMBULANCE OPERATIONS

City Calls	33
Rural Calls	0
Patient Transported	22
No Patient Trip	11

TOTAL MEDIC RESPONSES

Airport Transfers	1
Out of Town Transfers Accepted	1
Out of Town Transfers Not Accepted	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	0
Doubles (2 calls at once)	6
Triples (3 calls at once)	0
Quads (4 calls at once)	0
Public Assist	0

EMERGENCY CALL BACKS

Request for Cover	3
Arrived for Cover	3

TRAINING/MAINTENANCE/ FIRE PREVENTION

INSPECTIONS/ COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **23** Burn Permits Issued
- **40 hrs** of Station & Equipment Maintenance
- **6 hrs** of Fire Training
- **2 hrs** of EMS Training
- **0 hrs** of Safety Training
- **0 hrs** Community Events
- **2 hrs** Fire Prevention Inspections

FIRE REPORTS

General Alarms	2
Dispatched Alarms	4
TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES	6

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 scinkenbeard@bakercity.com

New Year, New Burn Permit

FREE burn permits are available in person at the Fire Station.

Public Works: Leo Adler Pathway



The repair work on the Pathway between Elm Street and Auburn Avenue was completed this week. The steel-reinforced concrete base under the patched portion of the path will keep the path in place and prevent it from migrating toward the river.





Building Department:

	Permits Issued City	Inspections City	Permits Issued County	Inspections County
Building	3	11	2	2
Manufactured Dwelling	0	0	0	0
Electrical	4	3	7	0
Mechanical	12	13	2	2
Plumbing	2	14	0	0
Fence	2	NA	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	23	41	11	4

COMMERCIAL PERMITS:

None

HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW:

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

RESIDENTIAL PERMITS:

- 1905 2nd Street, Baker City—New residence
- 12448 W. Hudspeth Lane, Baker City—New residence

Public Works: Shop



Right: This rig had a starting issue. The parts have been ordered and it should be finished this week.

Left: We replaced the muffler on this truck and it is back in service.



Right: We built a 42” extension on the blade to work on a trench on Washington Street.



Left: This rig had an idling issue. We diagnosed the issued and made repairs.

Right: This rig was serviced, greased and had a safety check. It is back in service.





Public Works: Wastewater Department



Public Works video-inspected an alley line between Main and First Streets to assure that a lateral connection at the mainline was unobstructed.

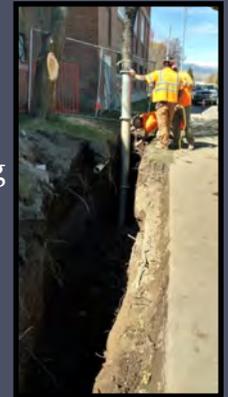
The lateral connection was found to be unobstructed and in very good condition.



Public Works assisted Baker County in the search for a wastewater lateral that runs from the Baker Heritage Museum building to the 15" diameter mainline under Campbell Street.



Using a backhoe, Baker County excavated to a depth of about 6' along the back side of the sidewalk. Public Works used the Vactor truck to hydro-excavate to a depth of 10' in an effort to locate the existing lateral.



Public Works: Water Department

Two new water stubs for possible future use were installed on Washington Avenue between Oak and Chestnut Streets. While it looks like no one is on site—crew members are actually in the trench installing the 1" copper service line.



Public Works: Downtown Main Street



Several plant hangers were installed this week along Main Street.



Public Works: Street Department



Public Works crews patched streets Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of last week to complete street and pathway repairs throughout town.

Left: Here a water mainline crossing at Plum and Washington is being “tacked” with CSS1 oil so the fresh, hot asphalt will adhere to the existing pavement.

Right: Asphalt was used to repair the surface of the Pathway between Elm and Auburn Streets.

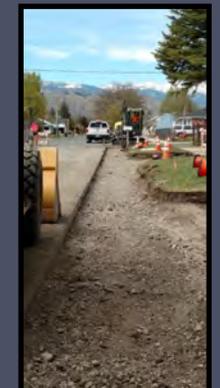


A four man crew began demolition work Monday as part of the street overlay project on Washington Avenue between Clark and Birch Streets. It was planned to begin demolition work on the block between Birch and Plum and then proceeded west a block at a time until the entire stretch was prepared for the new curb, stormwater catch basins and ADA ramps and then finally a new asphalt surface.



Left: A special attachment for the grader was used to smooth the recycled crushed concrete base to the proper designed grade elevation and width.

Right: Here the recycled base material has been leveled and compacted in preparation for the new concrete curb.





North Baker Transportation Improvement Plan

Wanted: Your thoughts about 10th Street

Visit www.bakercity.com

We need your thoughts about how upgrades to 10th Street can best serve the businesses & our community. Idea diagrams are available on www.bakercity.com, and we'd appreciate your thoughts on points you do or don't like, and feedback about whether you'd like:

- Improvements to any intersections
- Sidewalks all along 10th
- A multi-use path for pedestrians and bikes
- Bike lanes
- Safer pedestrian crossings
- Parking along the street
- Aesthetic improvements like lighting or vegetation
- Other?

All design ideas can be modified to meet our community's needs, and we need to know what is important to you! Comment on the website or by emailing mowen@bakercity.com

Questions? Call Michelle Owen at 541-524-2031 or Holly Kerns at 541-523-8219



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.

