

CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail. Established 1874

Weekly Update September 2, 2016

Administration:

The City and the YMCA have agreed on a new contract that allows the YMCA to operate the Sam-O Swim Center for the coming year. However, the pool will close on the 3rd of September for maintenance. The good news is that we are installing a new boiler system, upgrading the showers and doing some caulking work which will enhance the swimming experience for the future. The pool is scheduled to reopen on October 3rd .

As many of you saw, we are still in the fire season. The blaze up Griffin Gulch on Wednesday night is a stark reminder that fire season is in full swing. It was really great seeing the firefighting community attack the fire and provide the resources to contain it before it affected the homes in the Griffin Gulch area. The fire had the potential to move very close to the South Baker City limits. Additionally, if the winds would have changed, it could have headed towards the watershed.

The end of summer is at hand. Enjoy the Labor Day Weekend. If you are headed to the woods, be extremely careful out there. If you are headed to the festivities in Huntington or Halfway, drive safely. Have a great holiday weekend.

Finance:

Utilities

- ◆ Nine customers signed up for new water/wastewater service and ten customers disconnected service from August 26th through September 1st. This includes all service changes.
- ◆ Zone 3 was billed Monday which included 493 residential and 51 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 89 or 16% are signed up for direct payment.
- ◆ Five residential customers (Zone 8) were scheduled to have their water turned off for non-pay (over 60 days past due) four were actually turned off until their past due balance was paid.

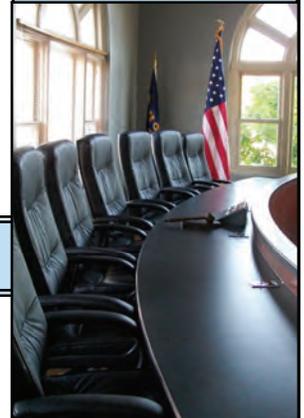
Accounts Payable

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

City Council

September 13th Agenda Items:

- Cured in Place Pipe Bid Award
- Pipe Bursting Contract Award
- Charter Franchise Ordinance
- Golf Course Manager Contract
- Parks and Recreation Board Appointment





Planning Department:

Public Meetings: The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on September 21st to discuss potential updates to the Baker City Development Code. Some proposed changes include revisions to the Sign Code and preliminary plat requirements.

Projects and Land Use Decisions:

- A ±470 square foot addition to an existing building was approved. The addition is to create a tool room at the Powder River Correctional Facility, located at 3600 13th Street located in Commercial General (C-G) Zone.
- A ±132 square foot addition to an existing single-family dwelling was approved at 2023 Balm Street in the Residential – Medium Density (R-MD) Zone.
- A Sign Permit was approved for replacement of five existing wall signs at 2505 Broadway Avenue. The property is owned by The Salvation Army Corp., and is located within the Commercial General (C-G) Zone.
- A ±506 square foot carport to be attached to an existing single-family dwelling was approved at 3665 9th Drive, in the Residential – Medium Density (R-MD) Zone.
- A re-plat application (RP-16-074) has been sent out for interdepartmental review for the proposed re-plat of an existing property into two parcels. The property is 3925 Grace Street, also known as Tax Lot 801 of Map 09s40e19ad in the Residential – Medium Density (R-MD) Zone. The proposed re-plat seeks to separate four grass tennis courts from an existing single-family dwelling.
- Land Use Review (LUR-16-077) was sent out for interdepartmental review on September 1st, 2016. The applicant is requesting approval to build a new storage shed, located at 3710 Baker Street in the Residential Medium-Density (R-MD) Zone.
- Land Use Review (LUR-16-078) was sent out for interdepartmental review on September 1st, 2016. The applicant is requesting approval to build an addition to an existing restaurant located at 1385 F Street in the Commercial – General (C-G) Zone.

Building Department

COMMERCIAL PERMITS:

- 520 E 3rd Street, Huntington – Structural installation of fire alarm system

	Permits Issued City	Inspections City	Permits Issued County	Inspections County
Building	3	5	4	12
Manufactured Dwelling	0	2	1	1
Electrical	8	13	6	8
Mechanical	1	1	2	5
Plumbing	1	2	3	5
Fence	3	NA	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	16	23	16	31

RESIDENTIAL PERMITS:

- 41546 Washington Gulch Rd, Baker City – Interior residential remodel
- 46366 Slaughterhouse Rd, Baker City – 68 x 48 detached garage w/ lean-to's
- 707 N. Granite Hwy, Sumpter – 24 x 36 detached pole barn
- 1912 Balm Street, Baker City – 24 x 40 detached garage
- 960 17th Street, Baker City – new residence



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 August 20th - August 20th, the Fire Department responded to a total of

33 emergency alarms.

