

# CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail. Established 1874

## *Weekly Update April 28, 2017*

### **Administration:**

The City Council met this week and received the Tree City of the Year Award from the Oregon Department of Forestry. This honor recognizes the City's hard work in maintaining a robust tree program within the City.

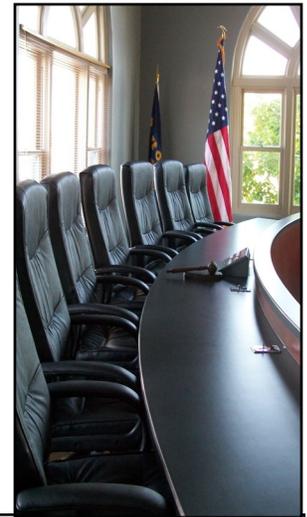
The City has lost the hard drive which accommodates our voice mail system. Our voice mail system is operated via this hard drive. We are working diligently to try to bring it back on line but the cost of the drive is over \$12,000. We are hoping to come up with a cost effective common sense way to bring our voice mail back on line. If no on answers, please keep trying.

Let's hope that May brings us some warmer weather. Have a great weekend.

### **City Council**

#### **May 9th Agenda Items:**

- TBD



### **Finance:**

#### **Utilities**

- ◆ Zone 4, which included 709 residential and 60 commercial accounts, was billed on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Of those accounts 176 or 23% are signed up for direct payment.
- ◆ Zone 8, which included 465 residential and 19 commercial accounts, was billed today. Of those accounts 101 or 21% are signed up for direct payment.
- ◆ Twenty-two customers signed up for new water/wastewater service and thirteen customers disconnected service from April 21<sup>st</sup> thru April 27<sup>th</sup>. This includes all service changes.
- ◆ Five customers (Zone 7) were scheduled to have their services disconnected for non-pay. Three of those customers had their services disconnected until their past due balance was paid.

#### **Payroll**

Seventy-five employees were paid today including eight paid volunteer firefighters and the dangerous dog hearings officer. Of those 75 employees, 69 or 92% are signed up for direct deposit.



**Announcements:**

	Permits Issued City	Inspections City	Permits Issued County	Inspections County
Building	7	6	4	12
Manufactured Dwelling	0	0	0	1
Electrical	6	16	7	6
Mechanical	7	9	3	1
Plumbing	7	7	4	3
Fence	1	NA	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>23</b>

**RESIDENTIAL PERMITS:**

- 1331 3rd St., Baker City—internal structural repair due to water damage
- 2505 Indiana Ave., Baker City—structural modification, window removal
- 3060 College St., Baker City—garage modification
- 18089 Cottonwood Ln., Baker City—addition of garage and lean-to
- 2690 Court St., Baker City—addition of carport

**COMMERCIAL PERMITS:**

- 1935 Valley St., Baker City—tenant improvements
- 2730 Balm St., Baker City—foundation only for existing shed

**HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW:** Next meeting is scheduled for May 3, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. in the Building Department Office.

**Planning Department:**

**Public Meetings**

- ◆ The Planning Commission’s next meeting will be held on May 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Baker County Courthouse. The Planning Commission will consider a proposal for a re-plat of a subdivision at 3100 H Street in the General Commercial Zone.

**Land Use Decisions & Projects**

- ◆ A ±1,080 square foot detached garage was approved at 2895 5<sup>th</sup> Street in the Residential – High Density (R-HD) Zone.
- ◆ A ±660 square foot detached garage was approved at 1995 17<sup>th</sup> Street in the Residential – Medium Density (R-MD) Zone.
- ◆ A ±220 square foot attached carport was approved at 1520 3<sup>rd</sup> Street in the Residential – Medium Density (R-MD) Zone.
- ◆ A ±1,176 square foot accessory structure was approved at 2510 Indiana Avenue in the Residential – Medium Density (R-MD) Zone.
- ◆ A ±1,440 square foot greenhouse was approved at 39103 Pocahontas Road in the Commercial-General (C-G) Zone.
- ◆ A ±435 square foot carport was approved at 2690 Court Street in the Residential High Density (R-HD) Zone.



The mission of the Baker City Fire Department is to provide dependable and efficient emergency services.

# FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the week of April 9th to April 15th the Fire Department responded to a total of **23** emergency alarms.

