Last month witnessed perhaps the largest (and certainly the longest) public hearing processes to ever occur in Black Diamond. Over the course of 12 days, the City’s Hearing Examiner considered testimony from both citizens and expert witnesses on the two Master Planned Development (MPD) proposals of The Villages and Lawson Hills and also whether the Final Environmental Impact Statements (FEISs) prepared for the projects were adequate. Approximately 70 citizens spoke at the MPD portion of the hearing, while the FEIS appeal hearings featured numerous expert witnesses in such areas as water quality, noise and transportation.

Just before midnight on April 15, the Hearing Examiner issued his decision that The Villages FEIS was adequate and indicated his intention to issue a similar decision for the Lawson Hills project the following week. He also indicated his recommendation on the two MPD applications won’t be issued until May 10. The Council will establish rules and then set a date for conducting its own closed record hearing on the MPDs.

Although these hearings will be open to the public, only those individuals who either submitted written comments or testified at the Hearing Examiner open record hearing will be allowed to address the Council. The Council will make its decision after the conclusion of testimony.

Even if the MPDs are approved by the Council, construction still will not begin. Before that can occur, the City Council must enter into a Development Agreement with YarrowBay. The Development Agreement will specifically address how development is to occur, including maximum densities, lot size standards, street standards and where infrastructure (streets, water, sewer and stormwater facilities) must be constructed. The City must conduct at least one open record hearing before it can authorize signing the Development Agreement. The Planning Commission is currently considering potential code amendments which will allow the City Council to conduct an open record hearing on the Development Agreement.

If you have questions about the process, please contact the Community Development Department at (360) 886-2560.

City Offices will be closed on Monday, May 31, 2010—Memorial Day

Public Works Updates

Railroad Avenue Reconstruction

A big thank you to the local residents and businesses for your patience and cooperation. The most disruptive portions of the construction are now over. The sidewalk pouring will be the next major effort. The concrete work will be weather dependent and must be protected during the curing and finishing phase. Most of the work is anticipated to be completed before Memorial Day. Currently, the final lift of asphalt is scheduled for the first week in June.

Morgan Street Sidewalk

This project is funded by the City, the Transportation Improvement Board and by Federal funds through King County Community Development Block Grant program. Sidewalks will be extended from Abrams Avenue to the City Hall site on Roberts Drive. The design is nearing completion. The current schedule is for advertisement for bids in June with a notice to proceed in July. The construction itself could take 2 to 3 months.

The Public Works Department is currently working on the Stormwater Comprehensive Plan.

A Public Hearing is scheduled for May 20, 2010 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at 25510 Lawson Street, Black Diamond.
2011-2016 Capital Improvement Plan to be Updated

In April, City departments began preparing for the annual update of the comprehensive Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Each year, the entire plan is reviewed and updated. This is an important fiscal planning tool that identifies the City’s capital asset needs, such as new water pipes, park improvements or fire capital projects. It also schedules projects for funding and implementation over a period of years. For projects funded by grants or low-interest loans, an approved Capital Improvement Plan is usually required by State or Federal agencies. Projects are generally $5,000 or more and may be funded over a period of years. Sources of funds for the projects include State, Federal, or local grants, real estate excise taxes (from the sale of property), water, sewer and stormwater charges, gas tax and public work trust loans or bonds. Council workshops, committee meetings and public hearings are scheduled for May and June. Since this is a plan, not a budget document, Council is scheduled to adopt the 2011-2016 Capital Improvement Plan by June or July of 2010. The 2011 projects that have been approved in the plan will be added to the 2011 Budget scheduled for adoption in December of 2010.

CIP at a glance...

- The CIP is a mandate of the Growth Management Act.
- Cities plan public improvements to accommodate anticipated growth and public needs and to implement policy decisions.
- The CIP process establishes a systematic means to annually identify the capital improvements and financing for a six-year period.
- Public comment is accepted on the CIP and includes proposed projects submitted by the City Council.
- Council committees and City Departments.
- A preliminary CIP is developed and presented to the City Council. Council holds a public hearing and adopts the six year plan.
- The CIP is primarily funded from dedicated revenues (such as the real estate excise tax or utility charges) and grants. Property taxes are not generally dedicated to CIP projects without a vote of the people.
- The CIP is updated each year and adopted by the City Council by Resolution.

Are You Interested in Stormwater—Stormwater Management Plan

If you are interested in what the City is doing to improve the water quality of stormwater runoff within the City, you might want to review and comment on the Draft 2010 Stormwater Management Program that will be considered by Council in a Public Hearing on May 20.

The Stormwater Management Plan identifies the various activities that the City has and will be taking to be in compliance with the Department of Ecology National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater permit. The activities identified are organized in six areas as follows:

- Monitoring and Reporting,
- Public Education and Outreach,
- Public Involvement and Participation,
- Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination,
- Controlling Runoff from Construction and new development,
- and Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations and Maintenance.

