

# CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail. Established 1874

*Weekly Update March 6, 2015*

## **Administration**

The Baker City Manager attended the legislative hotline this week. Both Representative Bentz and Senator Ferrioli spoke at length about the low carbon fuel legislation and the devastating affect it will have on Oregon. The legislators told the group that Oregon has the lowest carbon footprint per capita than any other State in the Union. That being said, the additional cost of further lowering the emissions by ten percent could add up to an additional tax of one dollar per gallon of blended gasoline. More information is available on page 3.

Mayor Mosier and Councilor Downing attended City Day at the Capital last week in Salem. They met with Representative Bentz and Senator Ferrioli who represent the District that Baker City is a part of. The Councilors talked with each of the legislators concerning issues that are affecting Baker City. Mayor Mosier will give a report to the Council at the March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **Finance Department**

**Finance Director** -As of March 2, 2015 the City has received current year property taxes of \$2,769,748 and prior year taxes of \$76,864.

The budget committee met on March 3<sup>rd</sup> for an interim budget meeting to discuss 2013-14 audit results, current year to date revenue and expenditures compared to budget and for budget training. The training presentation is available online at [www.bakercity.com](http://www.bakercity.com) under the budget committee tab.

## **Utilities**

- ◆ 19 customers signed up for new water/wastewater service and 26 customers disconnected service from February 27<sup>th</sup> through March 5<sup>th</sup>. This includes all service changes.
- ◆ Zone 1 was billed today, which includes 88 residential and 249 commercial accounts. Of those accounts, 47 or 14% are signed up for direct payment.
- ◆ 83 late notices were sent March 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- ◆ 5 residential customers (Zone 8) were scheduled to have their water turned off for non pay (over 60 days past due) no services were actually turned off.

## *City Council*

### *Agenda Items March 10th*

*\*Executive Session:*

*Real Estate*

*\*YMCA Update*

*\*Business License  
Ordinance*

*\*Information on  
Development  
Moratorium*

*\*HDDRC Application*

*\*CLG Grant  
Information*





# BUILDING DEPARTMENT

The Baker City Building Department provides full plan review and inspection services for building, plumbing, electrical and mechanical on new and remodel construction within Baker County. For more information please visit: [www.bakercity.com/departments/building](http://www.bakercity.com/departments/building)



Photo by: Base Camp Baker

### **RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS:**

Issued a permit for a carport at 205 E Adams St. Huntington

Issued a permit for a bathroom addition at 43025 Old Trail Rd.

### **RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS CONTD:**

Issued a permit for a hay shed at 45565 Cherry Lane Halfway

### **COMMERCIAL PROJECTS:**

Issued a permit for a 3 storage carport at 41298 Chico Rd.



### Permits

	<b>Permits Issued City</b>	<b>Inspections City</b>	<b>Permits Issued County</b>	<b>Inspections County</b>
<b>BUILDING*</b>	1	8	3	1
<b>MANUFACTURED DWELLING</b>	0	0		0
<b>ELECTRICAL</b>	2	N/A	3	N/A
<b>MECHANICAL</b>	5	3	0	1
<b>PLUMBING</b>	2	6	2	2
<b>FENCE</b>	0	N/A	0	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>

### Compliance

No new compliance inspections were completed this week.

### Other:

No new information this week.

### Historic District Design Review Commission

The HDDRC members met Wednesday morning to review the CLG grant applications. Letters will go out by March 10<sup>th</sup> notifying them of the final decision regarding their application requests.





## **Press Release from Representative Cliff Bentz**

SALEM-Senate Bill 324, passed on Wednesday, according to private estimates, will raise the price of gas and diesel sold in Oregon by as much as a dollar per gallon. (The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality estimates that SB 324 will raise fuel prices by 4-to-19 cents per gallon).

Rep. Cliff Bentz (R-Ontario) said, "The billions you will have to pay because of this bill will go to natural gas companies and sugar cane growers, and not to the repair of Oregon's aging bridges and roads. Having to pay as much as a dollar per gallon more as a result of SB 324, means that anyone who drives a vehicle that burns gas or diesel will justifiably say "no" to another increase in the gas tax, even when they know that their bridges and roads need to be fixed."

"It is a sad day for Oregon's roads," added Rep. Bentz, one of the Republican leadership team who organized the floor fight against the SB 324. "Everyone knows that it is a huge challenge to find support for additional road taxes even when additional money for road repair is absolutely necessary. To pass a bill like SB 324, which forces Oregonians to pay billions more at the pump for sugar cane and electric car companies, and then to expect the voters to support an increase in the gas tax is implausible to say the least."

