



The WEEKLY

September 9th, 2022

The latest news, views, and announcements of Baker City.

INSIDE

BURN BAN IN EFFECT

Fire Chief sends out press release on burn ban.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

September 13th:
Regular Council Meeting
7:00pm



A message from the City Manager...

On Wednesday, Baker County signed a five-year contract with Metro West to provide ambulance services in the Baker County Baker ASA. As we approach October 1, 2022, Metro West is increasing its presence in the ASA. We appreciate their work and willingness to assist even before a contract had been finalized. With a finalized contract Baker City, LifeFlight, and Metro West can now complete preparations for transitioning FireMed customers over to Metro West. I know lots of questions about FireMed and the transition are circulating. The situation with the FireMed memberships has evolved as time has passed. Right now, if you have a FireMed membership, it will automatically roll into a LifeGuard membership for ground transport. Air transport will remain with LifeFlight. If your membership is currently expiring, you should still be able to sign up with FireMed until the end of September, and then the membership will roll into a LifeGuard membership with the other memberships. I anticipate MetroWest LifeGuard will soon become available in this area and people will be able to sign up directly once that is available. We do have a handful of lifetime FireMed memberships which will be reimbursed on a prorated amount. Those individuals can then decide whether they want to sign up for LifeGuard. As mentioned, this is an evolving situation we are working to manage and coordinate now that a contract between Baker County and Metro West is in place.

We are approaching Patriot Day in memory of 9-11. President Biden issued a [Proclamation](#) for Patriot Day on September 10, 2021. May we all remember the tragedy of September 11 and the power of September 12, when we all unified as a nation.

Citizens in our city experienced three structure fires over the last week. This is more like what we normally have in three months. My heart and condolences go out to the families impacted by the fires. Thank you to our Fire Department, our neighboring departments, and the Red Cross for their assistance in handling these incidents. I encourage all of our citizens to be extra careful in your homes. Power strips, electrical cords, and other electrical connections are a common source of ignition for fires. As temperatures drop, wood and gas stoves should be checked and flammables cleared from contact with flames. Now is a good time to check smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. It is far better to never experience a fire because of careful fire prevention. A reminder that wildfires are burning across the state, so be extra careful when enjoying our beautiful outdoors.

I want to also extend our condolences to Britain as they mourn the Death of Queen Elizabeth II. In my lifetime she has always been a consistent face in the United Kingdom.

Have a great weekend. – Jonathan Cannon, City Manager

Finance: Utility/Billing**NEW FINANCE DEPARTMENT HOURS****EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1ST, 2022**

8:30am-4:30pm – closed for lunch at 1:00pm-2:00pm

Building Department**Notice of grant opportunity for structures in the Historic District:**

Every two years, due to our City's status as a "Certified Local Government", we have the opportunity to award funds to property owners for repair/maintenance on historic properties. This is a matching grant opportunity with specific guidelines, and the application window is now open. For more information, please visit the Baker City website, and go to the Historic District Design Review Committee page. You are also welcome to join us at any HDDRC meeting, or call the Building Dept. 541-524-2054.

Planning Department**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- The Baker County Planning Commission held a public hearing on September 6, 2022, and approved a joint Site Plan Review and Variance request from Maverik for a new gas station and convenience store with 42 parking spaces in the General Commercial Zone and Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) of Baker City. The property is located southeast of the I-84 and Hwy 86 intersection and will be accessed via Old Best Frontage and Best Frontage Roads. The appeal period for this decision ends on Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at 5p.m.
- The Baker City Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, September 21, 2022, at City Hall, 1655 1st Street, Baker City, to hear two requests by applicants and property owners, Leonard H., II and Gayle Gazley, which include a Baker City Comprehensive Plan Map and Zone Map Amendment to change the zoning designation of their property from General Industrial (I) to General Commercial (C-G), along with a concurrent Conditional Use Permit to convert an existing building into a dwelling. The ±.55 acre subject property is addressed as 560 Elm Street, Baker City, OR, also identified as Tax Lot 501 of Assessor's Map 09s40e21cd (Ref. 17582). This meeting will be held in person and virtually via Zoom. For more information, please contact Tara Micka at the Planning Department by calling 541-523-8219 or emailing tandrews@bakercounty.org. Notice of this hearing was sent to all property owners within 100-feet of the subject property and affected agencies on September 1, 2022.

