



# CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail  
Established 1864, Incorporated 1874

**Weekly Update May 28, 2021**

## Administration:

On this Memorial Day weekend my thoughts turn to those who have served our country in the different branches of our armed forces. I am appreciative of those who are willing to pay such a high price to defend this marvelous country and the ideals laid forth in the Constitution and other founding documents. I, like you can appreciate my own family members who served and suffered. Sometimes death on the battlefield might be easier than “normal” life after war. I think of my father who was a chief mechanic of a B-52 bomber, my nephew served in Iraq and Afghanistan clearing IED’s for troops, and my aunt worked in the air force recruiting office. I think of much older veterans in my family tree who served and fought in the Revolutionary War and in both the Union and Confederate army of the Civil War. My family is no different than yours. Every family can lay claim to and more importantly pay respect and give thanks for those who served. Thank you on this Memorial Day and everyday hereafter.

Below are two websites which share a little bit of the history of Memorial Day which started as Decoration Day. Decoration Day was meant to memorialize those who died in the American Civil War. May Memorial Day be a day where we all work to heal the wounds of war.

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/memorial-day-history.htm>

<https://www.usmemorialday.org/>

**City Hall will be closed Monday, May 31 in observance of Memorial Day.**

## Finance Department

### **BUDGET BOARD AND 2021-22 PROPOSED BUDGET**

The Baker City Budget Board met on May 17-18, 2021, to discuss the [2021-22 Proposed Budget](#).

On May 18, 2021, the Budget Board unanimously approved the 2021-22 Proposed Budget. The budget will come before City Council on June 22, 2021 to get adopted before the new fiscal year, which starts July 1, 2021.

### **UTILITIES**

Twenty residential customers (Zones 7, 5 and 2) were scheduled to have their water turned off for non-pay (over 60 days past due) six were actually turned off until their past due balance was paid. As of May 27, none have contacted the city.



## **Planning Department:**

### **PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING**

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on June 16th to discuss proposed revisions to the Development Code and Comprehensive Plan, including adopting a new Housing Needs Analysis.

The Housing Needs Analysis and Buildable Lands Inventory give a current picture of the land available for new residential development, the needs for housing estimated over the next 20 years, and the constraints on the land available- such as flood zones or steep slopes. Baker City has approximately 615 acres of residentially zoned land that is not constrained and has not been developed, or fully developed. Based on the estimated growth rate, the City is projected to need between 235-460 more homes by 2040. The estimate includes a variety of types of homes based on estimated needs, including single-family dwellings, townhomes, duplexes, triplexes, quadplexes, and apartments. The City has enough residentially zoned land to meet that need - there is enough residential land for just under 2,500 additional homes.



The proposed revisions include: correcting errors in the Development Code, modifying wall sign area in the General-Commercial zone, easing restrictions for duplexes & accessory dwelling units, modifying location requirements for self-service storage facilities, updating the Housing chapter of the Comprehensive Plan and adding a new Housing Needs Analysis. For more information, review documents online at <http://bakercity.com/2157/Planning-Department>, visit the Planning Department at 1995 Third Street, or call 541-523-8219.

### **APPLICATIONS**

- A storage shed was approved at 1380 D Street in the Residential – High Density (R-HD) Zone.
- A home and accessory structure were approved at 3025 Auburn Avenue. The property is located in the Residential – Medium Density (R-MD) Zone.
- A detached carport was approved at 3740 Court Street in the R-MD Zone.
- A commercial building addition was approved at St. Alphonsus Medical Center, located at 3325 Po-cahontas Road in the General Commercial (C-G) Zone.

### **PARKS & RECREATION BOARD WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

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 . Thank you for helping to plan for the future of our parks!



