

# CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail.  
Established 1864, Incorporated 1874

## Weekly Update July 2, 2021

### Administration

I have been privileged to walk on some of the battlefields of the Revolutionary War. With each visit I am reminded just how close we came to losing that War. The Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776. Most of the delegates to the Second Continental Congress signed the document on August 2, 1776. With these signatures, these men truly risked their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor if the British were to win the American Revolution. Since the Revolutionary War, the United States has fought many wars to defend freedom; the cost in blood and treasure is born by every citizen of this country. Freedom's Cost makes these United States the greatest purveyor and distributor of freedom in the world. Freedom is threatened today on many fronts. My hope is that our desire for freedom will ring as loudly today as it did at Independence Hall in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776 and we will join with our founding fathers and declare; We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.... [Declaration of Independence](#)

As you celebrate this Independence Day, I encourage you to remember, on this dry and toasty weekend, we risk our property, lives, and fortunes if fires engulf our mountains, water supply, or homes. I ask each of our citizens to consider celebrating by enjoying the fireworks at the top of this newsletter instead of shooting off your own. Be safe and remember that with freedom comes respect, responsibility, and accountability for how our actions might impact another. Thank you to the citizens of Baker City. Take a moment to follow the link and read the [Declaration of Independence](#).

#### Mayor:

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

#### Acting Mayor:

Lynette Perry [lperry@bakercity.com](mailto:lperry@bakercity.com)

#### Councilors:

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Next Council Meeting: July 13, 2021

### Finance Department

#### UTILITIES

- Nine customers signed up for new water/wastewater service and seven customers disconnected service from June 17<sup>th</sup> thru June 23<sup>rd</sup>. This includes all service changes.
- Zone 8 was billed June 25<sup>th</sup> and included 480 residential and 20 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 136 (27%) are signed up for direct payment and 22 (4%) are signed up for ebilling.
- Zone 4 was billed June 28<sup>th</sup> and included 740 residential and 67 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 235 (29%) are signed up for direct payment and 44 (5%) are signed up for ebilling.

Thirty-four residential customers (Zone 3, 7, and 8) were scheduled to have their water turned off for non-pay (over 60 days past due) 4 were actually turned off, and all have paid and their services have been reinstated.



## Building Department

	Permits Issued City	Inspections City	Permits Issued County	Inspections County
Building	0	9	5	11
Manufactured Dwelling	0	0	0	1
Electrical	5	7	8	12
Mechanical	3	3	3	4
Plumbing	4	4	1	3
Fence	1	NA	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>31</b>

### RESIDENTIAL PERMITS:

- 35006 Stices Gulch Road, Baker City – Detached accessory structure
- 151 Granite Street, Sumpter – Detached accessory structure
- 40308 Hwy 86, County – Detached accessory structure

### COMMERCIAL PERMITS:

- 375 Main Street, Halfway – Detached accessory structure
- 17569 Deer Park Loop, Baker City – AT&T modification

### HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW:

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

## Planning Department

### PUBLIC HEARINGS

At the June 16<sup>th</sup> public hearing, the Planning Commission made recommendations to City Council to approve revisions to the Baker City Development Code and Comprehensive Plan, including adopting a new Housing Needs Analysis. The Planning Commission and City Council will hold a joint work session on **July 20, 2021**, to discuss these recommendations, prior to the City Council’s first public hearing on the matter, which will be held on July 27, 2021. 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.

The regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting for July 21<sup>st</sup> has been cancelled.

### APPLICATIONS

- Two modular structures were approved at North Baker Elementary School for use as a daycare facility in association with the Baker Early Learning Center. The property is located in the Residential High-Density (R-HD) Zone and is addressed as 2725 7<sup>th</sup> Street.
- A re-plat request to create two parcels from one property addressed as 3336 Campbell Street in the Residential Medium-Density (R-MD) Zone was approved. The decision can be appealed until 5PM on July 13<sup>th</sup>.
- A request for co-location of an antennae on an existing cell tower at 1205 Vista Heights Drive in the Residential Low-Density (R-LD) Zone was approved. The decision can be appealed until 5PM on July 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Notices were sent to surrounding property owners to give an opportunity to comment on a re-plat request to create two parcels from one property addressed as 3340 Campbell Street in the Residential Medium-Density (R-MD) Zone. Comments may be submitted on the proposal until 5PM on July 14<sup>th</sup>.



## 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 43 new cases and responded to 234 calls, making several arrests for outstanding warrants and detainees.
- ★ Baker City Police Department Officers assisted the Baker County Sheriff's Office with removing an individual from a vehicle following a complaint that the driver was driving erratically on Campbell Street. During this incident, BCSO Deputy Talon Colton had located the vehicle traveling northbound on 10th Street. Deputy Talon pulled in behind the vehicle and activated the patrol vehicle's emergency lights, while the driver changed lanes multiple times before pulling over; however, once Deputy Colton stopped, the driver accelerated and re-entered the roadway, continuing northbound. The vehicle turned east onto Hughes Lane and pulled into the ODFW parking lot. Deputy Colton contacted the driver, who appeared agitated and refused to exit the vehicle. Baker City Police Department officers assisted with removing the driver from the vehicle. The driver continued to resist and was combative with law enforcement. Deputies were able to locate information in the vehicle identifying the driver as Matthew David Post, 30 years of age, of Berkeley, California. Post was arrested and charged with Attempt to Elude, Reckless Driving, Resisting Arrest and Fail to Carry and Present Operator License. He was transported and lodged in the Baker County Jail.
- ★ 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.

