The last two months have been very busy. My first goal was meeting with all the employees and police officers in December. Because of my background in Finance and Management I recognized some deficiencies in our accounting processes due to our “Cash” basis accounting method. Along with our Finance Director, May Miller, we were able to implement a centralized Accounts Receivable and Cash Receipts program along with new procedures.

My next goal as Mayor was to work with the Black Diamond Community Center to reach an agreement for the Black Diamond Gym as this gym is a valuable asset to our entire community. I am pleased to report back an agreement has been reached and our attorneys agreed to file a Quit Claim Deed that allowed the City to record ownership of the Gym, as it was never recorded when it was transferred to City property in 1992. We are again looking for some funds from Rotary to make some needed repairs and purchase some new equipment.

Since 2008 the City has leased the main City Hall building from the Sorci Family LLC. Funding for this office space was reimbursed to the City through the funding agreement. However with the funding reduction by Yarrow Bay, funds for this facility will end March 31, 2015. Because of this the Sorci Family LLC has graciously offered us the last 9 months of the current year rent free. I will be working closely with staff during the budget process this year to put forward a financial plan that allows us to once again be able to make our lease payments beginning January 1, 2016.

Our Public Works Department has been working on cleaning up the old fire station and removing unused equipment in the hopes of housing the antique fire engine that Joe Androsko and many other volunteers worked so tirelessly to restore for the Black Diamond Historical Society.
Very rarely in the career of a police officer does he find himself in need of help from others. He takes an oath to serve and protect perfect strangers, sometimes at the cost of his own life. Never does he think that the day will come when he himself needs the help from those perfect strangers he swore to protect. Commander Greg Goral of the Black Diamond Police Department finds himself in this very situation.

Commander Goral is in a fight for his life. He has been battling cancer for the past three years, and he needs our help to continue this fight. This year the Boots and Badges, sponsored by McGann electric are teaming up with Cops with Cancer to help raise money for Commander Goral and his family by organizing a Police vs. Fire charity basketball game. In the past the game has raised over $25,000 which was entirely donated to the American Cancer Society. This year however is different. The cause has hit home, effecting not only Commander Goral and his family, but the small police department he works for, as well as the community in which he serves.

On April 12, 2015 the Lawdawgs will take the court against the Enumclaw Fire Department Smoke Eaters in a battle for bragging rights, and court supremacy.

So come on out, donate and be a part of something special! All proceeds will help assist the Goral family with mounting medical bills, and other expenses related to his fight against cancer. For more information on how you can help, please contact Officer Brian Lynch at the Black Diamond Police Department at 253-631-1012.

Check out our Emergency Management page on the website at www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us/emerg_manag there you will find tons of resources to help you plan and prepare to help you and your loved ones get through a disaster.

Police News >>> Boots and Badges fundraiser to benefit our own

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS
It’s that time of year again! Remember to set your clocks ahead on Sunday, March 8th and get ready for SPRING!! (Remember...this is also a GREAT time to check all the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide devices)!

Police Department >>> Get Signed up for EMERGENCY Alerts

Starting on January 1, 2013, AMBER Alerts™ began being automatically sent through the Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) program to millions of cell phone users. If you have a WEA-enabled phone, you are automatically enrolled for the three alerts: President, Imminent Threat and AMBER Alerts.

However, automatic alerts are not sent for the Washington State Endangered Missing Persons Advisory (EMPA) Plan. The EMPA was incorporated into the Revised Code of Washington in June 2010. Originally intended as an alternative to the AMBER Alert Plan, the EMPA covers many different types of endangered missing person incidents. The plan allows a law enforcement agency to get information out about a person who is believed to be in danger and not able to return to safety on their own. The EMPA assists in disseminating information about a person to the media, public, and local law enforcement agencies with the goal of a safe return as quickly as possible. EMPA’s are requested and activated by local law enforcement agencies based on the incident information and the required criteria. Once an incident has been determined to fit the criteria, it is entered into the Law Enforcement Alerting Portal (LEAP) system which quickly disseminates the information to a subscriber list of local agencies, media, and the public. The public can sign up to receive EMPA’s at amberalert.com. The goal of both the amber alert and the EMPA is to instantly galvanize the entire community to assist in the search for and safe recovery of the child or person.

Be our eyes and ears during an emergency and sign up to receive alerts.
From the Mayor’s Desk (continued from front page)…

Yarrow Bay has met with the city several times in the last month. They appear to be challenged financially with the funds to build the infrastructure for Preliminary Plat 1A, of The Villages. They have yet to give us a date when they will break ground on installing the necessary infrastructure. The City has issued permits for onsite infrastructure and is currently doing final review of the offsite major water trunk lines that will serve The Villages. At this time there is no definite time frame for when this work will occur, thus we have no clear picture of how the development will progress.

