

# CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail.  
Established 1864, Incorporated 1874

## Weekly Update May 7, 2021

### Administration:

At its regular meeting on April 27, 2021, the Baker City Council voted to encourage citizens to vote in favor of the proposed Baker School District Bond Measure 1-108 in the May 18 election. If the proposed bond measure passes, Baker School District would receive a \$4 million State matching grant to address facility needs in Baker schools. The district also would contribute \$4 million from its Capital Projects and Student Investment Account (SIA) funds, for a total investment of \$12 million into school district facilities. If the proposed bond measure passes, funds would be used to replace/upgrade mechanical and electrical systems at all Baker 5J schools to improve heating, cooling, and ventilation; construct an approximately 5,000-square-foot multi-purpose building at Baker Middle School for use as a cafeteria/kitchen; replace the roof at South Baker Intermediate School; and upgrade security and access systems at all Baker 5J schools. The proposed bond would be repaid over five years. Additional information can be found at <https://www.bakersdbond.org/>. It is well worth the time and effort to learn about the issue before making your final decision. If you still have questions, the school district is more than happy to answer them. Superintendent Mark Witty is generous with his time and willing to explain the need for this investment. For more information, contact the district at 541-524-2260 or by email at [mark.witty@bakersd.org](mailto:mark.witty@bakersd.org) or [lindsey.mcdowell@bakersd.org](mailto:lindsey.mcdowell@bakersd.org).

### Building Department:

	Permits Issued City	Inspections City	Permits Issued County	Inspections County
Building	1	8	6	17
Manufactured Dwelling	1	0	0	0
Electrical	10	16	4	8
Mechanical	6	7	2	6
Plumbing	4	3	0	2
Fence	2	NA	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>33</b>

#### **RESIDENTIAL PERMITS:**

- 1325 5th Street, Haines—New/used manufactured home placement
- 43901 Running Iron Road, Baker City—New residence
- 3235 Oak Street, Baker City—New residence
- 15823 Summerfield Drive, Baker City—Detached accessory structure
- 45612 Brown Road, Baker City—Additions to detached accessory structure
- 39420 French Gulch Road, Baker City—Finish/alter new residence started in 2006

#### **COMMERCIAL PERMITS:**

- 129 E Austin Street, Sumpter—Roof replacement
- 26321 Malheur Line Lane, County—Cell tower modification

#### **HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW:**

Next regularly scheduled meeting is May 19, 2021, at 8:00am in the Building Department Offices, if needed.



## **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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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 regularly scheduled 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**

- A residential addition was permitted for an existing home at 1614 Baker Street in the Residential High-Density (R-HD) zone.
- A new residence was permitted at 2217 Miller Avenue in the R-HD zone.



*"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 37 new cases and responded to 209 calls, making several arrests for outstanding warrants and detainees.
- ★ Detective Shannon Regan, who serves on the Northeast Oregon Regional SWAT as the Crisis Negotiation Team Leader, attended the annual Western States Hostage Negotiators' Association Conference in Boise, Idaho. Also, in attendance at this conference were Northeast Oregon Regional SWAT Crisis Negotiation Team members Corrina Jacobs, Assistant Team Leader Baker County Sheriff's Office and Dyan Snook, Team Member, La Grande Police Department.



- ★ Face coverings, shields and/or masks are required in the front entrance of the Baker City Police Department, which is open to the public.
- ★ In response to three recent fatal overdoses, the following press release was issued in collaboration with information provided by New Directions Northwest Mental Health:

Similar to other communities across the nation, Baker City emergency responders have confirmed three recent fatal overdoses tied to counterfeit opioid pills. The pills are laced with fentanyl, and are sometimes called "Blues" or "M30's".

The Baker County Narcotics Enforcement Team consists of members from Baker City Police Department with support from the Baker County Sheriff's Office, the Oregon State Police and the Baker County District Attorney's Office. The primary focus of the Narcotics Team is to detect and apprehend drug manufacturers and traffickers. 'While we recognize there are a variety of reasons for drug use, we want to remind the public that we will actively pursue and prosecute individuals and/or organizations that continue to distribute dangerous narcotics to community members', stated Ty Duby, Lieutenant with the Baker City Police Department. 'We also want to remind folks that one can be held criminally liable for a death if they were the supplier of that substance', Duby added.

'Our team currently sees methamphetamine and heroin, laced with fentanyl, as the number one drug problem in the Baker City area. We do see pill use in the form of Oxycodone pills. We also have seen, locally, the blue pills that are most likely manufactured in Mexico made to look like oxy 30's and they also have some fentanyl mixed in', said Duby.

