THE NEW “FRONT” FACE OF THE CITY

When you visit City Hall next, please welcome Luzville Goebel to the City of Black Diamond. Luzville joined our City team on July 1st as the Front Counter Receptionist in City Hall. You will see her when you come to pay your water bill, get a pet license or find copies of City Council Agendas.

RAILROAD AVENUE ROADWAY RECONSTRUCTION DELAYED

Last year, the City was successful in receiving $967,943 of grant funding from the State Transportation Improvement Board for the reconstruction of Railroad Avenue from Baker Street to Merino Street. The project is being designed by Hammond Collier Wade Livingstone Engineers and currently is in the preliminary design phase. The project was originally planned for construction in late summer of 2008. When some right-of-way issues arose, the schedule had to be shifted to next summer’s construction season. The current design will incorporate angle parking on both sides of the road in front of the businesses. Sidewalks will link and connect the boardwalks along the front of businesses. City staff will meet with key property owners to review some of the main design issues within the next couple of months. Public Works Director Seth Boettcher is the Project Manager and can be contacted at (360) 886-2560, Ext. 202.

Other projects:

Lake Sawyer Road paving

The City will be paving Lake Sawyer Road from Roberts Drive North about a half a mile.

This maintenance project is funded by the Transportation Improvement Board Roadway Preservation Program for small cities. This project currently is planned for September/October 2008.

Keep an eye out for paving construction in September/October

Water-Smart Conservation Tips

Now that warmer weather has finally arrived, here are a few ways you can reduce your water usage and save on water bills:

1. Water your lawn during the evening or early morning hours to reduce evaporation. Sprinkler and drip irrigation systems (on timers) should also be used to avoid evaporation losses and to reduce wasteful over-watering.
2. When washing vehicles, care should be taken to make sure that hoses are equipped with self-closing nozzles.
3. A leak caused by a faulty flush valve in a toilet tank can waste up to 10 gallons an hour, so make sure you repair them quickly.

Boating Safety
Lake Sawyer Water Quality
Volunteer Opportunities
Community Development–Preparing for the Future
Recently adopted Ordinances
New Tree Preservation Standards
City Meetings/Events & Contact Information

Inside this issue:
SUN, FUN AND SAFETY: THE MARINE UNIT

Summer is a great time to enjoy Lake Sawyer and other local lakes and water bodies. With the element of fun and a little sun, however, boaters may forget to put safety first. That’s where the Black Diamond Police Department Marine Services Unit comes in to protect our citizens and visitors.

The Marine Services Unit’s primary duties are to enforce the boating safety laws of the City of Black Diamond and the State of Washington on beautiful Lake Sawyer. In addition, the Marine Services Unit:

- Performs boating law enforcement patrols
- Performs boating safety inspections
- Investigates boating accidents
- Provides Boating Education Card classes
- Maintains our current patrol vessels, ensuring they are in proper working order

CITY OF BLACK DIAMOND BOATING REGULATIONS

- **Required Vessel Safety Equipment:**
  Personal floatation devices (life jackets) are required in every vessel for each person on board. The life jacket must be of appropriate size, in serviceable condition and readily available. Additionally, vessels 16 feet or longer must also carry a throw-able type IV flotation device. Every child 12 years of age or younger must wear a Coast Guard-approved personal floatation device while on board any vessel, except while in a cabin. Vessels shall also have a fire extinguisher and a sound producing device, such as a horn or whistle.

- **Vessel Registration:**
  You are required to carry the vessel registration certificate on board at all times. In Washington State, vessel registrations expire every year on June 30th. On the first of July, every boater should have the new validation sticker displayed on the vessel behind the hull numbers.

- **Speed Limits And Hours Of Operation:**
  You may only operate your vessel above 5 m.p.h. during designated times on Lake Sawyer. Vessels may exceed the 5 m.p.h. speed limit between the hours of 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Monday through Friday and from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Sunday, and holidays. Speeds of 5 m.p.h. or less (no wake) are required when operating within the buoys. The maximum speed limit on Lake Sawyer is 36 m.p.h. providing you are outside the buoys and at least 100 feet from any other vessel.

- **Direction of Travel:**
  The general direction of travel is counter-clockwise around the lake.

- **Restricted Areas and Buoys:**
  Certain areas of the lake have been designated as restricted or regulated areas. A visible system of buoys has been installed to identify these areas. Please observe and obey all restrictions and speed limits. It is illegal to move or remove any marker buoy placed by law enforcement. Additionally, it is unlawful to strike or damage a buoy in any way. Marker buoys are not for boat moorage or swimming activities.