AMBULANCE OPERATIONS

City Calls	22
Rural Calls	6
Patient Transported	23
No Patient Trip	5

TOTAL MEDIC RESPONSES 28

FIRE REPORTS

General Alarms	1
Dispatched Alarms	4

TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES 5



Airport Transfers	0
Out of Town Transfers	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	0
Simultaneous Calls	1
Triple Calls	0

- Fire – Baker / Burn complaint
- Fire – 10th / Structure fire
- Fire – Cedar / False alarm
- Fire – Campbell / Vehicle fire
- General Alarm – Mutual Aid to Bowen Valley / Grass fire

TRAINING/MAINTENANCE

This week the BCFD completed **8** hours of in-house training.

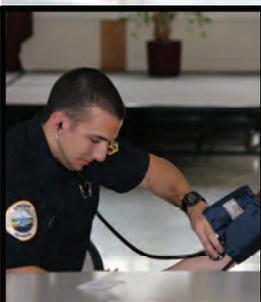
Fire – Wildland incident command

STATION MAINTENANCE

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

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- ◆ BP checks at the senior center
- ◆ Business inspections



The Fire Department provides free blood pressure readings at the Senior Center every Tuesday, at 11 am. Don't miss the next check on September 6th.



"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**



BCPD handled over **200** incidents and opened **27** new cases this past week.

- ☛ One of those cases resulted in the arrest of a Baker City woman for multiple fraud charges, to include a charge of Aggravated Identity Theft
- ☛ Five of these cases initiated investigations of alleged thefts
- ☛ Four of these cases resulted in arrests for outstanding warrants and one for a probation violation

- ☛ 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.

Code Enforcement Weekly Activity

Property Maintenance

Followed up on 3 old cases

Animal violations and complaints

Issued 1 citation for barking violation

Issued 1 citation for no dog license

1 dog at large returned to owner

Followed up on 2 dog at large violations

Followed up with 5 animal complaints

1 new Dangerous dog case

Parking

Orange tagged 5 abandoned vehicles

Issued 1 parking citation

Followed up with 5 violations

Impounded 2 vehicles for parking hazard

Weeds

Followed up on 3 weed violations

Development Code Violations

Followed up with 1 Temporary Use Permit violation

City Code

Followed up with 2 tree complaints

Followed up with 1 sidewalk complaint

Kennel Permits

Checked 1 current permit for compliance

Approved 1 new application

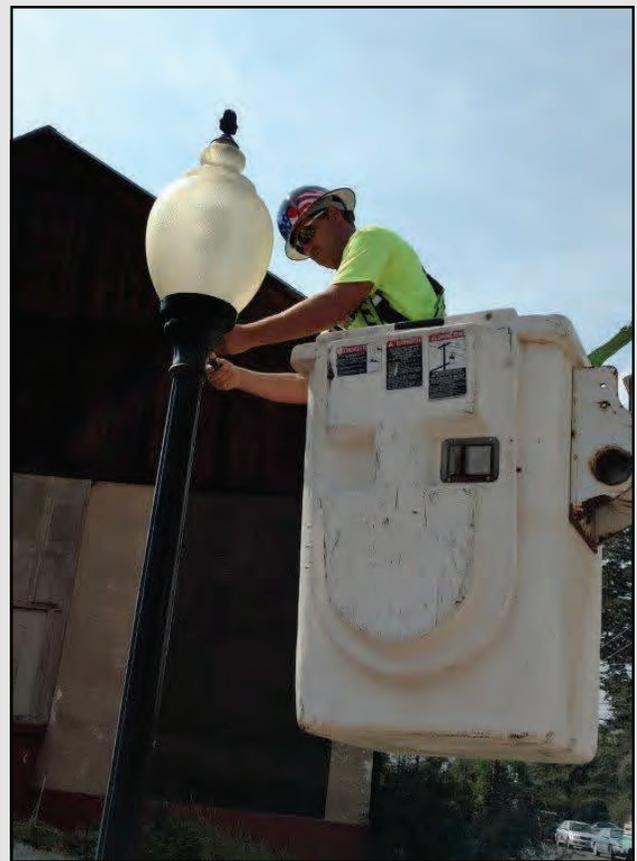


Public Works-Street



Two new LED street light bulbs were installed Thursday. One (70 watt) was installed in a Post Top fixture at the intersection of 2nd and Dewey Avenue. The other (40 watt) was installed in a street light at the intersection of 7th and Place. Although these bulbs are rated at a lesser wattage than the bulbs they replaced, they are brighter, use less energy and last longer than standard bulbs.