'We want individuals who use heroin or oxy 30 pills to know what's truly in it. Information on the street and lab tests are showing that more often than not the heroin also contains a certain amount of fentanyl. In the last 6 months Baker City Police have responded to three known overdose deaths involving suspected heroin containing fentanyl. We are seeing certain individuals repeatedly overdosing. This last year one individual was saved by Baker City Police and Baker City Fire Department due to administering Narcan only to find the subject deceased 2 days later from another overdose. All members of the Baker City Police Department carry Narcan', stated Duby.



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## **POLICE DEPARTMENT continued**

**The message? Anyone who is purchasing, borrowing, or using pills from any source other than a legitimate pharmacy should assume they are counterfeit.** Right now, we need help spreading the message. Fentanyl, a synthetic opioid, is up to 50 times more potent than heroin, and 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine. Even tiny doses, as little as two milligrams, the size of two grains of salt, is a fatal dose for most people. Again. The size of two grains of salt is fatal.

New Directions Northwest, Inc. the county’s Mental Health Provider, which also oversees the 24/7 Mobile Crisis Response Team throughout the county, works closely with responders during crisis events. “We ask ourselves, why are people taking these pills? Over this past year, we have seen a trend in community members that are impacted by isolation, job loss, loss of housing, and the vicious cycle of a never-ending pandemic – which in turn, leaves people feeling hopeless. Yet, rather than seeking help, which is available, some are self-medicating, and unfortunately, checking out. We need to end this. We need to get people the help they need, when they need it. Either through crisis response, in the moment of an event, along with the use of Naloxone (Narcan), or medical detox and crisis stabilization, or through prevention, with mental health services, and/or group therapy. “There is no shame in seeking help, we have professionals within our community that can make a difference, we want to save lives, and everyone MATTERS! We are fortunate to live in a community that cares and supports each other, so make a call when red flags are raised” said Shari Selander, CEO of New Directions Northwest, Inc. “This needs to be a group effort – a community effort. Each and every one of us can spread the word about the realities of individuals dying due to taking these counterfeit pills.”

Naloxone (Narcan) is also available when people are overdosing. Naloxone is available from local pharmacies, the crisis response team, first responders, and through New Directions Northwest. However, treating fentanyl overdoses often requires additional naloxone to reverse the effects of the drug. Naloxone is a medication that temporarily blocks the toxic effects of opioids, or “reverses” an opioid overdose. More doses of naloxone are sometimes needed to reverse fentanyl overdoses, compared to other opioid overdoses, due to the potency of fentanyl.

New Directions Northwest, Inc. (NDN) has Naloxone/Narcan kits available for free. NDN urges anyone who needs help with drug addiction to call NDN at 541-523-7400. A 24-hour crisis hotline is also available by calling 541 519-7126. If an overdose is suspected, 911 should be called immediately to obtain medical assistance.

### **Signs and Symptoms of an Overdose**

You can identify an opioid overdose by a combination of three symptoms known as the Opioid Triad. The triad consists of:

- Pinpoint pupils
- Unconsciousness
- Respiratory depression



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## **POLICE DEPARTMENT continued**

Additional signs and symptoms of an opioid overdose include:

- Unresponsiveness
- Awake, but unable to talk
- Body is very limp
- Face is pale or clammy
- Blue lips, fingernails, and skin
- For lighter skinned people, the skin tone turns bluish purple; for darker skinned people, the skin tone turns grayish or ashen
- Breathing is very slow and shallow, irregular or has stopped
- Pulse is slow, erratic or not there at all
- Choking sounds or a snore-like gurgling noise (sometimes called the “death-rattle”)
- Vomiting

### **Steps to take for opioid overdose victims**

Steps to Take for Opioid Overdose Victims

#### **1. Call 911 immediately.**

Call 911 immediately, report a drug overdose, and give the street address and location of the victim. If there are other persons available, send someone to wait in the street for the ambulance and guide the emergency medical technicians to the victim.

#### **2. Try to rouse the victim.**

Try to rouse the victim by speaking loudly, pinching, or rubbing your knuckles vigorously up and down the sternum (the bony part in the middle of the chest).

#### **3. Make sure the victim is breathing.**

Make sure the victim is breathing. If not, administer rescue breathing (mouth-to-mouth) by pinching the victim’s nose shut and blowing into the mouth. Lay the victim on their side after they have resumed breathing on their own.

#### **4. Administer Naloxone.**

Administer an opioid antagonist, such as Naloxone (Narcan), if you have it and know how to use it.

#### **5. Stay with the victim.**

Stay with the victim until help arrives, and act quickly to administer rescue breathing if they stop breathing. Encourage the victim to cooperate with the ambulance crew.

