

# CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail. Established 1874

## *Weekly Update May 19, 2017*

### **Administration:**

The Baker City Budget Board met for three days this week to work on approving a budget for the next fiscal year. They received testimony from citizens on many aspects of the budget. The Budget Board members did a thoughtful job of analyzing the entire budget and the services and the personnel which allow City government to do an effective job. In the end and after many changes, they unanimously approved the 2017-18 City Budget. I would like to thank all of the budget board members for taking the time out of their busy schedules and for providing the guidance to keep Baker City one of the greatest places in the country to live.

It looks like summer may finally be around the corner. Have a wonderful weekend and enjoy the sun.

### **City Council**

#### **May 23rd Agenda Items:**

- 2015-16 Audit
- Ordinance 3354—  
Public Safety  
Utility Fee



### **Finance:**

#### **Finance Director**

The budget committee approved the 2017-18 City budget on May 17<sup>th</sup>. The approved budget will go to the City Council on June 27<sup>th</sup> for adoption. The approved budget is available on the City's website through the following link: [2017-2018 Approved Budget](#).

#### **Utilities**

- ◆ Ten customers signed up for new water/sewer service and nine customers disconnected service from May 12<sup>th</sup> thru May 18<sup>th</sup>. This includes all service changes.
- ◆ Zone 6 was billed on the May 15<sup>th</sup>. This zone includes 487 residential and 60 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 104 or 19% are signed up for direct payment.
- ◆ Zone 3 was billed today. This zone includes 494 residential and 49 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 99 or 18% are signed up for direct payment.
- ◆ Sixteen residential customers (Zones 2 and 6) were scheduled to have their water turned off for non-pay (over 60 days past due) five were actually turned off until their past due balance was paid.



**Announcements:**

	Permits Issued City	Inspections City	Permits Issued County	Inspections County
Building	7	6	3	7
Manufactured Dwelling	0	1	1	0
Electrical	3	2	11	1
Mechanical	2	3	2	3
Plumbing	5	5	2	3
Fence	4	NA	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>14</b>

**RESIDENTIAL PERMITS:**

- 1524 4th St., Baker City—replace roof structure on existing building
- 10694 Fiji Ln., Unity—60x36 accessory building
- 0 French Gulch Ln., Baker City—12x20 accessory building
- 1520 3rd St., Baker City—11x22 carport
- 2637 14th St., Baker City—addition of new windows and doors
- 1451 9th St., Baker City—demo of existing accessory building

**COMMERCIAL PERMITS:**

- 2601 Oak St., Baker City—interior remodel
- 39103 Pocahontas Rd., Baker City—24x60 greenhouse
- 3100 H St., Baker City—addition of two temporary office trailers
- 2194 Court St., Baker City—reroof on existing buildings

**HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW:**

Next meeting is scheduled for May 31, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. in the Building Department Office.

**Planning Department:**

**Public Meetings**

- ◆ A Planning Commission meeting was held on May 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Baker County Courthouse. The Planning Commission denied a proposal for the re-plat of a subdivision from 40 lots to 5 lots at 3100 H Street in the General Commercial (C-G) Zone.
- ◆ The Planning Commission’s next meeting will be held on June 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at Baker City Hall. The Planning Commission will consider two applications:
  - A proposal for the addition of living space to an existing single-family dwelling and an addition to an existing accessory structure. The subject property is addressed as 1827 7<sup>th</sup> Street and is located in the Industrial (I) Zone. This week a pre-notice was sent to all property owners within 100 feet of the subject property.
  - A request for a variance for a freestanding sign exceeding the area allowance at 175 Campbell Street, in the Commercial General (C-G) Zone.

**Land Use Decisions & Projects**

An application was approved for a ±2,122 square foot single-family dwelling, in the Residential Medium-Density (RM-D) Zone. An address will be issued at a later date.



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

# FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the week of April 30th to May 6th the Fire Department responded to a total of **33** emergency alarms.

