Welcome to Mark Hoppen, our new City Administrator. Mark comes to us with an extensive background in municipal government as a City Administrator in Gig Harbor; Manager of Development Services and Public Works Director in Puyallup; and Washington State Public Works Board Member. He has also served as Interim Deputy Director of the Snohomish Health District and as a Consultant for Hoppen Associates and Prothman. Prior to his involvement in government, Mark was a teacher, administrator and coach in Gig Harbor, Maple Valley, Federal Way and University Place.

Mark is contracted through Prothman Company for the 2013 Budget year and will be in City Hall from Monday through Thursday.

Renewals are due by May 31, 2013...

Those senior citizens or citizens with a permanent disability that are currently on the Lifeline program should be receiving a renewal application in the mail in late April - early May. Deadline for renewal is May 31st. Please keep a look out in your mail for your application.

If you are new to the City and are a Senior or a resident with a permanent disability and you need assistance with your utility bill, stop by City Hall to pick up an application and see if you qualify.

Elected Officials >>>
Mayor, Rebecca Olness
Councilmember Tamie Deady
Councilmember Craig Goodwin
Councilmember (Vacant)
Councilmember Carol Benson
Councilmember Ron Taylor

Lifeline Utility Program >>>

Daylight Savings is March 10, 2013.
The City of Black Diamond operates under a Mayor-Council form of government. The five-member City Council serves as the legislative body of the City. The Council is responsible for setting policy, adopting the annual budget, adopting laws, determining the services the City provides and the funding levels for those services, and confirming citizens to commissions.

Applications must be received at City Hall located at 24301 Roberts Drive by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 1, 2013. A mailing postmark will NOT be accepted. The mailing address is City of Black Diamond PO Box 599, Black Diamond, WA 98010.

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 a Tuesday evening, but may meet more frequently if needed.

The City is seeking applicants for the City Council to fill a vacancy for the unexpired term of Position #3, due to a recent resignation. The term will commence once a candidate is appointed by a majority vote of the City Council and will expire after the results of the general election to be held in 2013 have been certified.

The timeline for filling the Council vacancy is as follows:

**Friday, March 1, 2013:** Application due to the City Clerk by 4:00 p.m.

**Thursday, March 14, 2013:** Candidate interviews beginning at 7:00 p.m. (Town Hall meeting at Council Chambers)

**Thursday, March 21, 2013:** Council vote and appointment of new Councilmember (7:00 p.m. - Regular Council meeting at Council Chambers)

Residents interested in applying for the Council vacancy must have resided in the City of Black Diamond for at least one year prior to Council appointment and must be registered to vote. Interested residents may obtain application forms at City Hall, located at 24301 Roberts Drive, Black Diamond, or on the City’s website www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us under “Public Notices” on the homepage.

APPLICATIONS NEED TO BE RECEIVED AT CITY HALL LOCATED AT 24301 ROBERTS DRIVE BY 4:00 P.M. ON MARCH 1, 2013. INTERVIEWS WILL TAKE PLACE ON MARCH 21, 2013.

For more information about this Council vacancy position, contact Brenda L. Martinez at 360-886-5700 or bmartinez@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us. Applications must be received at City Hall located at 24301 Roberts Drive by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 1, 2013. A mailing postmark will NOT be accepted. The mailing address is City of Black Diamond PO Box 599, Black Diamond, WA 98010.

**Planning Commission**

The City is seeking applicants for the Planning Commission to fill the unexpired term of Position #3, due to a recent resignation. The term for this position will commence once a candidate is confirmed by a majority vote of the City Council, and will expire on December 31, 2016.

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 a Tuesday evening, but may meet more frequently if needed.

Any resident or owner of a business in Black Diamond interested in serving the community on this important Commission is encouraged to submit an application to the City of Black Diamond. Attn: City Clerk, PO Box 599, 24301 Roberts Drive, Black Diamond, WA 98010. To be considered for this position applications need to be received at City Hall located at 24301 Roberts Drive by 4:00 p.m. on March 22, 2013.

Before You Enter:

Take a look around the outside of the facility. Decide on a meeting point for the people you are with in case you get separated. Does it look safe? Do you see any hazards?

Locate multiple exits.

Once You Are Inside:

Again take a look around and locate all of your exits. Most people will exit out the same door they came in but this could become overcrowded during an emergency evacuation.

Look for exit signs to help find your closest exit.

Be sure you have a clear path to the exit and that the halls are wide enough to accommodate numerous people.

Use Your Gut Instincts:

Does it look safe inside? Are there smoke alarms, fire sprinklers, and/or other warning systems. Are there fire extinguishers, AED, first aid kits, etc. to use during an emergency?

During An Emergency:

If an alarms sound exit the building immediately in a calm and orderly fashion. Be sure to use your closest exit, even if it is not the main exit. Once you get out be sure to stay out. Don’t go back in for any reason until it is deemed safe.

Once Outside:

Meet your party at the meeting place you discussed before going into the building. Then be sure to follow directions from officials.

These simple steps can help save your life during an emergency at a public assembly.
Here are a few tips and reminders that will help protect our surface waters here in Black Diamond:

- Limit your use of fertilizers, especially those fertilizers that contain phosphorous as phosphorous aids the growth of harmful algae blooms in lakes and streams.

- Think about having less lawn and more ferns, salal, oregon grape, etc. in any larger landscape projects you are considering. These natural plants are drought tolerant, require less water than grass and help reduce harmful stormwater runoff.

- Compost in a well-drained area away from surface waters to reduce the amount of harmful runoff that enters our surface waters. Cover compost piles with tarps during periods of heavy rainfall.