## **Code Enforcement Weekly Activity**

### **Property Maintenance**

- One property maintenance complaint
- Followed up on three property maintenance cases

### **Miscellaneous**

- ONE FOUND ITEM
- One community contact

### **Parking violations**

- Three abandoned vehicles tagged for removal
- Issued one parking citation

### **Animal violations and complaints**

- Two dog running at large complaints
- One barking dog complaint



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

# FIRE DEPARTMENT

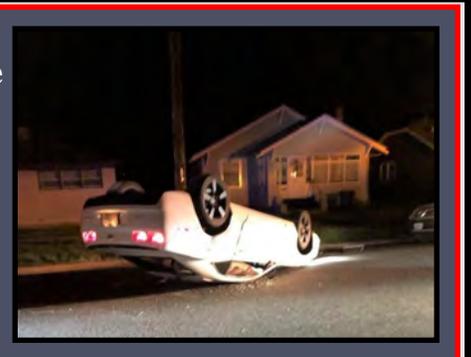
During the week of April 27th through May 3rd the Fire Department responded to a total of **49** emergency alarms.

AMBULANCE OPERATIONS		EMERGENCY CALL BACKS		FIRE REPORTS	
City Calls	40	Request for Cover	11	General Alarms	0
Rural Calls	5	Arrived for Cover	4	Dispatched Alarms	4
Patient Transported	28	<b>TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES</b>			
No Patient Trip	17	<b>4</b>			
<b>TOTAL MEDIC RESPONSES</b>		<b>45</b>			
<b>TRAINING/MAINTENANCE/ FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTIONS/ COMMUNITY EVENTS</b>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14 Burn Permits Issued</li> <li>• 31 hrs of Station &amp; Equipment Maintenance</li> <li>• 8.5 hrs of Fire Training</li> <li>• 0 hrs of EMS Training</li> <li>• 0 hrs of Safety Training</li> <li>• 0 hrs Community Events</li> <li>• 0 hrs Fire Prevention Inspections</li> </ul>					
Airport Transfers	1	<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:scinkenbeard@bakercity.com">scinkenbeard@bakercity.com</a>			
Out of Town Transfers Accepted	2				
Out of Town Transfers Not Accepted	2				
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1				
Doubles (2 calls at once)	6				
Triples (3 calls at once)	0				
Quads (4 calls at once)	0				
Public Assist	1				
<b>New Year, New Burn Permit</b> <b>FREE burn permits are available in person at the Fire Station.</b>					

## Public Works: Stormwater Department

Police dispatch called Public Works at 2am Saturday morning to report that there had been an accident and fuel was leaking into the stormwater system.

Originally thought to be coming from the upside down vehicle, the leak was actually coming from a pickup truck that was struck by the careening car. An absorbent boom was placed in the catch basin and residual fuel was removed before any rain fell.





## Public Works: Water Department



A crew travelled to Goodrich Reservoir to adjust the flow of water. As you can see, the reservoir is well below “full pool” at this time.

New water and wastewater service lines were installed for two new houses. One was installed in the 900 block of 17th Street and the other in the 100 block of 9th.



## Public Works: Wastewater Department



A wastewater lateral was replaced on Colorado Avenue. The line was packed with tree roots. The lateral had multiple type of pipe connected: PVC, Orangeburg, Cast Iron and ABS. After repairs, the line is now only 4” PVC.



The asphalt surface was patched the following day.



A new wastewater lateral installation on 9th Street.





## Public Works: Wastewater Department continued



Public Works continues to assist Baker County to locate and assess the wastewater lateral serving the Baker Heritage Museum. A vault and 4” Cast Iron line were located and found not to be the elusive wastewater line. It appears this line was used to drain the swimming pool in the old Natatorium.

The wastewater Treatment Plant had a transduce unit malfunctioning, setting off alarms every 10 minutes or so. Both pumps also had plugging issues due to “flushable” wipes entering the system.

Unfortunately there is no easy way to remove the fibrous material from the pumps.

The hose to the back-up pump was temporarily repaired until a replacement hose can be installed.



## Public Works: Street Department



Washington Street work is progressing very well with the crew being able to stay right on, or slightly ahead of schedule.



Here you can see the old curb has almost completely deteriorated in one section. A new ADA compliant wheel chair ramp will be constructed here.



## Public Works: Street Department continued



Recycled concrete chunks are placed and compacted to form an excellent base for the new street curb.



Three new wastewater stubs were installed.



The trenches were patched on Friday so that regular school traffic in that area would not be interrupted on Monday morning.



A contractor from LaGrande paved a portion of Clark Street and pedestrian path last week as a part of a new housing development in the area of "D" Street.

Sweeper debris accumulates quickly from sweeping city streets. Here, a dump truck is being loaded with debris to be hauled to the local landfill.





**North Baker Transportation Improvement Plan**

# Wanted: Your thoughts about 10<sup>th</sup> Street

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

We need your thoughts about how upgrades to 10<sup>th</sup> Street can best serve the businesses & our community. Idea diagrams are available on [www.bakercity.com](http://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 10<sup>th</sup>
- 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](mailto: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.





# 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 20, 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>