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



*"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**

- ★ Last week, BCPD opened 27 new cases and responded to 164 calls, making several arrests for outstanding warrants and detainers.
- ★ BCPD investigators received a report of a missing person. Raleigh David Rust (DOB 11/10/1974) was reported missing by a family member and was last seen in Baker City on May 13, 2021. Raleigh is 6'01" and weighs 150lbs with a thin build. He has brown hair, blue eyes, pierced nose and various tattoos on his arm, chest, head and neck. He is known to travel by foot and suffers from mental illness. A missing persons flyer with pictures of Raleigh has been posted to the Department Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Baker-City-Police-Department-827385403973352>.
- ★ Office Manager Phoebe Wachtel attended the 2021 Oregon Virtual Child Passenger Safety Conference this past week. Wachtel has been a certified car seat technician for over nine years and works directly with families to ensure children are riding in an appropriate car seat for their age and that the seat is installed and used correctly in the vehicle. Please call 541-524-2014 for more information.

### **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)

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

- ⇒ **HDDRC: 2 positions**
- ⇒ **Golf Board: 2 positions**
- ⇒ **Planning Commission: 1 position**  
(remainder of 4-year term expiring 1/2024)



**Applications are due by  
June 14, 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 Fire Department is to provide dependable and efficient emergency services.

# FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the week of May 18th through May 24th the Fire Department responded to a total of **36** emergency alarms.

AMBULANCE OPERATIONS		EMERGENCY CALL BACKS		FIRE REPORTS	
City Calls	28	Request for Cover	10	General Alarms	0
Rural Calls	6	Arrived for Cover	4	Dispatched Alarms	2
Patient Transported	27	<b>TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES</b>			
No Patient Trip	7	<b>2</b>			
<b>TOTAL MEDIC RESPONSES</b>		<b>34</b>			
<b>TRAINING/MAINTENANCE/ FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTIONS/ COMMUNITY EVENTS</b>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 Burn Permits Issued</li> <li>• 44 hrs of Station &amp; Equipment Maintenance</li> <li>• 12 hrs of Fire Training</li> <li>• 2 hrs of EMS Training</li> <li>• 0 hrs of Safety Training</li> <li>• 0 hrs Community Events</li> <li>• 10 hrs Fire Prevention Inspections</li> </ul>					
Airport Transfers	3	<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" style="color: yellow;">sclinkenbeard@bakercity.com</a>			
Out of Town Transfers Accepted	0				
Out of Town Transfers Not Accepted	1				
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1				
Doubles (2 calls at once)	7				
Triples (3 calls at once)	0				
Quads (4 calls at once)	0				
Public Assist	0				

## Burn Ban Update

Due to the consistent wind, dryness and warm weather coming, it has been decided to set a mandated start date for this year's burn ban.

**Effective June 1, 2021, a city-wide burn ban will be in effect.**

This burn ban will remain until appropriate weather conditions arrive.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call 541-523-3711





### Building Department:

	Permits Issued City	Inspections City	Permits Issued County	Inspections County
Building	4	13	6	10
Manufactured Dwelling	0	0	2	0
Electrical	12	7	8	7
Mechanical	2	5	2	8
Plumbing	1	4	1	2
Fence	0	NA	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>27</b>

#### RESIDENTIAL PERMITS:

- 815 Robert Street, Haines—Moving an accessory structure to new location and set up
- 42336 Washington Gulch Road, County—Replacement Dwelling
- 47012 Conro Road, County—Replacement dwelling
- 44866 Lansford Lane, County—New residence
- 31355 Munn Road, County—New residence
- 1310 D Street, Baker City—Detached accessory structure
- 53878 Hwy 86, County—Repairs to detached accessory structure

#### COMMERCIAL PERMITS:

- 3451 Broadway Street, Baker City—Convert portion of structure to residence
- 42534 N. Cedar Rd, County—Modification to existing accessory structure
- 2001 2nd Street, Baker City—Commercial reroof
- TBD Medical Springs Hwy, County—Pump building
- 365 Elm Street, Baker City—Office and storage space addition

#### HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW:

Next regularly scheduled meeting is June 2, 2021, at 8:00am in the Building Department Offices, if needed.

### Public Works: Vector Truck Demonstration



One of the most useful pieces of equipment in the Baker City Public Works fleet is the Vector truck.



The current Vector truck was purchased used from the City of Boise in 2010. While it has served our city well, it is wearing out and will need upgrading soon. Unfortunately, it is a vital, yet very expensive, piece of equipment for the city to provide essential services.



## **Public Works: Water Department**



The 8” water mainline which was installed within the Oak Street right of way was pressure tested and passed the 150 psi threshold.