The Draft 2010 Stormwater Management Plan is posted on the City’s website www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us on the stormwater page under Public Works for public review.
Black Diamond Continues Utility Rate Relief Program

Black Diamond is continuing the Lifeline Utility Rate Relief Program established in 2009. If you have not done so already, it is time to renew your application. Applicants must re-apply yearly for this program, it does not automatically carry-over. The program is designed to help low-income seniors 62 years or older and low-income permanently disabled persons by offering a discount on the City portion of their Water, Sewer and Stormwater utility bills. Low-income individuals who are on kidney dialysis at home can also apply for the water rate discount. The Lifeline Program provides discounts of up to 50% of the City share of the Water, Sewer and Stormwater Rate. The percentage is set in the City’s fee schedule.

Do I qualify?

- Applicants must be the head of household at the qualifying residence, and
- Applicants must be receiving at least one city service of water, sewer and/or stormwater from the City of Black Diamond, and
- Applicants must be at least 62 years of age or older, or be permanently and totally disabled, or have a household member on kidney dialysis at home, and
- Total household income shall not exceed the limits as set annually by the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

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How do I apply?

Applications are due to City Hall by May 31 of each year for utility discounts beginning with the June billing statement. Black Diamond residents who wish to apply for the Lifeline Utility Rate Relief Program will need to submit an application by that date. Applications are available at City Hall and on the city’s website www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us.

Along with the completed application, additional documentation includes a copy of the applicant’s driver license or birth certificate for proof of age; a copy of the most recent tax return, social security annual statement, or annual retirement statement for proof of income; for disability, a copy of disability payments from SSI or SSDA or other disability payments and a signed and dated copy of a physician’s disability statement.

All documentation is subject to City of Black Diamond Finance Department verification. Please stop by City Hall, 24301 Roberts Drive, if you have questions about the new Lifeline Utility Relief Program, or call (360) 886-2560 for more information.

Police Department Goes the Extra Mile and Solves Computer Fraud Case

On March 23, Richard Cain (owner of Foothills Fireplace & Grills) noticed an unauthorized transaction in the amount of $2,090.45 on his business account statement. After Mr. Cain contacted the company that posted the transaction, they advised him his credit card was used to purchase an item. Mr. Cain, who never authorized the transaction, immediately contacted the Police Department.

Through intensive investigation and execution of three search warrants, your Police Department was able to identify that the fraudulent transaction occurred through an “online purchase”. Additionally, we were able to identify where this computer was located and who had access to it. This computer was seized from a residence in Tacoma and is currently pending processing through computer forensics specialists. Once all processing is completed the case will be forwarded to the King County Prosecutor’s Office for review of the charges.

In today’s world it is important to review all your financial statements monthly or more often if possible. Because of Mr. Cain’s review, the item was stopped for delivery by the selling company and returned to them. Unfortunately this type of fraudulent transaction is common where a person’s credit card number is used to purchase an item and an unassociated address is listed for the delivery location. The criminal then waits for the delivery at this unassociated address and steals the item!

Our goal as a Police Department is to provide you with professional Police Officers who have the training, knowledge and “willingness to go the extra mile” to ensure our community is crime free!

If you need further information on fraudulent credit card charges, please stop by the Police Department to pick up some free brochures or visit the Federal Trade Commission website www.ftc.gov for some helpful tips.

Did you know....

The City of Black Diamond is a passport acceptance facility which means we are able to accept applications on behalf of the U.S. Department of State.

U.S. citizens planning international travel may apply for their passports Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at City Hall, 24301 Roberts Drive-Suite B (first building at front of the lot). Visit our website for more information www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us or you can visit www.travel.state.gov for a complete guide on how to obtain a U.S. passport.
Earth Day Celebration Beautifies the Police Station

The City of Black Diamond held its second annual Earth Day celebration on April 22, 2010 at the Black Diamond Police Station on Lawson Street. Earth Day is a day designed to inspire awareness and appreciation for the Earth’s environment.

The Mayor, Councilmembers (Bill Saas and Craig Goodwin) along with staff showed up to plant small trees, flowers and groom existing trees and landscape. Final touch was to lay new bark. Many thanks to all that came to help make this project a success, with a huge thanks to the Public Works Department for all their help and equipment!

2010 Recycling Collection Event Success

The City held its annual spring recycling event on April 17, 2010. The following is a recap report of what was collected in Black Diamond from Paul Devine of Olympic Environment Services:

We had a busy day for the Black Diamond Spring Recycling Collection Event this year. Two Hundred and eighty-five (285) carloads of recyclable material arrived. The event included the collection of:

10.81 tons of scrap metals and electronics. These metals will be sorted into ferrous and non-ferrous metals and made into new products at various manufacturing plants.