APPLICATIONS

- A pre-notice was sent to property owners regarding a proposed co-location of two new microwave antenna on an existing wireless facility located at 1205 Vista Heights Drive, in the Residential-Medium Density (R-MD) Zone. The pre-notice period ends September 22, 2022, at 5p.m.

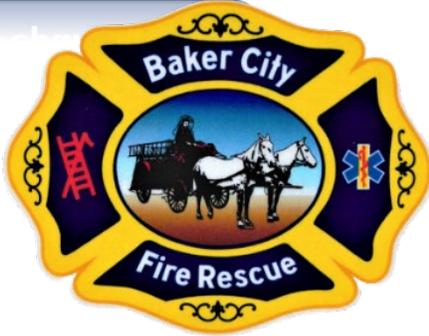
Police Department**BCPD Weekly Report**

BCPD handled over 188 incidents and opened 33 new cases this past week. Amongst those cases:

- o BCPD personnel opened an aggressive dog case where an officer had to Taser a dog to prevent being bit after the dog was reported trying to attack a female child.
- o BCPD personnel investigated multiple (6) theft reports
- o BCPD personnel responded to 18 suspicious situation situations and 19 disturbances.
- o BCPD personnel made multiple Warrants / Detainer arrests
- o BCPD responded to a (injury) motor vehicle vs Pedestrian crash at 1190 Campbell Street Community Bank), investigation is on-going.

- BCPD personnel participated in several briefing trainings, including a review of various Officer Safety topics and legal updates

Fire Department



MAINTENANCE/TRAINING/ FIRE PREVENTION - INSPECTIONS/ COMMUNITY EVENTS

17.0 Hrs. Station and vehicle maintenance

01 Hrs.	Fire training
04Hrs.	EMS training
00 Hrs.	Safety training
01	Fire Prevention/Inspections
00hrs	Community Events
00	Residential Burn Permits

08/30/2022-09/05/2022

EMERGENCY RESPONSES

The Baker City Fire Department emergency alarms detailed as follows:

FIRE REPORTS	08
General alarms	02
Dispatched alarms	06
EMERGENCY MEDICAL	06
In-City Responses	05
Out of City Responses	01
Transports	03
No Transports	03
Airport Transfers	00
Out of town transfers accepted	00
Out of town Transfers rejected	00
MVA's	01
Doubles (2 simultaneous)	00
Triples (3 simultaneous)	01
Quads (4 simultaneous)	00
MCI's	00
Public assist	00
EMS Assist	02
Emergency Call Back	
Requests for cover	00
# of staff requested	00
Staff response for cover	00
No staff response for cover	00



Baker City Fire Department
1616 2nd St.
Baker City, OR. 97814

PRESS RELEASE

Burning Ban in Effect

On July 28, 2022

Baker City will implement residential burning ban beginning 5pm, Thursday, July 28, 2022.

This includes all burn barrels and open burn piles.

This closure does not include cooking fires, BBQ's, grills, or smokers. However; use extreme caution when using fire or outdoor cooking. Please, use fire safe practices when cooking and/or using outdoor BBQ's. Have a fire extinguisher nearby or a garden hose ready.

Baker City Fire Department will not issue burn permits until the closure is lifted.

Sean Lee
Fire Chief
Baker City Fire Department

Public Works:

WATER-WISE LANDSCAPING: REDUCE GRASS AND SAVE WATER

In the summertime, the majority of residential water goes to maintaining lawns and gardens. By making some changes to your landscape, you can help Baker City reduce water demand, which is especially important during these ongoing drought conditions.

What is Water-Wise Landscaping?

Water-wise landscaping—also known as xeriscaping—is the practice of landscape design that uses a combination of drought-tolerant plants and water-efficient irrigation practices to reduce overall water use. The result is a beautiful yard that attracts pollinators, creates habitat for birds, and helps to decrease demand on our community's vital and limited water supplies during the drought.