## **Planning Department**

### **Planning Department**

The second open house for the I-84 Exit 302 and 306 Interchange Area Management Plans will be held from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at the Baker City Church of the Nazarene at 1250 Hughes Lane. The project team has planned this Open House to be held at the Church of the Nazarene since it is within the Exit 302 project area. Please visit the website, <http://sites.kittelson.com/BakerCityIAMPs>, to review information presented at the first Open House and make additional comments. A link to the website is also available at the City of Baker City homepage, [www.bakercity.com](http://www.bakercity.com).

St. Alphonsus Medical Center was approved through a Land Use Review to resurface an existing helipad and reconfigure existing parking at 3325 Pocahontas Road.

A determination of a pre-existing, non-conforming use was issued for 2640 14<sup>th</sup> Street.

The Planning Department has issued a final approval for an application to partition one parcel into two parcels submitted by Mark Landavazo. The parcel is currently vacant and adjoins 1340 D Street.

The appeal period ended Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00pm, and no appeals were filed.

Blue Mountain Oil was approved through a Land Use Review to install a cardlock distribution system at their bulk plant location at 2885 13<sup>th</sup> Street.

Pre-notice signs have been posted at 2219 11<sup>th</sup> Street for the proposed expansion of an existing **warehouse, owned by Northwest Properties and operating as Sorbenot's Coffee Company. The proposed extension measures ±2,160ft<sup>2</sup> and will be used primarily for the manufacturing of baked goods and the processing of coffee beans. Mailed notices were sent to property owners within 100 feet of the property boundary. The public comment period on this application will close Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm.**



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



# FIRE DEPARTMENT

Last week the Fire Department responded to a total of **35** emergency alarms.

## AMBULANCE OPERATIONS

Rural Calls	8	Out of Town Transfers	0
City Calls	24	Airport Transfers	0
Patient Transported	23	Motor Vehicle Accidents	0
No Patient Trip	9	Simultaneous Calls	1
<b>TOTAL MEDIC RESPONSES</b>		Triple Calls	0
			<b>32</b>

## FIRE REPORTS

General Alarms	0
Still Alarms	3
<b>TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES</b>	<b>3</b>

- False alarm– E St.
- False alarm – Pocahontas
- False alarm – 17th St.

## TRAINING/MAINTENANCE

This week the BCFD completed 34 hours of in-house training during the week.

- EMS – Anatomy and Physiology
- Fire – Aerial operations, pre-fire planning, ISO research

## MAINTENANCE/OTHER

69 hours of station, apparatus, equipment maintenance, and other activities including:

- Station, apparatus and equipment maintenance
- Daily medication and equipment checks and maintenance

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

Additional Services to the community:

- BP checks at senior center.
- Station tour-cub scouts



The Fire Department provides free blood pressure readings at the Senior Center every Tuesday, at 11am. Don't miss the next check on March 10<sup>th</sup>.





"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 160 incidents this past week, opening 24 new cases. One of these cases resulted in the arrest of a local man on a charge of Aggravated Animal Abuse. This arrest followed a lengthy investigation into the abuse of a domestic cat.**



- ✦ BCPD followed up on additional information, relating to the reported cougar in South Baker. An additional search using hounds was completed, without locating the predator.
- ✦ Sergeant Regan's patrol squad completed firearms training.
- ✦ 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

**Property Maintenance**

Followed up on 8 old cases  
Closed out 2 cases  
Started 1 new case  
Issued 1 citation

**Animal complaints**

Followed up on 2 complaints

**Dog License**

Started 1 new no dog license cases  
Followed up on 2 old cases

**Dog at Large**

5 dogs at large returned to owner  
1 dog impounded

**Parking Violations**

Followed up on 4 parking violations  
Issued 8 parking citations

**Temporary Use Permit**

Investigated 1 new case

**Kennel Permit**

Issued 1 new permit

**Found Bicycle**

One found bicycle

**Found Items**

Found 1 bicycle  
Found 1 stroller

**Prescription Drug Drop Box**

Since December 2013, a prescription drug drop box has been installed in the lobby at the Baker City Police Department, allowing citizens to drop off outdated or unneeded prescription drugs at any time. This new option is in addition to the BCPD bi-annual prescription drug take back program, initiated by the Drug Enforcement Administration.