## AMBULANCE OPERATIONS

City Calls	24
Rural Calls	6
Patient Transported	20
No Patient Trip	10

**TOTAL MEDIC RESPONSES 30**



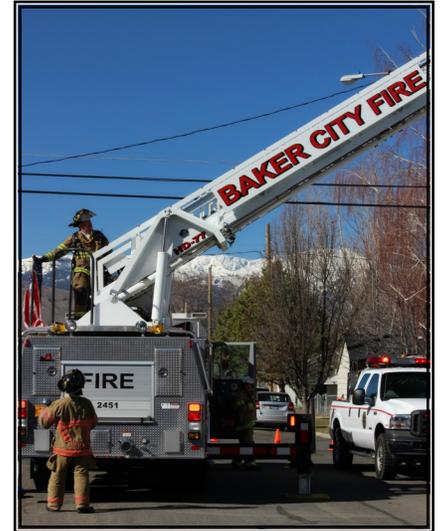
Airport Transfers	2
Out of Town Transfers Accepted	2
Out of Town Transfers Assigned	0
Motor Vehicle Accidents	0
Doubles (2 calls at once)	3
Triples (3 calls at once)	0
Public Assists	5

## FIRE REPORTS

General Alarms	1
Dispatched Alarms	2
<b>TOTAL FIRE</b>	<b>3</b>



- ◆ Pocahontas Rd.— Structure Fire
- ◆ Main St.—Fire Alarm
- ◆ Washington St.—

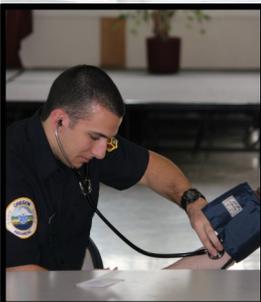


## EMERGENCY CALL BACKS

Requests for Cover	6
Personnel Arrived for Cover	1
Incidents Not Covered	5

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

- 67 hrs of Station and Equipment Maintenance
- 5 hrs of Fire/EMS or Safety Training
- 7 hrs of Fire Prevention Inspections
- 1.5 hrs of Community Events



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 23rd.



*"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 a busy week, BCPD handled over 223 incidents and opened 39 new cases this past week. A report of burglary was made on May 15, 2017 involving the Baker Exchange second-hand store that had reportedly occurred sometime during the previous two days. Nine firearms and \$500 in cash were among the stolen items that totaled \$4,714.99.

On May 18, 2017 the Boise Police Department (BPD) received information about a couple in Boise who were in possession of firearms they had said were stolen from Baker. BPD contacted the Baker City Police Department (BCPD) about the report and BCPD was able to provide information to BPD personnel that ultimately led to the recovery of three firearms and the arrest of:

Hollingshead, Kathleen Lorraine (06/12/1976)  
2206 Oak Street, La Grande, Oregon

Bertrand, Julius Lamont (03/08/1993)  
901 Main Street, La Grande, Oregon

Both suspects were charged with Possession of Stolen Property by BPD and Bertrand also was charged with Felon in Possession of a Firearm. All charges are felonies in Idaho. BPD was able to provide information about additional firearms that were left in Baker City. Subsequently, BCPD, along with the assistance of an Oregon State Police Game Trooper, located a 9mm Semi-Automatic handgun and two boxes of ammunition in the bushes behind Bi Mart. BCPD personnel also looked for two 9mm Carbine rifles that were reportedly thrown in a dumpster behind the El Dorado Hotel, but that search was unsuccessful. BCPD was also told that the other three missing firearms had been "given away to friends" and are possibly still in Baker City.

BCPD is asking the community to please report immediately any information related to these stolen firearms that may still be in our community. A vehicle belonging to Hollingshead was seized in Baker City and a search warrant of the vehicle is pending.

- ★ 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 with 2 pending cases
- Started 2 new cases

- Issued 1 parking citation
- Orange tagged 2 abandoned vehicles
- Multiple verbal warnings

#### **Animal Violation and Complaints**

- Followed up on 1 livestock complaint
- 1 dog at large returned to owner
- 1 dog at large impounded
- Followed up on 2 barking complaints
- Followed up on 2 animal complaints

#### **Weeds and Grass Violations**

- Followed up on 11 new violations

#### **Miscellaneous**

- 1 found bicycle impounded
- 1 found bicycle returned to owner
- Followed up on 1 fence violation