## AMBULANCE OPERATIONS

City Calls	11
Rural Calls	8
Patient Transported	7
No Patient Trip	12

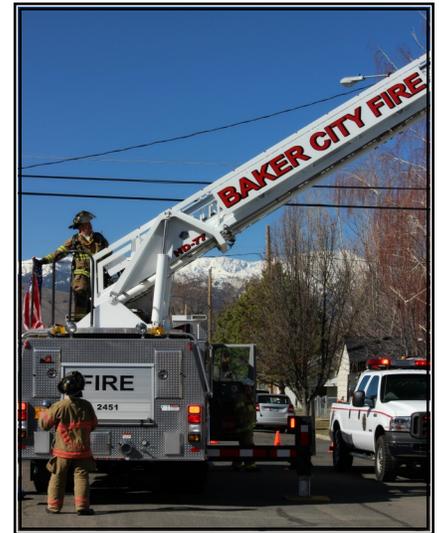
## TOTAL MEDIC RESPONSES 19

Airport Transfers	0
Out of Town Transfers	0
Motor Vehicle Accidents	0
Simultaneous Calls	1
Triple Calls	0
Public Assist	7

## FIRE REPORTS

General Alarms	0
Dispatched Alarms	4
<b>TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES</b>	<b>4</b>

- ◆ Elm Street– Gas Leak
- ◆ 4th Street– Elevator Entrapment
- ◆ 3rd Street–Odor Investigation

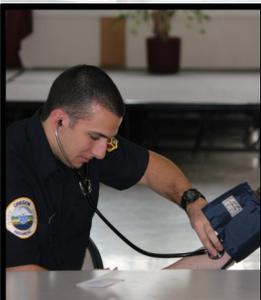


## EMERGENCY CALL BACKS

Requests for Cover	11
Personnel Arrived for Cover	3
Incidents Not Covered	8

## TRAINING/MAINTENANCE/FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTIONS/COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **34** hrs of Station and Equipment Maintenance
- **38** hrs of Fire/EMS or Safety Training
- **17.5** hrs of Fire Prevention 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 May 3rd.



*"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 145 incidents and opened 33 new cases this past week.
  - Eight of these were commercial burglaries, which are still being investigated.
  - Three cases resulted in arrests for outstanding warrants and two were for probation violations.
- ★ BCPD is investigating the death of a two month old baby.
- ★ BCPD is also investigating the report of a sexual assault.
- ★ Chief Lohner completed several updates to the policy manual.
- ★ 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.

On **April 29th, 2017 from 10am to 2pm** the Baker City Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will give the public another opportunity to prevent prescription drug abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Bring your medications for safe disposal to the Police Department located at 1768 Auburn Avenue, Baker City, Oregon on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> from 10am -2pm. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

For more information, please contact: Administrative Assistant, Phoebe Wachtel at (541) 524-2014, ext. 20 or Evidence Technician, Lynn Magnuson at (541) 524-2014, ext. 29.

### **Code Enforcement Weekly Activity**

#### **Property Maintenance**

- Followed up on 3 pending cases
- Issued 2 citations for non-compliance

#### **Parking Violations and Complaints**

- Issued 1 parking citation
- Followed up on 6 violations
- Orange tagged 1 abandoned vehicle

#### **Animal Violations and Complaints**

- 2 dogs at large returned to owner
- Followed up on 4 animal complaints
- Issued 1 citation for no livestock permit

#### **Miscellaneous**

- 1 found item



## Public Works: Tree Board



Mayor Downing presented Tree Board members and staff with Baker City’s annual Arbor Day proclamation. This year Baker City is celebrating its 32<sup>nd</sup> as a Tree City USA through the Arbor Day Foundation. Only five other

This is also the fourth year that Baker City has received the Growth Award from the Arbor Day Foundation.