Here are some ways you can incorporate the principles of water-wise landscaping into your yard:

Reduce your lawn size by adding low-water-use border plants, shrubs, and trees. Once established, these plants will need little to no irrigation water in the summer. You can also incorporate hardscaped elements, such as stone or gravel pathways, pavers, and rock gardens.

Group plants with similar water needs together to simplify watering. For example, succulents and cacti are a good choice for the harder-to-water areas of your lawn. Plants that need more attention, such as vegetables and flowers, should be closer to your water source.

Use **soil amendments**, such as compost, peat moss, or manure, to improve soil quality and drainage, and add **mulches** to reduce evaporation and to keep the soil cool.

Irrigate efficiently by applying the right amount of water at the right time. Avoid watering in the middle of the day when water evaporates faster. It's also important to use the right tools, such as drip irrigation and soaker hoses for shrubs and garden beds and sprinklers that keep water close to the ground for lawns.

Water-wise landscaping doesn't have to be all or nothing. Start small by focusing on the areas of your lawn that are hard to maintain or are rarely used, such as steep slopes or areas near driveways or sidewalks that are difficult to water efficiently. Replacing these areas with beautiful, low-maintenance native or low-water-use plants can make a big difference in your water usage!

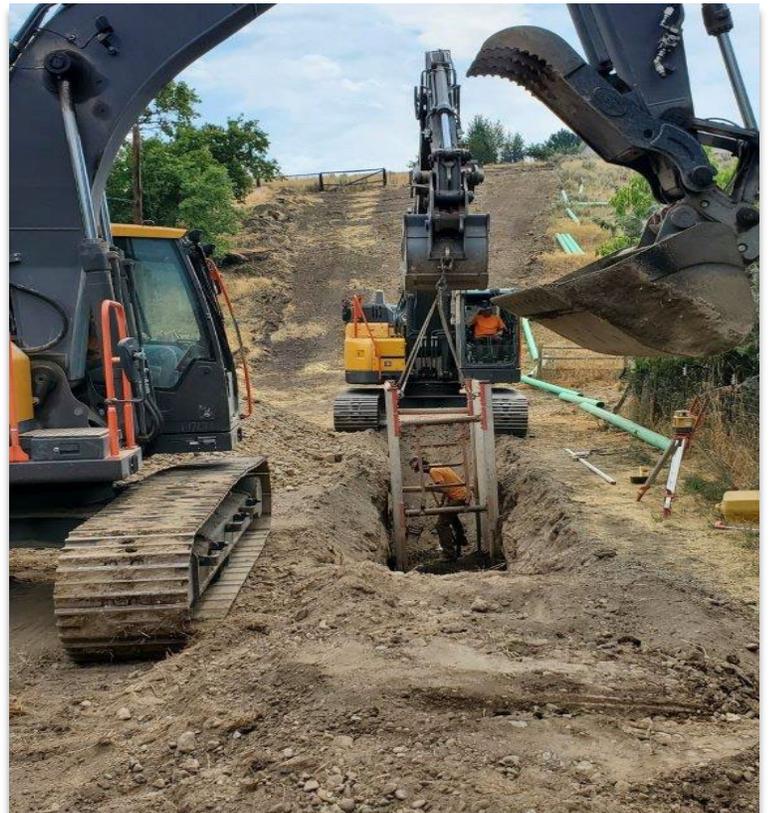
Public Works:

Public Works Weekly Update for 9/9/22



Public works crews are forming a new ADA curb on second street.

Public works crews are laying a new wastewater main on 13th street.