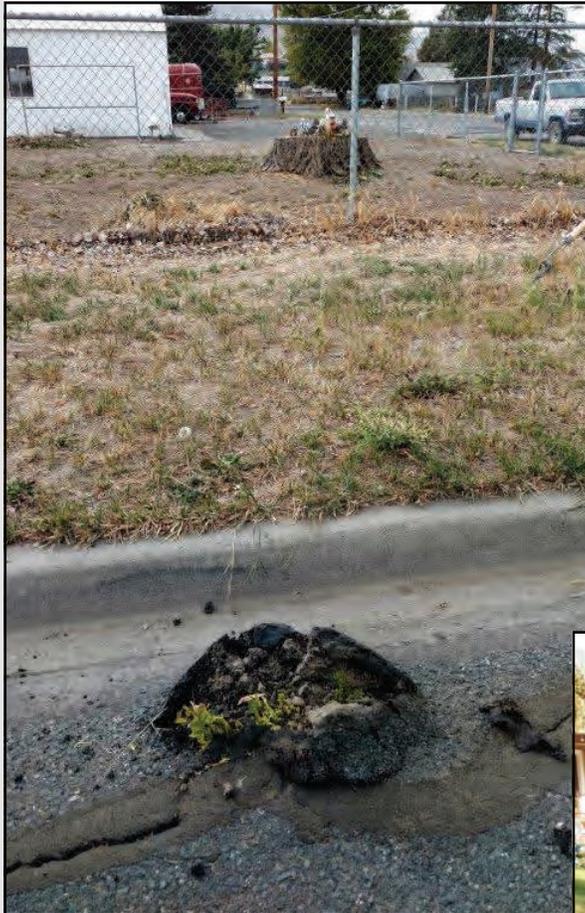
To the right, Dennis is pictured installing A 70 Watt LED bulb in the post top fixture at the intersection of 2nd and Dewey Avenue.



To the left, Dennis is pictured installing a 40 watt bulb in the street light at the intersection of 7th and Place.



Public Works-Street Cont.



A citizen stopped into the Baker City warehouse this week to report that there appeared to be an eruption through the asphalt of a city street in South Baker. Upon going to the site it was discovered that it wasn't a geological event but simply tree roots forcing their way through the asphalt in a search for sunlight. Here you can see the tree in the background which had been cut down a few months earlier and the roots which had traveled substantial distance before penetrating through the street surface. I believe this species of tree is a "Poplar" tree. The roots will be removed and the area repaired before the end of the month.

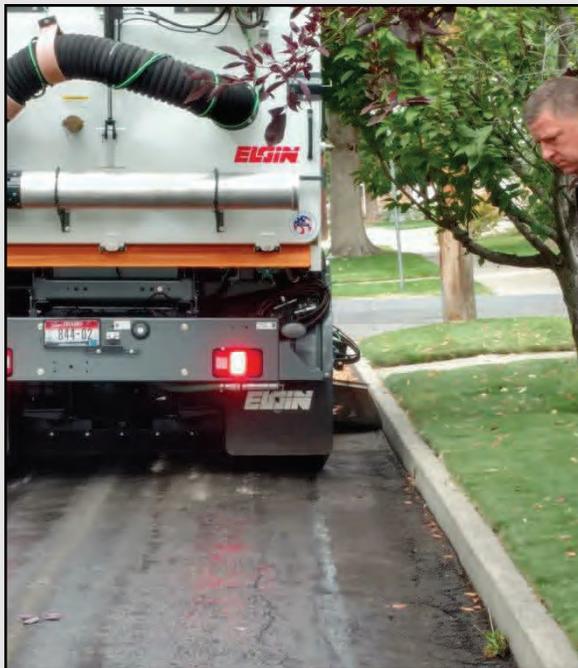


Another section of city street (Main Street between "A" and "B" Streets) which had been damaged from a tree was repaired this week. The curb, street and sidewalk had been raised several inches which created a trip hazard for pedestrians and impeded rain water from traveling north down the curb line. Above, Justin (in mini-excavator) and Blain keep a close eye on the decorative blocks begin removing the damaged curb. The "thumb" attachment is quite useful for removing heavy cumbersome items. Curb forms were built and the next morning concrete was poured for the new curb. To the left, Justin, Matt and Blain (in background) work to strip the wooden form boards.



Public Works-Street Cont.

Baker city plans to purchase a new street sweeper this fiscal year. The current sweeper is 12 years old. There comes a point over the years when maintenance and repair costs exceed productivity returns. This week an Elgin Crosswind Sweeper was demonstrated to city staff. To the right, Steve is operating the new sweeper.



City Engineer, Doug Schwin, scrutinized the gutter line after the sweeper had passed.

There was a major threat to the Baker City Watershed this week as a fire began burning near the head of Griffin Gulch. Griffin Gulch is a 5 mile long creek drainage situated just north of Elk Creek (one of Baker City's drinking water sources). Several agencies combined forces and quickly responded to the fire with air and ground forces to fight the blaze. Level III evacuation notices were issued to residents living in the area. No homes were lost in the fire. Here you can see a Borate Bomber dropping a load of fire suppressant onto the fire. Other planes and helicopters worked to stop the fire.





Public Works-Shop



Wes and Scott serviced the fire engine. They are repairing the air conditioner and adjusting the main pump for fire suppression. They expect it to be back in service later today.

Wes and Scott are replacing the front brake pads and rotors on a police patrol car.



Scott adjusted the throttle linkage for the auxiliary throttle.



Due to current fire restrictions, the Baker City Watershed is closed to all hunters at this time and hunting access permits are not being issued.

The Watershed will remain closed until the fire danger is classified as “[Low](#)” or “[Moderate](#)”. Please call (541) 524-2047 if you have any questions.