**Parks**

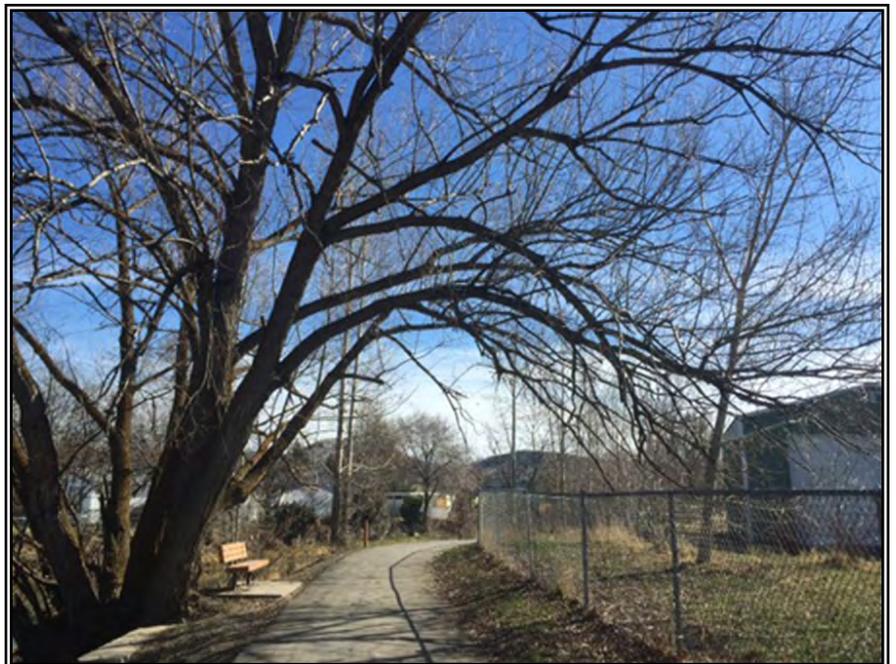
Parks Manager, Joyce Bornstedt, met with Baker City Bandstand/Pavilion Committee Chair Dave Hunsaker, Architect Larry Abell, and Contractors Mark, Kyle, and Grant Johnson at Geiser Pollman Park Thursday morning to determine the exact location of the future structure.



During the meeting site preparation was discussed, including removal of a non-functioning drinking fountain, possible removal of two small trees, and relocation of an existing light. Ground breaking for the new bandstand/pavilion is tentatively scheduled for April 6. Construction should be complete prior to Miner's Jubilee. During construction, the east-central area of the park, including the gazebo, will be closed to public use. It will continue to remain closed until the turf surfaces are rehabilitated and established.

**LAMP**

The Leo Adler Memorial Parkway will be temporarily closed at C Street, near Guyer and Associates, on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, to accommodate the pruning of a willow tree adjacent to the pathway. Please contact the Baker City Parks Department if you have any questions at (541) 524-2046.





## PUBLIC WORKS Water Department

The 4” cast iron fire line for the Elks Lodge had to be shut off on Tuesday, as the pipe broke under the sidewalk. The crack in the line was the classic “circle” break that cast iron pipe is known for. A two-man city water crew was able to install a full-circle stainless steel clamp around the break and place the line back in service on Thursday. The sidewalk will be repaired on Friday, and the street will be fully repaired when hot mix asphalt becomes available.



City workers are nearly finished exercising water valves throughout the town. Each time a valve is exercised, the number of turns is counted, recorded and compared with the valves history. Any problems with a valve are recorded, and if necessary, corrective action is taken.

### ***Sidewalk Construction Season is Almost Upon Us!***

There are still grant dollars available through the 2014/2015 grant cycle.

- ✓ \$2,661 in grant funding is still available!
- ✓ 3,659 sq. ft. of new sidewalks have been constructed just through the 2014 grant!
- ✓ 2,275 sq. ft of pending sidewalk improvement projects are still anticipated to be accomplished by June 30th of this year through this grant!

Questions? Please contact Jennifer at (541) 524-2063 or via email at [jmurphy@bakercity.com](mailto:jmurphy@bakercity.com). Grant applications are available at the City website at [www.bakercity.com](http://www.bakercity.com) or in the Public Works Department in City Hall.



## PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works personnel assisted a contractor this week using the Duct Hunter™ unit to trace a buried lateral for repair.