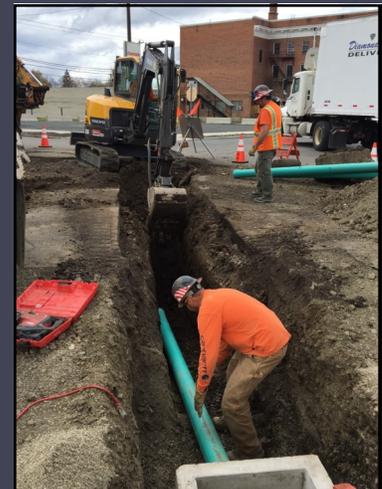
At Tuesday’s meeting the City Council and Tree Board members were also presented with a very special recognition from the Oregon Community Trees and ODF. Baker City has been named Oregon’s Tree City of the Year for efforts taken throughout the years to encourage and manage a healthy urban forest. A healthy urban forest provides our community with a myriad of environmental, health and economic benefits. Tree Board volunteers invest countless hours each year reviewing tree activities taking place on public land or within the public right-of-way, they prune multiple young street trees throughout the community, assist with tree planting events, and so much more. We are very appreciative of all they do!

Pictured left to right: George Wheaton, Mayor Downing, Lyle Kuchenbecker, Christine Howard and Jennifer Murphy

## Public Works: Street Department

Crews continue to conduct utility work in preparation for the upcoming Auburn Street overlay project later this summer.

Scott, Tommy, and Justin work to install a new catch basin and PVC lateral at the corner of 1<sup>st</sup> & Auburn.





## Public Works: Street Department Continued

# Our Street Sweeper Needs Your Help!

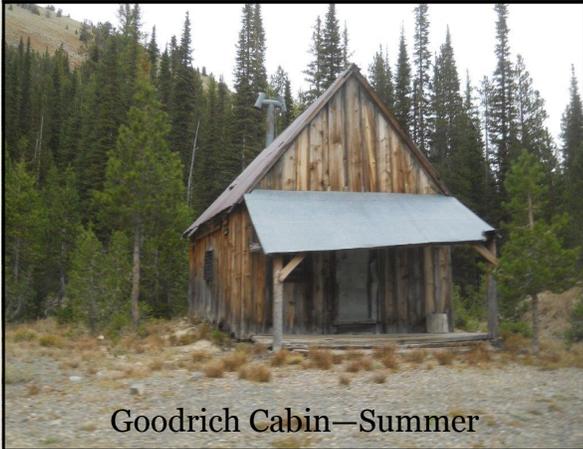


The City street sweeper is having a difficult time getting close to the curb in many areas throughout town due to low hanging tree limbs. Section 94 of the Baker City Municipal Code requires that property owners maintain **12' of clearance above streets and 8' of clearance above sidewalks.** Please go outside and look at your trees. If they need pruned, please prune them properly or call a professional tree company. Proper pruning techniques can be found at : [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org) and do a search for "pruning." A list of local tree companies is available in the Public Works Department.



## Public Works: Water Department

Friday of last week Jake traveled to Goodrich Reservoir to check snow levels and conditions at the site. Jake reported that it was the most snow he has seen at the Reservoir for this time of year. With the near freezing temperatures and precipitation this week the snow pack continues to improve.



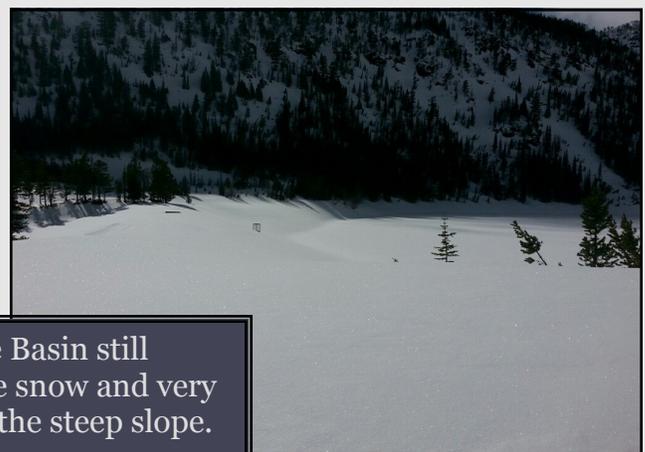
Goodrich Cabin—Summer



Goodrich Cabin—April 21, 2017



Here is one of the water diversions along the pipeline road still showing deep snow.



The Goodrich Lake Basin still shows considerable snow and very few avalanches on the steep slope.



## Public Works: Water Department Continued

This week crews completed the job of exercising all of the City-maintained valves in the distribution system. Annual exercising of valves is important to ensure that they remain in good working condition and will operate correctly if and when they are needed.

