

# CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail.  
Established 1864, Incorporated 1874

## Weekly Update June 25, 2021

### Administration

Tourist season is heating up in Baker City. Softball teams, cyclist, concert goers, and Oregon Trail followers are moving through town. Campers and travelers are visiting this beautiful valley. I had the opportunity recently to visit Wolf Creek reservoir north of Baker City. It was like a painting with the reservoir in the foreground, the rolling hills, and then the jagged peaks in the distance. The blue sky with billowing clouds just enhanced the experience. We are fortunate to live and work surrounded by this amazing location.

On a different note, the state legislators have been busy. I encourage every citizen in this city to take a little time to review the bills and laws introduced and passed by our legislators. A recently passed bill HB 3115 will potentially impact Baker City and County in ways yet unknown. The financial impacts could be staggering. Take a moment to read it and contact your legislators if you are so inclined. With more than a 1,000 bills introduced, there is likely something which will catch your interest.

[HB 3115](#)

#### Mayor:

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

#### Acting Mayor:

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#### Councilors:

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Next Council Meeting: July 13, 2021

### Finance Department

#### UTILITIES

- Five customers signed up for new water/wastewater service and three customers disconnected service from June 17<sup>th</sup> thru June 23<sup>rd</sup>. This includes all service changes.
- Zone 7 was billed June 18<sup>th</sup> and included 569 residential and 28 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 175 (29%) are signed up for direct payment and 32 (5%) are signed up for ebilling.
- Zone 3 was billed June 21<sup>st</sup> and included 504 residential and 55 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 128 (23%) are signed up for direct payment and 36 (6%) are signed up for ebilling.

Twenty residential customers (Zone 2) were scheduled to have their water turned off for non-pay (over 60 days past due) two were actually turned off, but both have paid and their services have been reinstated.



# Planning Department

## PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The next regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting will be held on July 21, 2021.

## APPLICATIONS

- An application was approved that recognizes a smaller-sized lot, created in 1943, as a buildable residential lot at 2420 Clark Street in the Residential – Medium Density Zone.

# Building Department

	Permits Issued City	Inspections City	Permits Issued County	Inspections County
Building	0	9	4	16
Manufactured Dwelling	0	0	0	1
Electrical	6	6	8	4
Mechanical	3	6	2	4
Plumbing	3	3	2	4
Fence	0	NA	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>33</b>

## **RESIDENTIAL PERMITS:**

- 44138 Brown Road, Baker City – New Residence
- 46912 Oliver Road, Halfway – Solar addition
- 44902 Scott Circle, Baker City – New residence
- 224 N. Main Street, Halfway – Detached accessory structure

## **HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW:**

Next regularly scheduled meeting is July 7th at 8:00 a.m. in the Building Department (if needed).

## **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>





## Police Department

*“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.”*

During the previous week, BCPD opened 36 new cases and responded to 197 calls, making several arrests for outstanding warrants and detainers. The following press release was issued in response to the arrest of a subject who has allegedly defrauded several local citizens by taking money for constructions projects that he either started and did not finish or failed to begin the work as agreed:

*On June 19, 2021, Baker County Sheriff’s Office arrested Kenneth Edward Hackett, dob: 11/25/1969, 2755 8th Street, Baker City on a Baker County Circuit Court Warrant for Aggravated Theft 1st Degree x2 and Theft I. Hackett was lodged in the Baker County Jail on the warrant. Aggravated Theft is defined as any transaction of \$10,000.00 or more.*

*The warrant stems from multiple investigations by Baker City Police Department and Baker County Sheriff’s Office related to construction fraud. BCPD identified six victims and BCSO investigated two incidents with a combined loss of over \$78,000.00. One other case was reported to BCPD, but the county of venue was Union County. Three of the cases reported to BCPD were settled by civil action between the victims and Hackett.*

*Hackett is alleged to have obtained funding from the victims and either never completed or never started the construction projects. According to Oregon Contractor Construction Board (OCCB), Hackett has never been a licensed contractor in Oregon and according to OCCB, Hackett has over \$23,000.00 in civil penalties pending. BCPD anticipates additional charges, as additional investigations will be presented to the Baker County District Attorney’s Office. If anyone believes they have been a victim of Hackett, please contact either BCPD or BCSO.*

★ Members of the Northeast Oregon Regional SWAT Crisis Negotiation Team conducted scenario-based training during the regularly scheduled monthly meeting. These trainings provide much-needed opportunities for members to continue their education and practice their skills

★ The Baker City Police Department is seeing another up-swing in reported bicycle thefts. As a friendly reminder, please take your bicycle inside your house or secure them inside a locked building. Bicycles are being stolen out of yards, carports, unsecured garages, and removed from vehicles.

