

CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail. Established 1874

Weekly Update April 1, 2016

Administration:



A question was received this week asking about the purpose of utility franchise fees. These fees are established through agreements between a utility provider and a local government. These fees are common and utility companies will often pay each other to use existing poles or conduit to place their utilities. The franchise agreements ensure that companies receiving special use of the public rights-of-ways are paying

fees to reimburse local governments for the use of public services and to prevent general taxpayers from subsidizing extraordinary use. In cities where space is an issue utility companies frequently place their utilities in the public rights-of-ways. You will find telephone and gas lines under almost every street and sidewalk in town. You may notice poles carrying electrical lines running down many alleys or in the rights-of-ways along city streets. There are several reasons why utility companies choose public rights-of-ways over private property:

- The requirements of work in public ways may be less than private, allowing utility companies to control the cost of projects;
- Instead of negotiating costs and easements or purchasing property that cross many different private properties, utilities have negotiated with local governments on the rules and costs to place utilities in the public rights-of-ways;
- A private property owner could stop a project and not allow a utility to cross their property; however, franchise agreements will allow utilities to always use the public rights-of-ways.

The City of Baker City has a great relationship and works closely with all of our local utility companies.

Finance:

Utilities

- ◆ 9 customers signed up for new water/wastewater service and 9 customers disconnected service from March 25th through March 31st. This includes all service changes.
- ◆ Zone 4 was billed March 28th which included 715 residential and 60 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 171 or 22% are signed up for direct payment.
- ◆ 66 late notices were sent March 29th.
- ◆ Five residential customers (Zone 3) were scheduled to have their water turned off for non-pay (over 60 days past due); one customer was actually turned off until their past due balance was paid.

Accounts Payable - The second of two accounts payable check runs for the month of March was generated March 29th.

City Council

April 12th Agenda Items:

- * Arbor Day Presentation
- * Council Goals
- * Capital Plans



BUILDING DEPARTMENT



RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS:

- ◆ No new residential permits were issued this week.



COMMERCIAL PROJECTS:

- ◆ No new commercial permits were issued this week.

Permits

	Permits Issued City	Inspections City	Permits Issued County	Inspections County
BUILDING	0	0	0	3
MANUFACTURED	0	0	0	3
ELECTRICAL	1	0	2	8
MECHANICAL	0	3	0	0
PLUMBING	2	4	0	0
FENCE	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	3	7	2	14

Historic District

Design and

Review Commission

No new information this week.



PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Public Meetings

The next regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting will be held on April 20th at 7:00 p.m. Anyone who is interested is welcome to attend.

Projects and Land Use Decisions

- ◆ An application for a Lot of Record and Land Use Review for a new single family dwelling at 1610 Balm Street has been approved.
- ◆ A Land Use Review for a detached garage at 1010 Resort Street has been approved.
- ◆ A Land Use Review for a new single family dwelling at 1712 Broadway has been approved.
- ◆ DMV Certification for Auto Sales for Gentry Dodge was approved at 1304 Campbell Street.



The mission of the Baker City Fire Department is to protect the community through quality preparation and excellent service.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the week of March 13th– 19th, the Fire Department responded to a total of **41** emergency alarms.



AMBULANCE OPERATIONS

City Calls	24
Rural Calls	13
Patient Transported	25
No Patient Trip	12

TOTAL MEDIC RESPONSES **37**

Airport Transfers	2
Out of Town Transfers	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	5
Simultaneous Calls	5

FIRE REPORTS

General Alarms	1
Dispatched Alarms	3

TOTAL FIRE **4**

- Fire – 7th St. / Burn complaint
- Fire – General alarm / Medical Springs / Mutual aid
- Fire – Auburn Ave. / Malfunctioning appliance
- Fire – Broadway & 10th / Grass fire

TRAINING/MAINTENANCE

This week the BCFD completed **64** hours of in-house training:

- Fire – Interpretive Center pre-fire planning, mobile water supply training, wildland refresher training
- EMS – EMT training

STATION MAINTENANCE

18 hours of station, apparatus, equipment maintenance, and other activities.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Additional Services to the community:

- BP checks at the senior center
- Business inspections
- Kindergarten Friendly Firefighter Program



The Fire Department provides free blood pressure readings at the Senior Center every Tuesday, at 11 am.