We have made a lot of progress with a revised SEPA ordinance and are working on concurrency for traffic, water and sewer. We had a special meeting and work study on the progress of the Comprehensive Plan amendments last week. We also had a special meeting last Saturday to discuss the recommendation from the Ad Hoc Committee on the annexation of the Fire Department into the District. The list goes on and on - there is never a dull moment.

In closing, the Black Diamond Police Officers Association and the City ratified a collective bargaining agreement on February 19, 2015. I am pleased with the final document and would like to take this opportunity to thank the Black Diamond Police Officers Association and their representatives Sgt. Martinez and Sgt. Lynch for their hard work and effort during the negotiation process.

Should you have any questions or concerns I encourage you to contact me at 360-886-5700.

You missed seeing the City Connection in your mail, so we are bringing it back! Look for your copy of the City Connection in your May utility/stormwater bill. As always, you can find current and past editions on our website at www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us.

RECENTLY ADOPTED ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 15-1046 - relating to Land Use and Zoning, amending the BDMC provisions relating to Development Agreements to establish the duration of such agreements to be no more than twenty years, amending Sections 18.66.020 and 18.66.040 of the BDMC

Ordinance No. 15-1047 - relating to the recreational use of marijuana, adopting operation or licensing of any structures, property, uses or businesses relating to recreational marijuana production, processing, cultivation, storage, sale, delivery, exchange or bartering; adopting findings to support the prohibition, describing the manner in which violations will be enforced and adding an new Chapter 20.08 to the BDMC

Ordinance No. 15-1048 - relating to the medical use of marijuana, adopting a complete prohibition on the siting, establishment, growing, cultivation, operation or licensing of any property, structures, uses or businesses relating to medical marijuana or medical marijuana cultivation (whether individual or group cultivation), storage, sale, delivery, exchange or bartering; adopting findings to support the prohibition, describing the manner in which violations will be enforced, and adding a new Chapter 20.04 to the BDMC

Ordinance No. 15-1049 - amending Black Diamond Municipal Code Regarding Town Hall

Ordinance No. 15-1050 - extending MPD Zoning Moratorium
I was hired in 1997 under what is referred to as the ‘C.O.P.S. hiring grant’ funded through the Department of Justice. I was one of two officers hired during that time that were funded with the goal of accomplishing and adhering to the principals of community oriented policing. During that same period, the department was also able to fund a part-time civilian ‘community policing specialist’ who managed all of our community programs; which included Block Watch, McGruff the crime dog, and elementary safety education. The Department of Justice defines community policing as ‘a law enforcement philosophy that focuses on community partnerships, problem-solving and organizational transformation.’ While I couldn’t fully understand the intricacies of community policing at the age of 22, what I did understand was that most people wanted to live and work in a safe community.

Over the last 17 years, I’ve come to learn what community policing is and what it isn’t. It isn’t one single program or any one program at all. At its very core, it’s the belief and commitment held by each police officer to work with citizens, earn their trust, with the goal of making our city safe as possible. Although those grant monies from 1997 allowed the department to hire and develop staff and programs, those monies ended long ago. What remains is what is true of community policing.

A great example of community policing occurred about 14 years ago. Methamphetamine use was at its peak and we had a known drug house that continued to attract drug dealers and convicted felons who committed ongoing crimes in our city. Neighbors were ready to sell their homes and move and we were tired of arresting the same individuals over and over. We began holding community meetings with neighbors who helped us gather information. It took several months, but with the help of concerned citizens we were able to do what is referred to as ‘drug abatement.’ Through a court order, identified criminals who did not belong were arrested if they came on the property. It wasn’t easy; lots of paperwork and court time. But, if not for the citizens being our eyes and ears and reporting what they saw, we could not have accomplished what we were hired and have pledged to do; protect and serve our community. Serving and protecting isn’t just high speed chases, it’s not just the D.A.R.E. program, but the culmination of trust between people and police. The relationship between police and its citizens is and must be a partnership.

Community policing is seeing our officers at the elementary school interacting with students, it’s watching city council members walk neighborhoods to raise money for a staff member, it’s our officers arresting yet another drunk driver, it’s having the privilege of serving lunch to our seniors at the community center, it’s providing crime information to citizens so they can better protect themselves, it’s leading the parade for the Christmas tree lighting, and ultimately seeing our citizens come together for common purposes.

One way to get involved and understand the role of law enforcement is to come and do a ride along. You will be left with a better understanding of the challenges, risks and rewards of the police officer's role in our community and what you can do to help make a difference.