3 used refrigerators and freezers. The ozone depleting chemicals and gas will be removed from these units and disposed of properly by Total Reclalm in Seattle.

20 propane tanks. The tanks will be re-used through Blue Rhino Cylinder Exchange Service or the tanks will be recycled as scrap metal through Seattle Iron and Metals.

11,780 pounds of bulky yard debris and scrap wood. The bulky wood will be processed for composting and the scrap wood will be made into composite siding through Glacier Recycle, a wood processor in Auburn.

0.94 tons of reusable household goods. This material was collected by the Tacoma Goodwill for resale through their retail outlets with the proceeds going to Goodwill charity programs.

350 gallons of used motor oil and petroleum based products. This will be re-refined into new motor oil or reused as bunker fuel.

70 gallons of used anti-freeze. This toxic liquid will be recycled into new anti-freeze.

18 used oil filters. These will be drained of oil and the scrap metal will be recycled.

122 used tires. These tires will be re-used if in good condition; if not, chipped and made into such products as garden hoses, playground mats, road bedding, and burned as fuel.

57 lead acid batteries. The batteries will be dismantled, the acid disposed of properly, and the cores recycled into new batteries.

2,800 household batteries. The batteries will be dismantled, the hazardous material disposed of properly, and the cores recycled into new batteries through All Battery.

12 toilets and sinks. The porcelain material will be processed by Stoneway Concrete and Recycling into concrete material.

1.45 tons of cardboard. The cardboard will be recycled by Sonoco in Sumner.

The success of this program has kept these materials out of the conventional waste stream and into the appropriate recycling businesses’ hands. Otherwise, these materials could have found their way into local landfills or parts of the city. The City of Black Diamond was able to provide this service with grant money provided by the King County Solid Waste Division, King County Health Department and Washington State Department of Ecology.
COMMUNITY EVENTS

Boots and Badges Charity Event

The Black Diamond and Enumclaw Police Departments will join to do battle with the Enumclaw Fire Department in the Boots & Badges First Annual Charity Basketball event Friday May 7, 2010 at the Enumclaw High School to determine who will take home the trophy. Doors open at 6 p.m. with the game starting at 7 p.m. There will also be a $250 Half Court Shot Raffle.

All proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life Cancer Walk June 19 and 20. Tickets are $6.00 each and can be purchased by contacting Officer Brian Lynch at 253-261-0621 or Officer Tony Ryan at 360-825-3505.

Memorial Day at Black Diamond Cemetery

- May 31-
  Please join the Black Diamond/Maple Valley VFW Post 5050 at 10:30 a.m. on Memorial Day for a Memorial Service of our Veterans at the Black Diamond Cemetery.

Boating Safety on Lake Sawyer

It is hard to believe, but summer is almost here. Since the 2009 boating season on Lake Sawyer ended without any major accidents, please take a moment to review laws specific to Lake Sawyer. These can also be viewed on the City of Black Diamond’s website at www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us/Depts/Police/marine. For all other Washington State Boating Laws, including the Mandatory Education Card Law, visit www.parks.wa.gov/boating.

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.

Mandatory Boating Education Card

The Washington State Mandatory Boating Safety Education Law went into effect on January 1, 2008. The new law requires boaters aged 12 years and older to pass a boating safety course or an equivalency exam and to obtain a Boater Education Card before operating a motorized vessel of 15 horsepower or greater. The card requirement is being phased in from 2008 to 2014. Visit www.parks.wa.gov/boating for more information.
Things You Need to Know About Recreational Fires

The weather is getting nice and people are starting to spend more time outside. This also is a time for people to start having recreational fires. We have included some basic information about recreational fires below.

Is it legal to have a recreational fire in Black Diamond? It is legal to have a small recreational fire in Black Diamond. You do not need a burn permit to have a recreational fire.

What is a recreational fire? A recreational fire is a fire limited to the burning of seasoned wood or charcoal briquettes with a total fuel area of three feet or less in diameter and two feet in height. This fire is for the purpose of cooking, pleasure, ceremonial and similar circumstances.

Some items that you can not burn in a recreational fire:

♦ You may not burn garbage, dead animals, asphalt, petroleum products, paints, rubber products, tires, plastics, paper products, plywood, finished lumber, particle board or other materials that produce dense smoke or obnoxious odors.

♦ Burning of residential yard waste in a recreational fire pit is NOT allowed, including grass clippings, leaves, needles and brush.