Don't miss the next check on April 5th.



"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

- ★ In another busy week, BCPD handled over 140 incidents and opened 43 new cases.
Ten of these cases resulted in investigations of thefts. BCPD would like to remind property owners to secure their property around their properties and in their vehicles.
Six additional cases resulted in arrests for outstanding warrants.
- ★ BCPD personnel also investigated a narcotics case, which resulted in the arrest of a local man for conspiring to deliver Methamphetamine and for possession of Methamphetamine.
- ★ Sergeant Chastain and Capa were certified on Monday of this week. On Tuesday they deployed on a car and are awaiting a search warrant. On Wednesday they deployed on another vehicle for OSP and narcotics were seized in that search.
- ★ BCPD personnel had lunch with the children in Head Start this week.
- ★ Chief Lohner participated in the Baker County Transportation Safety Committee meeting.
- ★ BCPD personnel participated in several briefing trainings, including a review of various officer safety topics.
- ★ BCPD Administrative Assistant/Car Seat Technician Phoebe Wachtel continues to assist families with car seat installations each week.

Property Maintenance

Started 1 new case
Followed up on 3 old cases

Animal Violations and Complaints

1 dog in custody impounded
Issued 1 citation for no dog license
Followed up on 3 animal complaints

Dangerous Dog

Followed up on 1 old case

Livestock Permit

Followed up on 1 case

Kennel Permit

Approved 1 application for renewal

Parking

1 abandoned vehicle orange tagged for removal
Issued 3 parking citations
Followed up on 2 parking complaints

Found Items

1 found bicycle

Graffiti

Followed up with 3 violations



Public Works

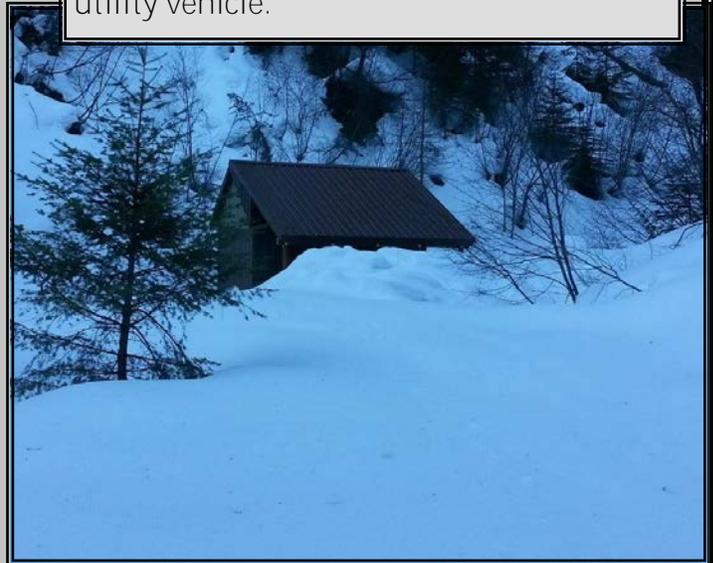


Glen applied stain to the pathway markers this week to improve their appearance and prolong their life. Below are the “before” and “after” appearances of the marker at the start of the pathway at Hughes Lane.

Jake reinstalled a measuring device at the Marble Creek Diversion structure on Wednesday. Snowpack is still substantial at the diversion structure. It was important to go early in the morning while temperatures were still cool enough to support the weight of the utility vehicle.



A cursory check of the 67,000 Scenic Vista Tank showed that the supporting retaining wall and embankment is in excellent shape.



Natural aeration was ongoing this week at the wastewater treatment facility. To the right is the windsock indicating the strong winds.





Public Works - Wastewater



Work began this week to replace a malfunctioning wastewater manhole located at the intersection of Place and Balm Streets. Due to poor condition, maintenance was required weekly. To the left, the loader and asphalt zipper are being used to pulverize the asphalt surrounding the manhole.

A John Deere 200c Trackhoe had to be rented in order to lift the 10,000+ pound manhole from the excavation.