- **Reckless or Negligent Operation:**
  It will be considered reckless to operate a vessel while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug. Boating under the influence (BUI) will be aggressively prosecuted. Negligent operation may include disregard of careful and prudent operation and speeds.

- **Water Skiing Safety:**
  An observer is required when towing any person on water skis, inner tubes, kneeboards, or other water toys. They shall continuously observe the person being towed and immediately display a flag whenever the person is in the water. The flag must be at least a 12-inch square mounted on a 24-inch pole or longer and be either bright red or brilliant orange in color. A life jacket is to be worn by the person being towed.

- **Personal Watercraft Safety:**
  A life jacket is required for operating personal watercraft such as jet skis and wave runners. No one may operate a personal watercraft without attaching the lanyard to his or her person, clothing or personal floatation device. It is illegal to disable or remove an engine cutoff switch. You must be at least 16 years old to operate a personal watercraft on Lake Sawyer. It cannot be operated after legal sunset or before legal sunrise. It is illegal to operate a personal watercraft in a reckless manner and execute tight 360-degree turns commonly referred to as "spinning donuts". Additionally, you must carry a fire extinguisher and sound signaling device. A personal watercraft must be registered just like an ordinary vessel.

- **Vessel Inspections:**
  Marine Service officers will make courtesy inspections of vessels both on the water and at the launch facility. Our primary concern is for boating safety and education. If you are a Black Diamond resident and would like to schedule a vessel inspection at your residence, please call the Police Department at (253) 631-1012. Upon successful completion, you will be provided with a safety inspection sticker which may save you time getting in the water at the boat launch.

Don’t forget to visit **www.parks.wa.gov/boating** for the State Boating Rules and Regulations!
LAKE SAWYER WATER QUALITY IMPROVING

Despite excess phosphorous being introduced into Lake Sawyer in the early 1990’s, Lake Sawyer appears to be improving. Data, collected with the help of King County and the Lake Sawyer Community Club, verifies that total phosphorus levels are trending downward (see graph).

This is great news for the City of Black Diamond, its residents and visitors who use the Lake. Monitoring will continue on the Lake as well as implementation of the City’s program under the National Pollution Discharge and Elimination System Phase II permit, in which the City of Black Diamond is a permittee to the Washington State Department of Ecology. Under the permitting system, five specific issues that impact water quality within their communities. These issues include:

1. Public Education and Outreach
2. Public Involvement and Participation
3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
4. Construction Site Run-Off

The City of Black Diamond, including Public Works and Natural Resource staff members, are implementing the City’s program in order to meet the permit requirements. Implementation of the program should help continue to decrease phosphorus levels in Lake Sawyer, as well as other pollutants in all of our local waterways.

SEEKING APPLICANTS FOR COMMISSION VACANCIES

The City of Black Diamond is currently looking for volunteers for the Civil Service and Planning Commissions.

Civil Service Commission
Citizen Representative
The Commissions duties are in connection with the selection, appointment and employment of full time commissioned police officers. The Civil Service Commission meets once per month on Thursday mornings. The Commission consists of three (3) members each with a six-year term, who shall be appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. If you would like to know more about the Civil Service Commission please contact Rachel Pitzel at (360) 886-2560.

Planning Commission
The Planning Commission consists of seven (7) members. The Commission prepares and makes recommendations to the City Council on the Comprehensive Plan and various development regulations that guide the physical development of the City. The Commission typically meets once per month on Tuesday evenings, but may meet more frequently if needed. If you would like to know more about the Planning Commission please contact Steve Pilcher at (360) 886-2560.

Anyone interested in serving the community on these important Commissions are encouraged to submit an application to the City of Black Diamond, Attn: City Clerk, 24301 Roberts Drive, PO Box 599, Black Diamond, WA 98010 or applications may be found on the City’s web site under notices at www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us.

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

Staff of the Community Development Department remain busy processing current development applications and preparing for greater activity in the future. Staff members are working hard with both the Planning Commission and City Council in finalizing the City’s Comprehensive Plan update, new Zoning Code and new Design Standards. The goal is to have the new development regulations adopted by early October. The Planning Commission will conduct a Public Hearing concerning the Zoning Code and Map in August, watch the Web site for Public Hearing notices. Staff is also working on updating processes and procedures to ensure development applications and building permits are reviewed and issued as quickly as possible. One major step began in mid-July, when the City Council authorized the purchase of a permit tracking software program that will allow staff to accurately manage land use data, building and development permits, and business licenses. We hope to have this program up and running in a few months.

