



# NEWSLETTER

January-March 2019



## **Baker City Downtown Quarterly Newsletter**

This newsletter is targeted to business owners and downtown patrons to inform and excite about past and upcoming events that Baker City Downtown is hosting.

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## Events

### January

- 4th- First Friday Art Walk
- 17th- Wine Walk: Benefiting Opal Foundation: "Heart N Home"
- 23rd- Business After Hours @ **The Cheese Fairy**

### February

- 1st- First Friday Art Walk
- 21st- Wine Walk: Benefiting Crossroads Arts Center

### March

- 1st- First Friday Art Walk
- 21st- Wine Walk: Benefiting Baker Youth Activity Center

## Committee Updates

### **Organization**

- **Christmas Downtown:** We wrapped up another beautiful Christmas season in Downtown Baker City. Solar tree lights were donated to help decorate in front of businesses and every tree on Main Street. With great Christmas spirit, volunteers helped decorate some of the trees and our businesses completed the job, transforming Main Street into a magical winter wonderland.
- **U.S. Capitol Tree:** The 2018 United States Capitol Christmas Tree made an appearance in Downtown Baker City on November 14th. Businesses downtown decorated business windows and organized a holiday welcome to our very own Baker City Downtown.
- **Events:** If you are planning on hosting an event please let Baker City Downtown know so that we can help make the most out of it! Also think about including some music to bring in some more folks.
- The March dates are confirmed for the Main Street Program committee training. Tentatively, the training will take place at Hatch but this will be confirmed later. Feel free to attend any of the other workshops as well, if you are interested. Each session will be 90 minutes long.
  1. Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 p.m.: Organization Committee
  2. Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup> @ 8:30 a.m.: Promotions Committee
  3. Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30 a.m.: Design Committee
  4. Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup> @ 1:30 p.m.: Economic Vitality Committee

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Those that committed earlier to the training through the survey satisfied the mandatory 80% of existing committee member to bring the workshops to town, but all of the workshops are also opened to any other community members that may be interested, so spread the word and bring a friend. Let us know if you have any questions. Save the date!

### **Promotions**

- **Recap Taste of Baker:** Twenty six participating vendors - Table fees applied to non BCD members and businesses from outside of the downtown district. Sponsors in order of sponsorship levels - Elkhorn Grills, Grocery Outlet, Food Services of America, The Trailhead, M. Wilson Design, Baker Heritage Museum, and OTEC. In-kind sponsors for advertising - Elkhorn Media, Studio Tours/1st Friday and Base Camp Baker. Grant - Transient Lodging Event Grant for banners and tokens. Rotary volunteers helped with barricades. Reimbursed tokens totaled \$19,451! - Last year was around \$13,000 tokens reimbursed. Very cold and windy conditions but the turn out of everyone in their winter gear was amazing. The balance sheet was in the black giving some seed money for Taste of Baker 2019. The menus were amazing and ranged from Reuben Fritters to Cheesy Jalapeno or Caramel Corn to Kurobuta Pork Belly Burnt End Skewers to Fudge Turtles to Shrimp Ceviche to Caramel Apple Sangria and on and on. Great fun! And, thanks to everyone that came out in the cold to put on the event and to those who participated.
- **Christmas Tree Lighting:** The 2018 Christmas Tree lighting led the City into the holiday season with merriment. Dozens of entries lined Main Street. First place was awarded to the Baker County Sheriff's Office, 2nd place to Locked and Loaded Off Road Group and 3rd place went to our very own downtown business Chill'Z Frozen Yogurt!
- **Cookie Crawl:** Downtown hosted its first annual cookie crawl this season! Twenty-two businesses participated, it was a fun and delicious event.
- **UnWINEd Downtown (every Third Thursday from 5pm-8pm):** On the Third Thursday of each month, BCD will be hosting "UnWINEd Downtown", a fun event that will benefit a different local charity. The next wine walk will be on February 21<sup>st</sup> and a portion of the proceeds will be donated. If you would like to sign up for the next Wine Walk, please contact Tori Thatcher @ tori@barleybrowns.com.

In 2018, the Community raised \$4,400 for local non-profits through the Unwined Walk!

### **Economic Vitality**

- **New Business Welcome Packet:** Efforts are underway to create a helpful guide for those new and expanding business locating in Baker City. Is there

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information that you believe should be included? Reach out and let us know what you think would be helpful for those just starting out.

- **Vacant Buildings:** Believe it or not, having a vacant building can be costly. Routine maintenance is vital for our historic buildings and after so many years, repair costs alone can add up. In 2018, a downtown business was broken into via the next door building that has been vacant for many years. Not only did the business have thousands of dollars worth of valuable items stolen, the repair to the adjoining wall will be costly. If you or someone you know has a vacant building please reach out to BCD. Even if you are not ready to list the property for sale, there are things we can do to help, i.e. “pop-up” shops, window displays, etc.
- **Cultural Coalition Trust:** Projects targeted towards art, culture, heritage, and humanities: \$500, cycles December 15th and May 15th is when applications are due. Can be found on the county website.
- **Revitalization Grant:** The Oregon Main Street Program has announced they are accepting applications for the Revitalization Grant. Grants may be offered up to \$200,000 in matching funds for downtown revitalization efforts in communities participating in the Oregon Main Street Network. The Oregon Main Street Revitalization Grant funds may be used to acquire, rehabilitate, and construct buildings on properties in designated downtown areas statewide. For additional information, please visit: [Oregon Main St. Revitalization Grant](#).

## ***Design***

- **Planning some Beautification?:** Contact The Historic District Design Review Committee, commonly known as HDDRC. This committee is appointed by the City Council for their expertise and interest in historic rehabilitation. This committee is tasked with reviewing proposed changes to buildings within the Historic District (whether they are historic buildings or not). The Historic District is a 14 square block section of downtown Baker City generally bounded by Baker Street to the North, Resort Street on the East, Auburn Street on the South and the alley between First and Second on the West. If you plan on making changes to your building, for example, paint, signage, etc. you must contact the Historic District Design Review Committee. For additional information, please contact the Permit Technician in the Building Department at 541-524-2054.

## **Exciting Updates**

- **New Businesses:** Pacific Residential Mortgage, 1934 1st Street
- If there are any new businesses, change of ownership, or location changes. Please email [bakercitydowntown@gmail.com](mailto:bakercitydowntown@gmail.com) to share the exciting news!!

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BCD Website: [Baker City Downtown](#)