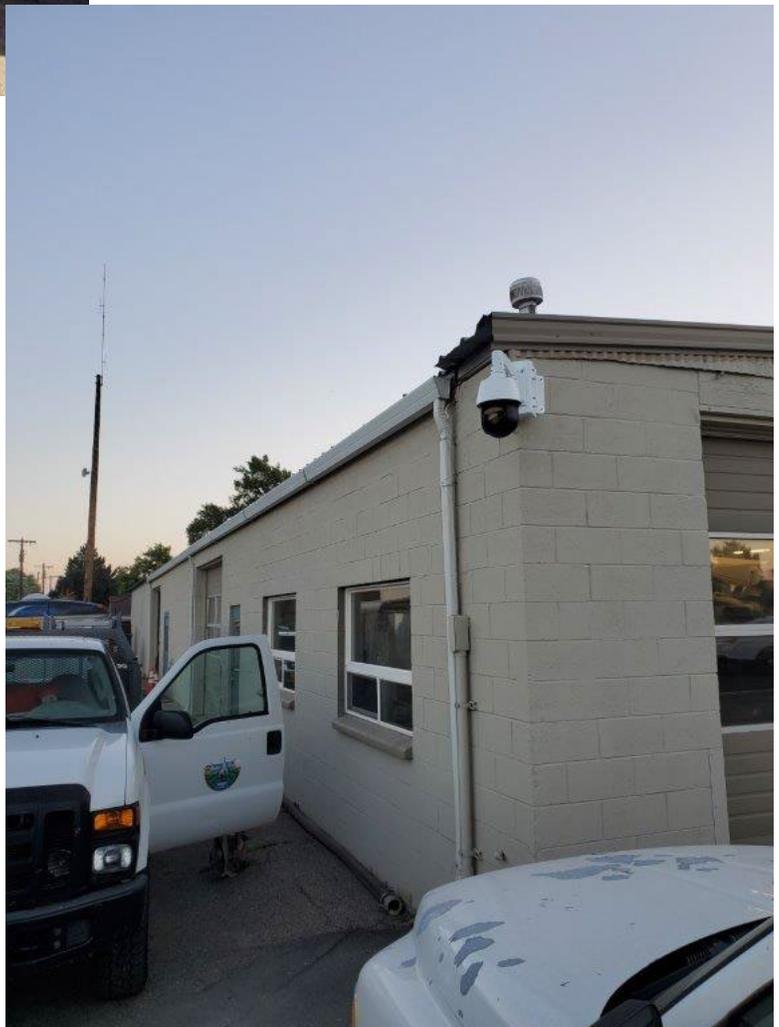
City crews have started the yearly maintenance on Sam-O Swim Center.



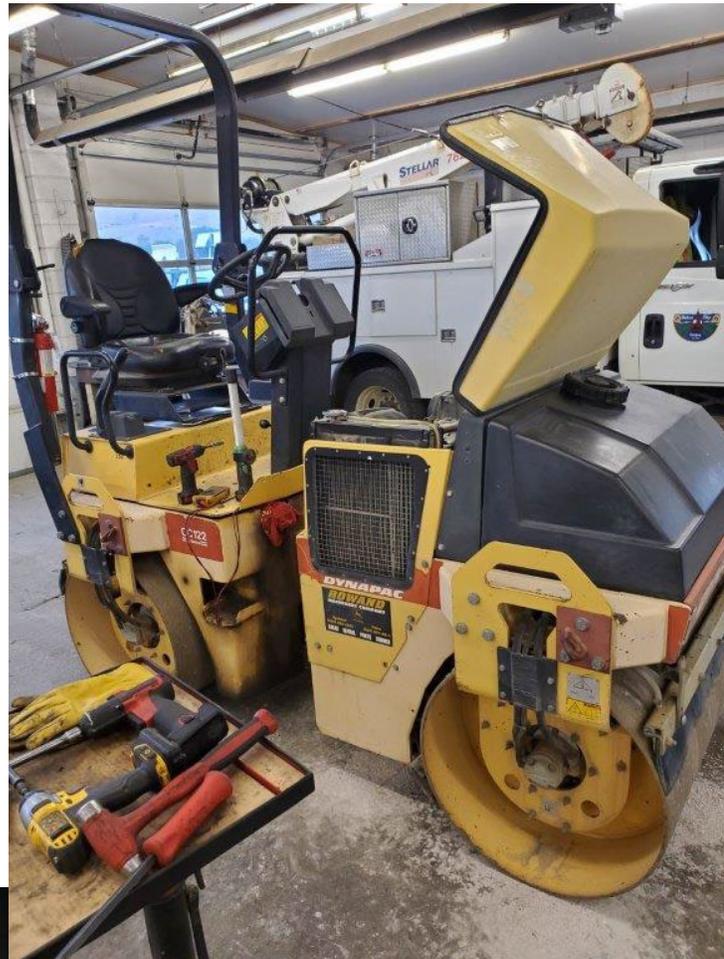


Here crews are getting ready to pour a new manhole for the new wastewater main on 13th street.