Karl and Tip used the high pressure nozzle on the Vector truck to remove material from around the manhole.



Residents were contacted and very cooperative during the re-installment time from eight to noon Tuesday morning. The lines were connected and Justin, Tip and Scott shaped a concrete manhole rise to clean lines and inspect in the future. The manhole was completed but the concrete surrounding it will need time to cure before it can withstand the weight of additional components of the concrete ring completing the manhole construction.



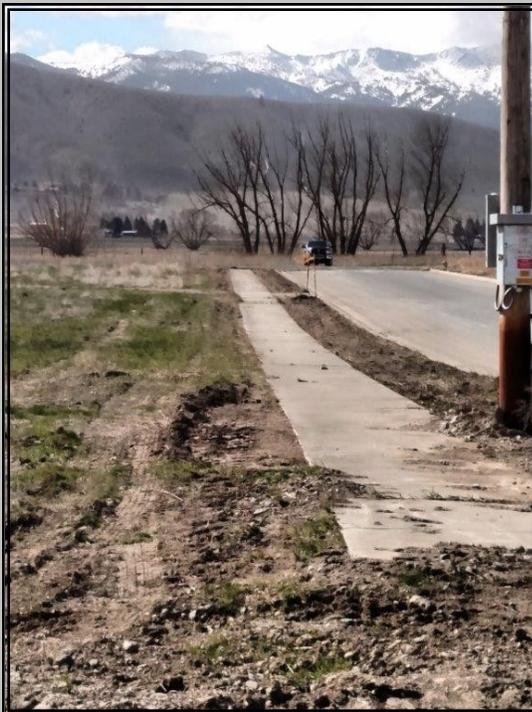


Public Works – Street



Crew worked last Friday and Monday to clean up E Street and the adjacent sidewalk. The grader was used to scrape the gutter line and the Elgin sweeper swept up the debris. It snowed briefly during part of this project.

To the right, Blain is pictured loading debris into a dump truck which Matt was driving.



The sidewalk is once again visible and accessible to pedestrians on E Street.

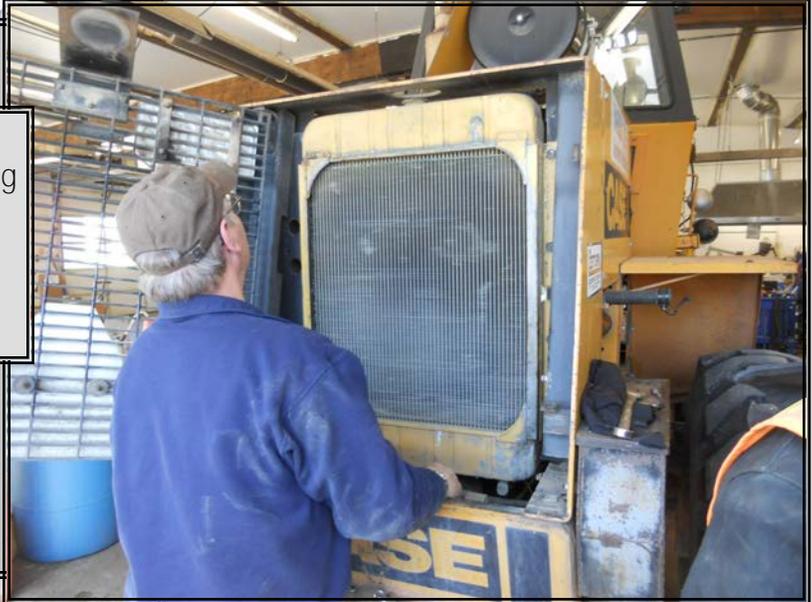


Public Works –Shop



Wes and Doug went to Pineview Road and ran the caterpillar for a while to find the leaks. They repaired a fuel leak and found a missing plate off the injection pump.

The radiator was leaking on the equipment to the right. Wes and Doug found several leaks. Cook's Radiator Shop will actually be repairing the radiator and Wes and Doug will be reinstalling parts afterwards.



A water truck was having problems with a leaking plug this week. Blain is pictured to the left tapping the threads and reinstalling the plug.