- Mix your lawn with clovers that have deep roots and produce their own nitrogen to provide a green lawn with limited water and fertilizer.

- Add evergreen trees to your landscape. There are many varieties of evergreen that do not grow to be extremely large (like Douglas Firs) and that will not become future hazards to your property.

- Scoop the poop – Dog and cat feces should be thrown away with your garbage.

To learn more about what you can do to help protect our local surface waters, please visit pugetsoundstartshere.org.
Spring Means the Annual Recycling Event
in Black Diamond...
Get a jump start on your Spring Cleaning and join us for this annual event on April 13, 2013 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Black Diamond Police Department (25510 Lawson Street).

Winter is slightly past its midway point, but the groundhog predicts an early spring. Spring always is a time in which the City holds its annual spring recycling event. This event has occurred since the early 90’s and is paid for through grants from King County Health, King County Solid Waste and the Department of Ecology. Most items are taken in for free, but a few include a nominal charge for specific item processing. Items accepted include:
- Motor oil and filters
- Antifreeze
- Lead acid batteries
- Alkaline batteries
- Tires
- Bulky wood
- Cardboard

Appliances, including refrigerators at a nominal fee.

We expect that a lot of folks will be bringing tree limbs from winter storms. In response to this, the City will be providing chipping service at this event. Only chippable materials will be accepted.

In addition, there are certain household and hazardous wastes that will not be accepted at the event.

Please see the event announcement for this event at the City’s website at www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us for additional information and specifics about the State’s E-Cycle program.

Fliers are also available at City Hall, the Black Diamond police station and the King County Library off of Roberts Drive.

Thanks for doing your part in helping Black Diamond continue being the “Gem” of southeast King County.

Local Citizen Recognized...

It is a rare occurrence to have a citizen come forward with criminal information and agree to place themselves in harm’s way to assist the police in putting bad guys in jail. But that was exactly what happened in June of 2012 when Black Diamond resident Matthew Bowie decided it was his civic duty to help remove drug and gun dealers from our town.

On February 7, 2013, Bowie was recognized for his acts of bravery by the Black Diamond Police Department, and the Black Diamond City Council. Bowie was the first to receive the Police Department’s Citizen Award in several years. Bowie’s assistance made it possible for the police to arrest four suspects, and to confiscate illegal contraband. This case would never have been possible without him and his dedication to our community.

Recently Adopted Ordinances

★ Ordinance No. 13-995 - Confirming the Appointment of the Contract City Administrator (Dr. Mark Hoppen)

★ Ordinance No. 13-997— Updating the City’s Flood Damage Prevention Code

★ Ordinance No. 13-998— Adopting the General Sewer Plan
King County recently mailed their calculated 2013 appraised property values to all County property owners. 2013 property taxes are based on the prior year’s assessed value as appraised by King County, and then divided by the total dollars needed by each jurisdiction. Some property values have gone up this year, as seen in the commercial sector. Private property owners have seen slight increases or decreases. The overall assessed valuation average for Black Diamond property Decreased by 7% from $536.6 million to $499.1. This is the lowest amount since 2006.

However, rising or falling property values don’t necessarily equate to higher or lower property taxes. What you pay depends on the total levy amount for all different taxing entities, such as the local school district, King County, Washington State, our City and others, compared to each individual assessed valuation for that year.

Increases in property tax bills usually occur if citizens vote to pass school and other levy increases or if individual assessed values increase

In Washington cities such as Black Diamond, property tax increases are limited to a 1% total dollar annual increase per year unless voters approve a lid-lift or larger percent increases. The pie chart shows how Black Diamond’s 2013 property taxes might be distributed in 2013.

In Black Diamond the total tax levy rates range between $14.42 and $14.69 per thousand dollars in assessed valuation, depending on the school district in your neighborhood. The Sr. Exempt Rate is $7.08. Of that amount Black Diamond collects $2.83 per thousand of a property’s value, which remains at 20% of the total. All of our Property Tax money is used to support Black Diamond’s Fire, Police and Emergency Services. The City’s portion of the property tax bill on a $250,000 Black Diamond home will cost approximately $58.92 per month in 2013.

For a $250,000
Appraised Black Diamond Home in
2013
3604 in Property Taxes will be due in 2013

*Example shows Enumclaw School District levy rate of $6.25 (Kent’s school rate is $6.52 and Tahoma’s school rate is $6.02)
Monthly meetings for City Council are held the first and third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. Town Hall Meetings are held the second 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 (360)886-5700 or check out the City Clerks webpage at www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us/Depts/Clerk to view meeting materials.

**CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS**
25510 LAWSON STREET
- MAR 7 - 7 p.m.
- MAR 14 (Town Hall Meeting @ Council Chambers) - 7 p.m.
- MAR 21 - 7 p.m.
- APR 4 - 7 p.m.
- APR 11 (Town Hall Meeting @ BDCC) - 7 p.m.
- APR 18 - 7 p.m.

**FINANCE/BUDGET COMMITTEE**
24301 ROBERTS DRIVE
- MAR 14 and MAR 28 - 9 a.m.
- APR 11 and APR 25 - 9 a.m.

**PARKS/CEMETERY COMMITTEE**
24301 ROBERTS DRIVE
- MAR 21 - 10 a.m.
- APR 18 - 10 a.m.

**COUNCIL WORKSTUDIES**
25510 LAWSON STREET
- MAR 7 - 6 p.m.

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**
24301 ROBERTS DRIVE
Dates to be determined

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**
24301 ROBERTS DRIVE
Dates to be determined

**PLANNING/COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE**
24301 ROBERTS DRIVE
Dates to be determined

All council/commission/meeting...