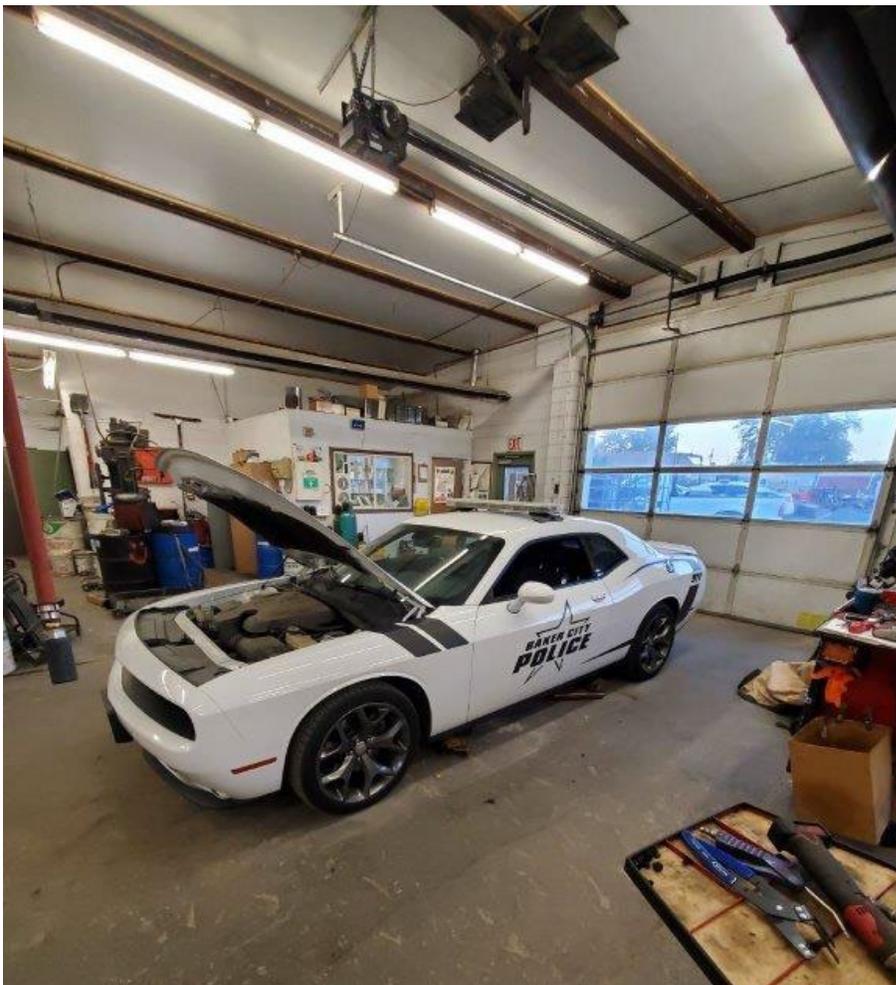
Due to many recent break-ins at the public works warehouse new cameras are being installed.



The shop crew is repairing the glow plugs on the steel drum roller.



Shop crews are doing some minor maintenance to this police vehicle.



Have a great weekend!

Elected Officials

Mayor: Kerry McQuisten mayor@bakercity.gov

Acting Mayor: Joanna Dixon jdixon@bakercity.gov

Shane Alderson: salderson@bakercity.gov

Jason Spriet: jspriet@bakercity.gov

Johnny Waggoner Sr.: jwaggonersr@bakercity.gov

Dean Guyer: dguyer@bakercity.gov

Kenyon Damschen: kdamschen@bakercity.gov