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

- Followed up on 5 parking violations



## Public Works: Street Department

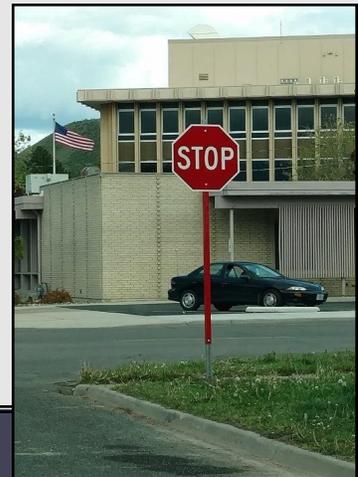


These pictures are a reminder to residents to keep their trees trimmed so as to provide clear visibility for safety at intersections and near stop signs.

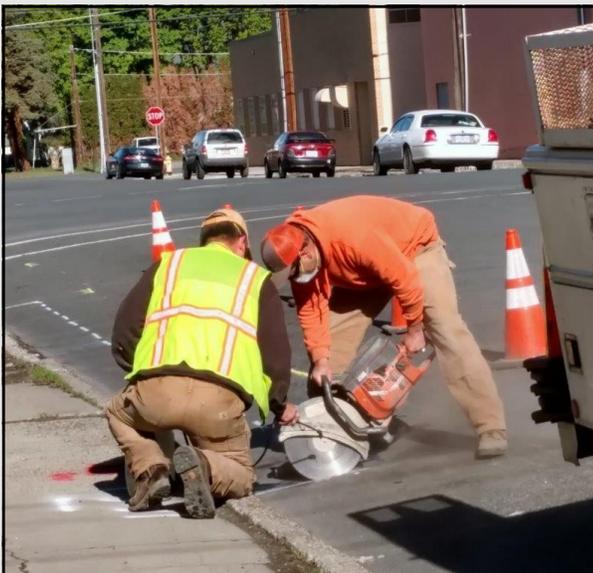
This particular stop sign is on Campbell Street - one of the busiest streets in town.



Matt continues to work at keeping Baker City Streets clean by operating the new Elgin Crosswind Sweeper daily.



To improve safety, three new stop signs were installed Thursday. Two at the intersection of Washington and Birch. The one pictured above is a 30" STOP sign with a vis-a-shield attached which replaced a smaller 24" STOP sign.



A business owner will be replacing a portion of his sidewalk along Valley Avenue. A section of new curb will be installed by Public Works. Blain and Scott worked to cut the asphalt in preparation for the new work.



## Public Works: Wastewater Department

A business on 10th Street has been having wastewater drainage problems this week. Keith responded to the site to clean and video-inspect the line.



Here you can see the Jetter truck 400 feet away from the next manhole. With this truck Public Works is able to clean lines up to 600 feet long.

By looking directly down into the manhole you can see the high pressure cleaning nozzle doing its work.



A wastewater manhole, which provides access to the lateral from the Baker Sports Complex, was raised 18 inches to provide easier access for cleaning and maintaining the line.

Jake F. and Brian work to seal the connection between concrete parts to raise the access lid.



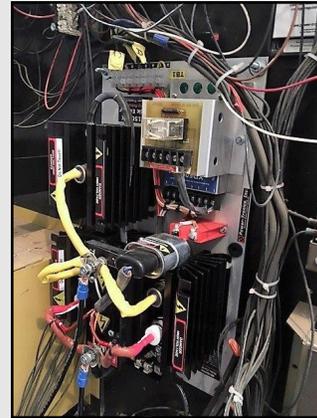
Project is complete!

## Public Works: Water Department

An electrical engineer was hired this week to trouble-shoot the problems with the hydro-electric generator at the reservoir site.



Jack determined the cause of the problem and ordered necessary replacement parts. The generator is now operable and generating electricity.



Here is a picture of some of the components.

A sink hole was recently discovered next to a hydrant near the intersection of Birch and Washington Streets. Blain, Tommy and Brian worked to hydro-excavate down to the base of the hydrant and check for leaks. The hydrant was turned on after the hydrant was inspected and no leaks were found.

A water leak was discovered in the cemetery this week. The old galvanized line was badly rusted and developed a small hole. Tommy and Brian hydro-excavated to expose the pipe and had to use two repair clamps to stop the leak.