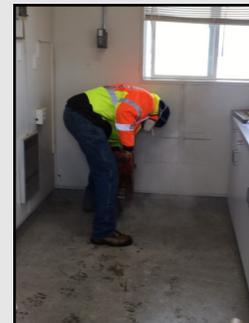


A control specialist was on-site earlier this week to install and test the control panel for the new flow meter that was recently installed at the Water Treatment Facility.

The start-up was successful and the meter is now in operation and sending accurate flow information to the SCADA system.

Crews have started the work of converting the old lab room at the Water Treatment Plant into a restroom.

Jake makes a cut in the slab floor where a toilet will later be installed.



## Public Works: Parks and Recreation Department



Crews worked to complete some scheduled improvements in River Park on Friday morning.

Justin, Blain, and Jake F. work to dismantle and remove an old climbing structure that had deteriorated and become unsafe .



The crew also worked to install a concrete pad for a permanent picnic table. Justin is excavating for the pad using the Volvo Compact Excavator.



## Public Works: Wastewater Department

Two wastewater laterals were replaced this week at the request from the property owners. One was located on Auburn Avenue and the other on Court Street. Both laterals were plugged and unusable.

### AUBURN STREET LATERAL:

Jake F. is operating the loader while Blain gives direction. →



Later that afternoon the trench was dug and Blain and Jake worked to carefully expose the lateral prior to repair work being done.

Here the new pipe has been installed. The pile of roots to the left side of the pipe had infiltrated into the old transit pipe and caused the blockage. →



The trench was backfilled and compacted the same day.

### COURT STREET LATERAL:

The original lateral consisted of a vertical piece of 4" concrete pipe connected to a 4" piece of cast iron pipe which had a 90 degree fitting attached. The problem with the lateral occurred primarily with the vertical sections of concrete and cast iron lines.

Blain and Jake zipped the asphalt surface on Court Street to begin the repair work.



The backhoe and Vactor truck were used extensively throughout the repair project.

The vertical section of the new pipe is installed and ready to be backfilled. Jake works to prepare the surface for the next piece of pipe. →



After the vertical section of pipe was backfilled and compacted the remaining section of pipe was installed and the residence was back in service. The entire lateral between the city mainline and the curb is now P.V.C. pipe and should be maintenance free for the foreseeable future.



## Public Works: Wastewater Department Continued

A wastewater problem was reported by a resident in the Hillcrest neighborhood Tuesday. This wastewater line was installed by a developer over 50 years ago and is unfortunately located through the backyards of several residences. Rick promptly cleaned the line.



No blockages were found within the line. Keith video-inspected the line Wednesday morning and was able to see tree roots growing inside the lateral. The drain cleaning professional was informed about the roots and began work to cut them from the inside of the residents lateral.



## Public Works: Community Service

O.D.O.T. Region 5 hosted the Eastern Oregon Construction and Utilities Career Day event at the Baker Maintenance Facility Complex Tuesday. The event was attended by approximately 400 high school students from throughout the region. Local utility and business representatives included: O.D.O.T., Eastern Oregon Rental & Sales, Baker City Public Works, O.T.E.C., Cascade Natural Gas, Superior Towing, Baker Technical Institute, and VEMCO to name a few. Baker City Public Works provided two operators and both the new Elgin Crosswind Sweeper and the wastewater inspection van with remote camera for the 5 hour training session. Groups of students went through an orientation process and then spent 45 minutes in each of the four quadrants (plus a lunch period) with each quadrant having 5-8 exhibitors. The groups moved quickly through the program.



Matt took this photo of a group who were enthralled with Baker City's new Elgin Sweeper. →

← Karl is instructing one group about the operation of the wastewater pipeline inspection van and camera.





**Public Works: Street Tree**



# 2016/2017 Street Tree Grant Application

**Made possible by Anthony Silvers,  
a man with a passion for trees.**

**Grant applications will be accepted by  
the Baker City Public Works  
Department April 3, 2017 through  
June 16, 2017. Grant funds are  
available only to plant street trees  
(trees within the public right-of-way).**

**Click on the following link for  
additional information and  
application:**

**[Street Tree Application](#)**

**Questions: Please call Jennifer in the  
Public Works Department at 541-524-  
2063 or [jmurphy@bakercity.com](mailto:jmurphy@bakercity.com).**

**City of Baker City, Oregon**

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