What is seasoned wood? Properly seasoned wood is darker, has cracks in the end grain, and sounds hollow when smacked against another piece of wood. Use a moisture meter, available at most stores, to tell if your wood is ready to burn. It should have 20 percent moisture or less. Or just knock on it. If it sounds hollow, it’s probably seasoned. Dry, seasoned wood provides more heat than green, unseasoned or wet wood – so you’ll use less wood for the same amount of heat, and you’ll produce far less smoke.

Are recreational fires allowed during burn bans? No recreational fires shall be allowed during any stage of an air pollution episode (air-quality, fire safety burn ban or smog watch) as directed by the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency. Recreational fires are prohibited during any time that “OPEN BURNING” is prohibited by the Fire Department, King County Fire Marshal Office, Puget Sound Clean Air or as declared by the State of Washington.

Some other things to know about recreational fires:

♦ Recreational fires should ensure that the “fire area” is clear of combustible materials and flammable liquids and materials. The “fire area” should be in a location that is not in proximity to dry brush or grass.

♦ Fires should not be used during times of high winds nor should the smoke from such fires impede on or cause disturbance to neighbors.

♦ A means for extinguishments of “recreational fires” should be on hand at all times, an available garden hose and shovel is recommended. A portable fire extinguisher with a 4A rating must be on-site unless there is another form of acceptable extinguishment available on site.

♦ Fires should be extinguished with copious amounts of water, the fire ashes stirred and water re-applied. Persons utilizing outdoor recreational fires should always ensure that such fires are completely extinguished before leaving fires unattended.

♦ Recreational fires can not be within 25 feet of a structure or combustible materials and/or conditions that would allow a recreational fire to spread to within 25 feet of a structure.

More safety concerns:

♦ Never use flammable liquids to start fires.

♦ Never let children or animals near any type of fire or near a recreational fire unattended.

♦ Do not let children throw or place items into a fire or play near the fire.

♦ Anyone near a fire should use care and not wear baggy or loose clothing, nightwear such as pajamas and nylon materials are especially dangerous. Loose hair should be pulled back.

♦ Do not leave fire, burning embers, or smoking ashes unattended.

Anyone that has an outdoor fire is responsible for damages and costs which may include costs associated with actions from the Fire Department. One of the most important things to remember with recreational fires is that once you start a fire, it is your responsibility until YOU have completely put it out.

Community Contacts

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

Black Diamond Museum / Historical Society  
(360) 886-2142  
Hours of Operation:  
Thursdays — 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Saturdays and Sundays — Noon - 4 p.m.

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

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

For more information about recreational fires please visit our web site at www.kcdf44.org and Puget Sound Clean Air at www.pscleanair.org
Contact Information

All City Offices Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. — 5 p.m.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Fax</th>
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<tr>
<td>CITY HALL</td>
<td>(360) 886-2560</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>P.O. Box 599 / 24301 Roberts Drive</td>
<td>253) 631-0351</td>
<td>(360) 886-2592</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/NATURAL RESOURCES/</td>
<td>(360) 886-2560</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</td>
<td>(253) 631-0351</td>
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<tr>
<td>P.O. Box 599 / 24301 Roberts Drive</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLICE DEPARTMENT</td>
<td>(253) 631-1012</td>
<td>(360) 886-2901</td>
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<tr>
<td>P.O. Box 309 / 25510 Lawson Street</td>
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<tr>
<td>MUNICIPAL COURT</td>
<td>(360) 886-7784</td>
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<tr>
<td>P.O. Box 599 / 25510 Lawson Street</td>
<td>(253) 631-0351</td>
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<td>FIRE DEPT. DISTRICT #44</td>
<td>(253) 735-0284</td>
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<td>PUBLIC WORKS</td>
<td>(360) 886-2560</td>
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<tr>
<td>P.O. Box 599 / 24301 Roberts Drive</td>
<td>(253) 631-0351</td>
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<tr>
<td>UTILITY AFTER HOURS (EMERGENCY PAGER)</td>
<td>(253) 333-5555</td>
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Check out our website at www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us

Council/Commission/Committee Meetings

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS
25510 LAWSON STREET
- MAY 6 - 7 p.m.
- MAY 20 - 7 p.m.
- JUN 3 - 7 p.m.
- JUN 17 - 7 p.m.

COUNCIL WORKSTUDIES
25510 LAWSON STREET
- MAY 13 - 5 p.m.
- MAY 27 - 5 p.m.

PLANNING COMMISSION
25510 LAWSON STREET
- MAY 11 - 7 p.m.
- JUN 8 - 7 p.m.

ALL COUNCIL/COMMISSION MEETINGS ARE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ROOM

Monthly meetings for City Council are held the first and third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. Planning Commission meetings are held on the first Tuesday after the first Council meeting at 7 p.m. of each month (unless otherwise noted). Please contact the Clerks office for more information or meeting materials at (360) 886-2560 or check out the City Clerks webpage at www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us/Depts/Clerk.