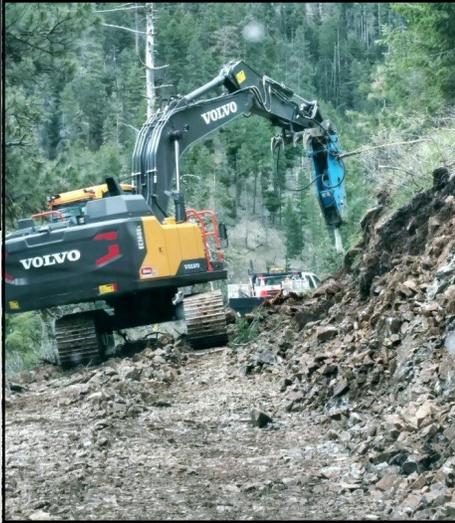


## Public Works: Water Department Continued

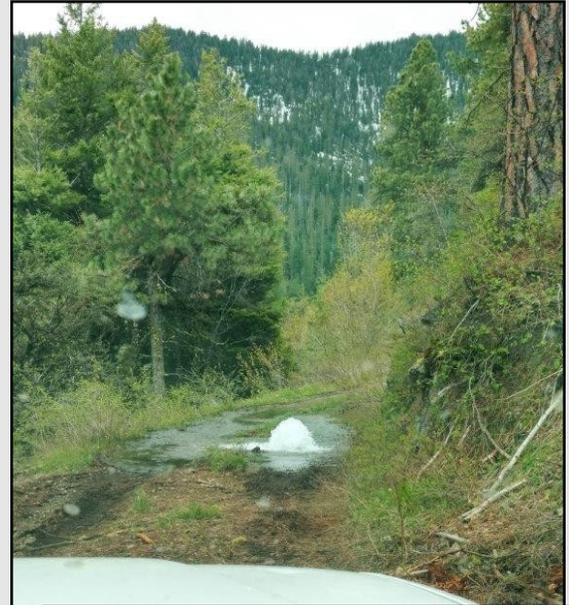
Mountain Line: Roots continue to be a problem blocking the flow of water from the Elkhorn Mountains towards Baker City.

Unfortunately the equipment (jetter truck) which is necessary to cut roots from the inside of the pipe can't be safely driven on the narrow road. The road is currently being widened so the roots can be cut from inside the line.

Hopefully the road work will be completed early next week so that the roots can be cut and pipeline repair work completed.



Justin is using a rental track hoe to widen the pipeline road so maintenance equipment can safely be used.



Here the combination of a hole in the pipe and a blockage of flow downstream resulted in water bubbling up out of the pipe.



Doug adjusting the water flow at the Marble Creek intake to reduce the water leaking from the broken pipeline Thursday.



A portion of the widened and much safer road.



## Public Works: Parks Department



New playground equipment is currently being installed at Cedar Acres Park.

Cedar Acres Park lies mid block between Park and Idlewood Streets.

Stay tuned for more pictures and updates!

## Public Works: Surplus Equipment

This year some Baker City surplus items are going to be sold using a government auction site. The site is called GovDeals.com It is simple to use and will cost the City less in fees and labor than the eBay site which has been used in the past. This is an opportunity for local citizens to purchase items which are no longer needed or used by Baker City.

Some of the pieces of equipment and vehicles to be sold include the following: 1995 Chevy Blazer, 1994 Ford Ranger, 1980 Ladder Truck, 2001 Chevy Blazer, Swartz Sweeper, Caterpillar D-6 Dozer, 2009 Crown Victoria and dozens of other items.



Some of the items are shown here.

The items will be available for viewing or bidding on the morning of Tuesday May 23rd.

To access the site and to register to bid, simply click on this [link](#).

Be sure to enter Baker City's zip code 97814 if you are searching by location.





## Public Works: Shop



Scott is installing a company radio and placing decals on the sweeper.



The battery was charged and fluids were topped off to get this vehicle ready for the Public Works' summer help.



A new fuel pump and injectors will be installed in this vehicle. It should be done and back in service on Monday.

The Shop has been working very hard on getting everything ready for the City's annual surplus sale on GovDeals.com. Some of those items are pictured to the right.

If you are interested in bidding on any of the items you must be registered on GovDeals.com.

[Click here to register and view items for sale.](#)