★ If you are staying at a local motel/hotel, please take your valuables, including your bicycles into your room. **Do not** leave them attached to your vehicle, even locked, as they are still being stolen. Also, please make sure to write down the make, mode, serial number, color and have a photograph of your bicycle in case of theft, so if the bicycle is located it is easier to return to you.

★ The Baker City Police Department offers FREE bicycle licensing – please bring your bicycle down to the department and we would be happy to assist you.

★ A cable lock will not save your bicycle from theft. Bike theft is difficult to combat. There are locks on the market that can really reduce the risks, but it’s never a guarantee. The top five best bike locks listed at [www.bikesmart.com](http://www.bikesmart.com): Kryptonite Fahgettaboutdit, TiGr Mini, Evolution Chain, Bordo Granit or Master Lock Street Cuffs. Be smart about where you leave your bicycle, if you use a lock, make sure to place the lock through the frame, the seats and tires can be removed making the bike easier to steal.





# Fire Department

During the week of June 15th through June 21st the Fire Department responded to a total of **36** emergency alarms.

## AMBULANCE OPERATIONS

City	Rural	Patient	No Patient
22	7	20	9

Airport Transfer	1
Out of Town Transfers Accepted	1
Out of Town Transfers Rejected	2
MVA's	0
Doubles (2 simultaneous responses)	2
Triples (3 simultaneous responses)	0
Quads (4 simultaneous responses)	0

## FIRE REPORTS

General Fire Alarms	0
Dispatched Alarms	7
<b>TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES</b>	<b>7</b>

## EMERGENCY CALL BACKS

Request for Cover	3
Arrived for Cover	0

## TRAINING/MAINTENANCE/FIRE PREVENTION

### INSPECTIONS/COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **41 hrs of Station & Equipment Maintenance**
- **28 hrs of Fire Training**
- **4 hrs of Safety Training**
- **15 hrs Community Events**

### Weed Complaint & Abatement

**Weed complaints or yard maintenance concerns should be reported to the Fire Department at**

**541-523-3711 ext. 508 or emailed to [scinkenbeard@bakercity.com](mailto:scinkenbeard@bakercity.com)**



### Burn Ban

**There is currently a city-wide burn ban in effect.**



## Public Works: Street Department



Residents are reminded to keep their trees trimmed for safety. Pictured right is a great example of a tree that could use a little trim job. →

← An emergency locate was requested by O.T.E.C. Thursday, where a power pole caught fire and the top had burned off.

The pole was scheduled to be replaced immediately.



Streets were crackfilled in town this week. Even when the street surface is badly cracked, as in the photo to the left, sealing the joints between cracks extends the life of the street several years.



## Public Works: Wastewater Department

A sewer lateral in an alley between Main and First Streets was relocated Tuesday. Hydraulic Speed Shoring and supportive wood panels were used to protect workers who were working in the deep trench.



# Public Works: Water Department

## Washington Street Overlay Project:



New water lines were replaced under the intersection of Washington and Oak Streets this week.

Aluminum water valve cases are prone to decomposing over time. This aluminum case was recently replaced with a cast iron valve case. 



Public Works Crews worked installing new 8" and 12" Ductile Iron lines with thrust blocking and valves at the intersection.



New stormwater lines were also installed. Running between new catch basin locations and existing manholes.

 Hydraulic driven chainsaw is being used to plunge cut into the existing manhole at Washington and Oak Streets.



Approximately 30 tons of hot asphalt was used to patch the water line and storm line trenches.



All the trenches crossing the Washington and Oak Street intersection were successfully patched Wednesday and Thursday in preparation for classes at Brooklyn School, which are scheduled to start Monday.

## Public Works: Shop



Wes and Scott performed a service and safety check and found the upper and lower ball joints were bad on the ambulance. Parts were ordered and the seal and joints replaced.

Pictured right is a pipe breaker with damaged threads. Parts have been ordered and it should be repaired next week.

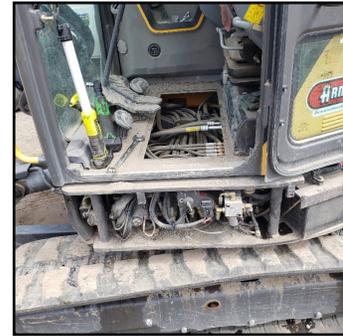


Wes and Scott replaced an indicator light in the control panel and cleaned up this mastic machine.

The airport's fuel truck is having difficulty running while pumping fuel. There was found to be no problem with the PCM and now we will begin testing the fuel system next week.



The a/c quit working on this tractor and it blew two hydraulic hoses under the cab and behind the hydraulic tank. The control panel for the a/c and the two hydraulic lines were replaced and it is back in service.



### Trouble Paying your Water and Wastewater bills?

**Baker City has resources to help. For details, please call these organizations directly.**

- |                               |              |                             |              |
|-------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| • 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 |



# 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