A water service and meter were installed along with a new fire hydrant.



## **Public Works: Street Department**



The demolition portion of the Washington Avenue Thin Overlay project is now complete from Birch to Oak Street.



All the base material placed for the new concrete curbs consists of recycled concrete and asphalt. The remaining portion of the work is scheduled for right after school is over for the summer.

## **Public Works: Stormwater Department**



Concrete flatwork which had settled around a catch basin on Washington Street was removed on Tuesday. The concrete area had been too low for surface water to enter the catch basin creating a puddle. New concrete poured to the proper grade will be installed this week.

### **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.**



## Public Works: Wastewater Department

Fibrous materials continue to plague the two pumps at the Baker City Wastewater Treatment facility. A crew had to dismantle pump No. 1 late last week to assure that blockage problems would not continue over the weekend.



After removing the material from the pump, two control valves were reopened and pumping resumed.



## Public Works: Golf Course



Erosion control work was performed at the Baker City Golf Course. Sod and some soil were removed to form a "U" shape ditch, which was then lined with 3' crushed rock to reduce erosion when water flows down the channel.



A manhole and outfall pipe was installed to drain the water.



## Public Works: Airport



At the Baker City Airport, a couple of Great Horned Owls were caught sitting atop the fighter jet anticipating a take-off.



WATER QUALITY REPORT & CONSERVATION TIPS – 2019 Annual Edition

WHAT IS IN OUR WATER?

Contaminants that may be found in the water include inorganic compounds. These are naturally occurring contaminants (salts and metals) as a result of storm runoff, mining, and farming. In order to insure the water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulation which limit the amount of certain contaminants.

LEAD AND COPPER SAMPLE RESULTS FOR 2020

Table with 5 columns: SUBSTANCE, ANALYSIS, ACTION LEVEL, NUMBER OF SAMPLES EXCEEDING ACTION LEVEL, CONTAMINATE SOURCE. Rows for Copper and Lead.

Note: 20 lead and copper samples are collected every 3 years from selected homes throughout the City. Samples were collected in August 2020. Next sample date is July 2023.

2020 SAMPLE ANALYSIS RESULTS

Table with 6 columns: SUBSTANCE, ANALYSIS, MCL, MCLG, NUMBER OF SAMPLES, CONTAMINATE SOURCE. Rows for Fecal Coliform Bacteria, Total Coliform Bacteria, Nitrate, Nitrite, Disinfection Residuals (Trihalomethanes, Halocacetic Acids).

Definitions:

PPM= Parts Per Million
Mg/L= Milligrams/Liter
1 MCL= Maximum Contaminant Level (the highest level of contaminant allowed in drinking water)
2 MCLG= Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (the level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk)

Treatment Technique = A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
Action Level = The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) = The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of Disinfectants to control microbial contaminant.
Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) = The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

- There were 29 synthetic organic chemicals tested for and not detected.
There were 21 volatile organic chemicals tested for and not detected.
The 2020 hardness value for treated water was 63 Mg/L.
The 2020 fluoride value for treated water was <0.40 PPM



Lead — If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Baker City is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline, 1-800-426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

- "Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791)."
- "Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791)."
- Cryptosporidium: In January 2006, the federal EPA implemented the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule known as LT2. This rule required the City to perform 12 months of sampling and testing, resulting in the detection of the cryptosporidium oocyst in Baker City's surface water collection source (Watershed) in 2012. The Cryptosporidium parasite can be found in the feces of most animals. This parasite can cause gastrointestinal health issues if ingested by a healthy person, and for people with a poor immune system can cause more serious illness. Detection of the oocyst triggered the ultraviolet light treatment technique that renders the oocyst sterile and harmless to ingest.
- In 2014, the City constructed a UV Treatment Facility (UVTF) in order to comply with the EPA's Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2). The UVTF contains (3) Wedeco LBX-1000 UV reactors which are validated for 3-log removal of cryptosporidium and giardia. The facility has a maximum treatment capacity of 12 MGD. The UVTF was granted final approval by the Oregon Health Authority on November 26, 2014 and was placed into full operation on December 1, 2014.



# 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.





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