We’re open to hearing ways that we can improve to serve you better. If you have any ideas, please feel free to send them to Community Development Director Steve Pilcher at spilcher@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us.
ORDINANCES ADOPTED

At the July 17, 2008, Council Meeting the following Ordinances were adopted:

- Ordinance No. 08-865, Amending the 2008 Budget
- Ordinance No. 08-865, Adding a new Chapter 19.30 to the Black Diamond Municipal Code regarding Tree Preservation.

Copies of these ordinances are available for review at City Hall, 24301 Roberts Drive, or by contacting Brenda L. Streepy, City Clerk, at (360) 886-2560.

COUNCIL ESTABLISHES TREE PRESERVATION STANDARDS

Black Diamond enjoys significant natural beauty. Much of that beauty is due to the many trees that remain throughout our City. Large evergreen tree stands, small deciduous groves and even mature individual trees are an integral part of the rural or “green” character that Black Diamond citizens value and have worked hard to preserve. Trees are more than just great scenery, though. Because of their aesthetic value, trees have been found to raise property values. Trees also stabilize soil, control water pollution, conserve energy, reduce storm water runoff, improve air quality and provide habitat to wildlife.

In recognition of the importance of our trees, on July 17, 2008, the City Council adopted new regulations for tree preservation. The regulations will reduce the number of trees lost during construction, discourage the indiscriminate removal of trees, and require the planting of replacement trees for those that may be lost to development. The regulations only apply to “significant trees” (greater than 6 inches in diameter as measured 4.5 feet above the ground) and do not apply to any trees located within 10 feet of the perimeter of a single-family house and its driveway. The regulations also allow a property owner to remove six trees within a three-year period and exempt certain trees.

There is a lot more to the new regulations than can be discussed in this article. Please contact the Community Development Department before removing trees to understand better how the tree preservation regulations may affect your project.

In recognition of the importance of our trees, on July 17, 2008, the City Council adopted new regulations for tree preservation. The regulations will reduce the number of trees lost during construction, discourage the indiscriminate removal of trees, and require the planting of replacement trees for those that may be lost to development. The regulations only apply to “significant trees” (greater than 6 inches in diameter as measured 4.5 feet above the ground) and do not apply to any trees located within 10 feet of the perimeter of a single-family house and its driveway. The regulations also allow a property owner to remove six trees within a three-year period and exempt certain trees.

There is a lot more to the new regulations than can be discussed in this article. Please contact the Community Development Department before removing trees to understand better how the tree preservation regulations may affect your project.

CITY OF BLACK DIAMOND

EVENT CALENDAR

| AUGUST 3 | XTerra Black Diamond Triathlon                  |
| AUGUST 5 | Police Night Out                                |
| AUGUST 28 | Resource Night @ Black Diamond Elem.            |
| AUGUST 30 | JDRF Bike Ride/Cure for Diabetes                |
| AUG. 30-SEPT. 1 | Black Diamond Labor Days                  |

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Black Diamond Library (360) 886-1105
Hours of Operation: Mon.-Thurs. 10:00 a.m.—9:00 p.m.
Fridays 10:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.
Saturdays 10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Community/Senior Center (360) 886-1011
Hours of Operation: Monday—Friday 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Post Office (360) 886-9429
Hours of Operation: Monday—Friday 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Historical Society (360) 886-2142
Hours of Operation: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursdays
Noon to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

25510 LAWSON STREET

- AUGUST 7TH—7:00 P.M.
- AUGUST 21ST—7:00 P.M.

COUNCIL STUDY SESSIONS:

- AUGUST 7TH—6:00 P.M.
- AUGUST 14TH—7:00 P.M.
- AUGUST 28TH—7:00 P.M.

PLANNING COMMISSION

25510 LAWSON STREET

- AUGUST 12TH—7:00 P.M.
- AUGUST 26TH—7:00 P.M.

EVENT CALENDAR

AUGUST 3  XTerra Black Diamond Triathlon
AUGUST 5  Police Night Out
AUGUST 28  Resource Night @ Black Diamond Elem.
AUGUST 30  JDRF Bike Ride/Cure for Diabetes
AUG. 30-SEPT. 1  Black Diamond Labor Days

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Black Diamond Library   (360) 886-1105
Hours of Operation:  Mon.-Thurs. 10:00 a.m.– 9:00 p.m.
Fridays 10:00 a.m.— 6:00 p.m.
Saturdays 10:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m.

Community/Senior Center  (360) 886-1011
Hours of Operation:  Monday –Friday 8:00 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.

Post Office  (360) 886-9429
Hours of Operation: Monday—Friday 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

If you would like to be added to the City's E-Alert Program, e-mail Rachel Pitzel at rpitzel@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us - please include “E-Alert Addition” on the subject line.