- ★ BCPD staff would like to wish everyone a very happy and safe 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Please celebrate responsibly and be mindful of the extreme heat forecasted for this weekend and current drought conditions. Oregon law forbids the possession, use, or sale of fireworks that fly, explode, or travel more than six feet on the ground or 12 inches in the air. Bottle rockets, Roman candles, and firecrackers are illegal in Oregon.



# Fire Department

During the week of June 22nd through June 28th the Fire Department responded to a total of **46** emergency alarms.

## AMBULANCE OPERATIONS

City Calls	Rural Calls	Patient Transported	No Patient Trip
34	6	25	15

Airport Transfer	1
Out of Town Transfers Accepted	2
Out of Town Transfers Rejected	3
MVA's	3
Doubles (2 simultaneous responses)	8
Triples (3 simultaneous responses)	0
Public Assist	2

## FIRE REPORTS

General Fire Alarms	1
Dispatched Alarms	5
<b>TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES</b>	<b>6</b>

## EMERGENCY CALL BACKS

Request for Cover	5
Arrived for Cover	1

## TRAINING/MAINTENANCE/FIRE PREVENTION

### INSPECTIONS/COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **37 hrs of Station & Equipment Maintenance**
- **28 hrs of Fire Training**
- **2 hrs of Fire Prevention Inspections**

### 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.**





# Code Enforcement Weekly Activity

## Property Maintenance

- 3 follow up cases
- 2 new cases

## Miscellaneous

- 2 found bicycles
- 2 community contacts
- 3 contacts regarding living in RV's
- 2 patrol assists

## Parking Violations

- 6 abandoned vehicles tagged
- 2 vehicles marked for overtime parking

## Animal Violations and Complaints

- 2 dogs impounded
- 1 aggressive dog
- 2 aggressive dog hearings scheduled
- 1 animal welfare check

## Public Works: Street Department



← Crews continue to prepare streets for this year's Chipseal Project. Here, the crew is working on Resort Street between Campbell and "B" Streets.

A small sink hole was discovered on Madison Street near Geiser-Pollman Park this week. An underground locate was requested for the area. Once the utilities are marked the site will be excavated and repaired. →



Streets in town continue to be swept daily. Pictured left, the sweeper operator is working on Birch Street.

Crews continue to make very good progress on the Washington Street Project.



In the photo below, Street Intersection Survey control points are being used to determine horizontal and vertical location for the new street curb and asphalt overlay.

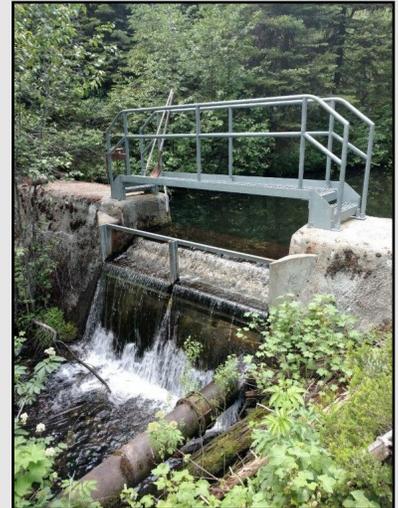
Old deteriorated curbs are being removed on the north side of Washington between Oak and Clark.



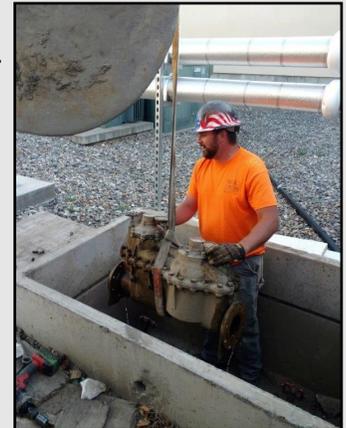
## Public Works: Water Department

Water flows have been adjusted as needed to meet citizen needs. Here the clear water from the Elk Creek Diversion is shown. 

Some damage was done by a vehicle, to the stock gate near the Elk Creek Settling Tank recently. To help direct vehicle drivers in the area, a temporary sign was installed.



The 4" Compound Water Meter at the Saint Alphonus Hospital was replaced last Friday. The old meter was installed in 2001. The meter setter has "bypass" valves so that water could be run through different piping to continue to supply water while the meter is being replaced. As you would think, it would be very difficult for a health care facility to go without water. The valves operated as they were expected. The removal of the old meter and replacement with the new magnetic (Mag) meter went just as planned.





## Public Works: Wastewater Department



The new wastewater line for Silver Birch Estates was cleaned and video-inspected this week. The development extends from Birch Street between "D" and "E" Streets easterly to the Freeway. It is expected to have 21 building sites.



An old wastewater lateral was video-inspected Wednesday to determine where the grade would be low enough to serve a newly constructed house. A section of adjusted pipe grade will likely be required to serve the house.

A "rosy" sky over Baker Valley Wednesday evening was indicative of several lightning strikes which were seen during the evening.



### **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>



## KEEP IT LEGAL, KEEP IT SAFE

# LEGAL FIREWORKS IN OREGON

### Includes:

- Novelty Device
- Wheel
- Flitter Sparkler
- Fountains
- Smoke Device
- Ground Spinner



## KEEP IT LEGAL, KEEP IT SAFE

# ILLEGAL FIREWORKS IN OREGON

**Illegal:** Any firework that flies into the air, explodes, or behaves in an uncontrollable and unpredictable manner.



**Warning label may say:**  
"Shoots Flaming Balls."

**Oregon Laws Violated:**  
ORS 480.120 Violation

**Charged:**  
Class B Misdemeanor





# 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