To inquire, or for additional information, please email jkiblinger@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us.
**Public Works Department >>> Spring Recycling Event**

The City’s annual recycling event is just around the corner. The City received grants to fund the event which is being put on by Olympic Environmental Resources. The event will likely be held on Saturday, April 18th. Be sure to check the City calendar as the date approaches and watch for other advertising. The event will be held at 25510 Lawson Street. Here is what to bring:

- Appliances
- Refrigerators and Freezers ($15 user fee applies)
- Air Conditioners ($10 user fee applies)
- Ferrous Metals
- Non-ferrous Metals
- Hot Water Heaters ($5 user fee applies)
- Tires (User fees apply)
- Lead Acid Batteries
- Alkaline Batteries
- Porcelain Toilets and Sinks ($10 user fee applies)
- Propane Tanks ($5 user fee applies)
- Mattresses/Box springs ($10 user fee applies)

- Cardboard
- Reusable Household Goods/Textiles
- Used Motor Oil
- Used Motor Oil Filters
- Used Antifreeze
- Used Petroleum Based Products
- Bulky Yard Debris
- Clean Scrap Wood
- Electronic and Computer Equipment+
- Cell Phones

*TV sets and Computer Monitors will not be collected and residents will be referred to local E-Cycle sites.*

**Public Works Department >>> Protecting our Lakes and Streams**

A lot of our stormwater efforts go into protecting the City’s waterways at sources away from the City’s waterways. It is important to prevent polluted stormwater from entering the City’s stormwater system and reaching our lakes and streams. But we also need to consider how we can protect our waterways at our waterways.

Below are measures we can take to protect Lake Sawyer and other waterways:

- If maintaining your boat or even putting gas in it, pull it out of the water to do the maintenance
- Perform frequent inspections of boat motors to check for leaks and repair as necessary
- On docks, sweep rather than hose down debris
- Fill up lawn mowers and other gas powered equipment a good distance from waterways
- Properly dispose of all wastes

If you notice a spill on the lake, please contact the Department of Ecology’s Emergency Management Division at 1-800-258-5990 and the City Public Works Department at 360-886-5700 and/or the after hours Emergency Pager at 253-333-5555.
Meetings...

Monthly meetings for City Council are held the first and third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. Work Sessions are held on the second Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. Town Hall Meetings are held the second Thursday of every other 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 5 - 7 p.m.
MAR 12 - 6 p.m. (Work Session & Town Hall Meeting)
MAR 19 - 7 p.m.
APR 2 - 7 p.m.
APR 9 - 6 p.m. (Work Session)
APR 16 - 7 p.m.

PLANNING COMMISSION
25510 LAWSON STREET
MAR 10 - 7 p.m.
APR 7 - 7 p.m.

FINANCE/BUDGET COMMITTEE
24301 Roberts Drive
MAR 12 - 1 p.m.
MAR 26 - 1 p.m.
APR 9 - 1 p.m.
APR 30 - 1 p.m.

PARKS/CEMETERY COMMITTEE
24301 ROBERTS DRIVE
MAR 19 - 3 p.m.
APR 16 - 3 p.m.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
24301 ROBERTS DRIVE
MAR 6 - 3 p.m.
MAR 20 - 3 p.m.
APR 3 - 3 p.m.
APR 17 - 3 p.m.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
24301 ROBERTS DRIVE
MAR 6 - 10:30 a.m.
APR 3 - 10:30 a.m.

PLANNING/COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE
24301 ROBERTS DRIVE
MAR 10 - 4 p.m.
APR 7 - 4 p.m.

ALL COUNCIL/COMMISSION MEETINGS ARE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.
ALL COMMITTEE MEETINGS ARE TENTATIVE AND HELD IN THE PUBLIC WORKS CONFERENCE ROOM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED ON THE AGENDA. CHECK WEBSITE FOR ANY CHANGES.

CITY HALL
P.O. Box 599
24301 Roberts Drive
(360) 886-5700
(253) 631-0351
Fax: (360) 886-2592

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT*/
NATURAL RESOURCES*/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT*
P.O. Box 599
24301 Roberts Drive
(360) 886-5700
(253) 631-0351
Fax: (360) 886-2592

POLICE DEPARTMENT
P.O. Box 309
25510 Lawson Street
(253) 631-1012
Non-Emergency No: (360) 886-0022
Fax: (360) 886-2901

MUNICIPAL COURT
P.O. Box 599
25510 Lawson Street
(360) 886-7784
Fax: (360) 886-5354

FIRE DEPT. DISTRICT #44
(253) 735-0284

PUBLIC WORKS
P.O. Box 599
24301 Roberts Drive
(360) 886-5700
(253) 631-0351
Fax: (360) 886-2592

UTILITY AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY PAGER (253) 333-5555