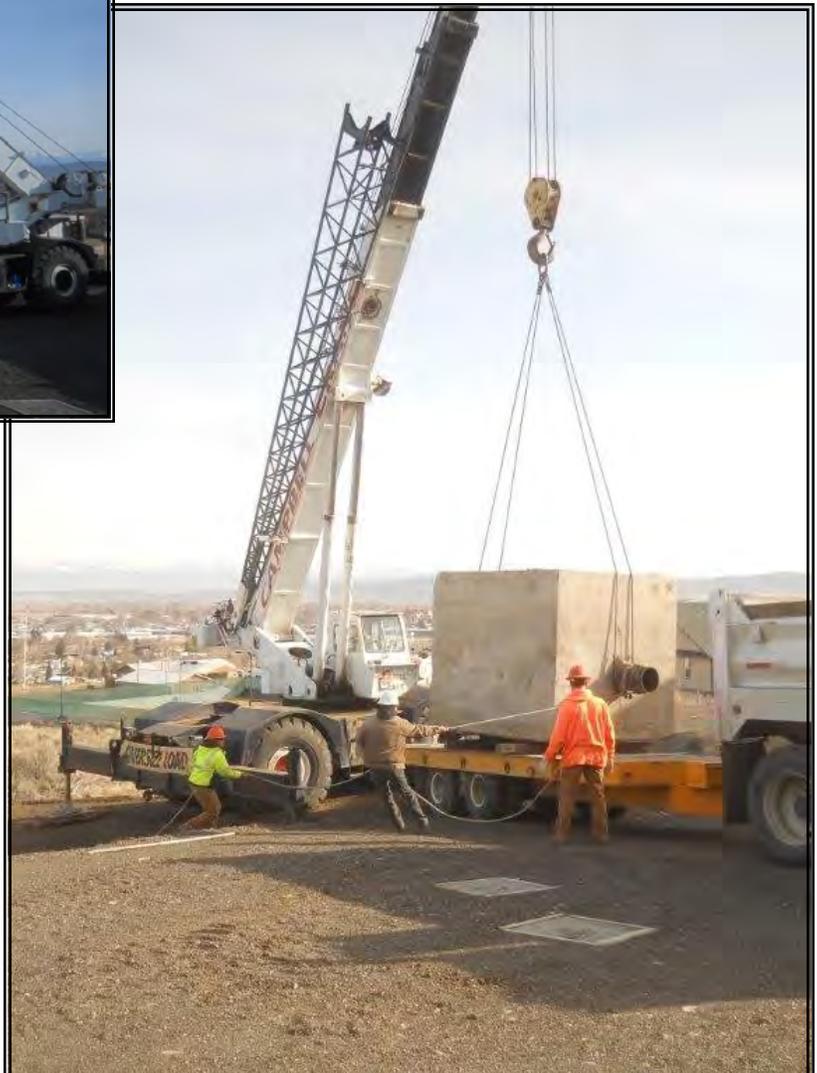
To the right, the contractor has excavated a deep trench, uncovered the line and installed a cleanout on Grandview Drive.



**Stormwater-** Justin and Jason assisted a local contractor load a salvage water vault onto the City's trailer. This vault housed an altitude valve, but is no longer used at the Water Treatment Facility. It will be refurbished and incorporated into the City's stormwater system at the intersection of Auburn and Pear. Think of it as recycling on a little larger scale.

Above, the crane is lifting the 20,000+ concrete Vault.

To the right, the vault is being placed onto the City's trailer.





# PUBLIC WORKS Wastewater Dept.

A Public Works crew responded to a lateral problem on Auburn Ave. Wednesday. The line, which needed to be inspected, is what is called a "drop" line into a manhole. Keith and Karl constructed a P.V.C. bridge to span across the "drop" portion of the manhole. To the right, the T.V. van is in position to video-inspect the line.



To the left, the camera has been inserted into the line and crossed the "drop" by traveling on the P.V.C. bridge. The lateral was found to be in good condition.

Public Works received an urgent phone call from the City of Richland about a sewer emergency. Blain and Tim immediately drove the Vector Truck (pictured to the right) to Richland, inducted the manhole and jetted the line to remove the blockage. This work averted a wastewater system overflow.





## **PUBLIC WORKS** *City Shop*

Doug and Wes are putting some final touches on the portable generator, this generator came from the fire station a few years back. Crew has been slowly fixing it and installing a new exhaust system. This generator could be used at just about any City facility, especially as a backup power-source at the Airport.



The Police Department is phasing out one of their older vehicles. Wes and Doug removed miscellaneous police equipment so it can be put up for sale.