

# Black Diamond News

## Message from the Mayor's Office

Dear Citizens of Black Diamond:

The best news in this newsletter is that we're back! After a short recess, we are reviving our regular communication to citizens. The timing couldn't be better, since we have a lot happening in Black Diamond.

Last year ended with one of our longtime, very valuable City employees retiring—Rick Luther.



Mayor Botts

Many of you know that Rick served as both our Police Chief and our City Administrator for a period of time. That's what I call doing what it takes for our city.

Luckily, I've found two good people to take on those roles—one a new name and one you will recognize. First, the City Council recently confirmed Jamey Kiblinger as our new Police Chief. Chief Kiblinger has been with the department for over a decade, working her way up through the ranks. I know she's the right person for the people of Black Diamond and the Police Department and she's already proving herself a natural leader. Second, we hired Gwendolyn Voelpel to serve as City Administrator. Gwen comes most recently from the City Manager's Office in Tacoma and has more than 18 years of government experience and a Masters in Public Administration.

Over the past few months, the City Administrator and I also filled several key positions in the City with qualified individuals who bring to our citizens a wealth of experience including:

- Seth Boettcher, Public Works Director
- Amy Donlan, Permit Center Supervisor
- Chip Hanson, Information Services Manager
- Jana King, Deputy Finance Director
- Aaron Nix, Natural Resources Director
- Steve Pilcher, Community Development Director

We have also promoted Rachel Pitzel, formerly the Utility Billing Clerk, to Deputy City Clerk and Teresa Snyder from Administrative Assistant to Permit Technician. I am proud of our "locally grown" employees for their hard work. Some of you may also know that Kevin Esping, formerly with the Police Department, is now coordinating capital facilities functions for the City. Also continuing is Dan Dal Santo, our Utilities Superintendent, who has been with Black Diamond for more than a decade. Andrew Williamson, who served on the Planning Commission and City Council for a number of years, was appointed Economic Development Director last October. For an updated organizational chart, visit our website at [www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us](http://www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us).

I hope you all will take the time to read the updates from our departments in this newsletter. Thank you for staying involved in your city.

Sincerely,  
Howard L. Botts  
Mayor

### Elected Officials

- > Mayor, Howard Botts
- > Councilmember, Bill Boston
- > Councilmember, Geoff Bowie
- > Councilmember, Kristine Hanson
- > Councilmember, Leih Mulvihill
- > Councilmember, Rebecca Olness

### Departments

- > City Administrator, Gwendolyn Voelpel
- > Asst. City Admin./City Clerk, Brenda L Streepy, CMC
- > Community Development, Steve Pilcher
- > Economic Development, Andrew Williamson
- > Finance, Mayene Miller
- > Natural Resources, Aaron Nix
- > Police Department, Jamey Kiblinger, Chief
- > Public Works, Seth Boettcher, PE

### Inside this issue:

City Clerk	2
Finance	2
Community Development	3
Natural Resources	3
Public Works	3
Economic Development	4
Police Department	4

The City is starting an E-Alert Program to tell citizens when new editions of the newsletter are available. Anyone wishing to be added to this list, please email Rachel Pitzel at [rpitzel@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us](mailto:rpitzel@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us). Please include "E-Alert Addition" on the subject line.

Regular City Council meetings are held the **first and third Thursdays of every month**

Location: 25510 Lawson Street

Time: 7:00 p.m.

**Upcoming City Council Meetings**

- July 3rd~CANCELLED
- July 10th~Study Session
- July 17th~Council Meeting
- July 23rd~ Black Diamond/Covington/ Maple Valley Council Meeting (*Black Diamond Elementary*)
- July 24th~ Study Session

Anyone wishing to be added to the Council Agenda Distribution list please contact us at 360-886-2560 or by email:

[bstreepy@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us](mailto:bstreepy@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us)

**City Clerk News**

1.) Recently the City was awarded a 2007-2009 Washington State Archives Local Records Express Grant to scan and microfilm the City's ordinances, resolutions and minutes. Once completed, this project will have solved a critical records need to preserve and protect years' worth of historical and vital documents.



2.) The City Clerk is pleased to announce the promotion of Rachel Pitzel to Deputy City Clerk. Rachel will be working hard in the upcoming months to help organize, inventory and index the City's records. She will also be responsible for the City's website and newsletter preparation – just to name a few of her other duties.



It will soon be time to celebrate our Independence Day and we would like to remind everyone to have a safe and fun Fourth of July.

Following are a few safety measures that will help prevent serious injury or property damage:

- Make sure the area where you are lighting fireworks is free of other combustible material.
- Be certain everyone watching the display is in a safe area away from potential danger.
- To prevent potential fires, have a bucket of water readily available in which to place used

fireworks after they have cooled.

- Children should not be allowed to light fireworks and should be under constant adult supervision.

As a reminder, per Black Diamond Municipal Code section 8.04.100, fireworks can only be discharged in Black Diamond between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 midnight on July 4th.

**Be a good neighbor and remember to pick up all fireworks debris after your celebration! Let's keep our streets clean and safe for the July 4th holiday!**



**Check out our WEBSITE at: [www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us](http://www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us)**

**News from the Finance Department**

**Did you know that of the 305 active business licenses issued in 2008, 108 of them are local addresses and many are home based?**

This year began with the elimination of the City's Business and Occupation tax (Ordinance 07-847) providing tax relief for Black Diamond businesses. At the same time, an updated Business License fee (Ordinance 07-848) was approved and put into effect beginning January 1, 2008.

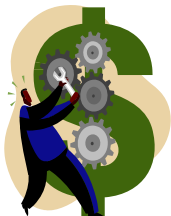
Other changes this year include the implementation of Ordinance 07-849, which amended the Black Diamond Municipal Code and now allows for the collection of a 1% cable tax and the institution of monthly, rather than quarterly, utility tax collection. In the future, the City will upgrade the Finance software system to become more integrated and efficient.

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The Finance Department consists of Mayene Miller, Finance Director, Tracey Redd, Accounting Clerk, and most recently, Jana King, Deputy Finance Director. Jana began work here in March and comes to us from the City of Milton where she was a Senior Financial Analyst.

The Finance staff members are open to suggestions and available to answer your questions. You can contact them at City Hall. Check out the new departmental webpage at [www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us](http://www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us) to find financial reports, the budget and other pertinent information.

When you support local businesses, a larger portion of local sales tax money stays in Black Diamond to help pay for vital services such as police and fire protection.



**Keep an eye out for the 2009 Budget Calendar with public hearing dates.**

*Congratulations to our Finance Department for receiving a clean audit from the State Auditor's Office for the 2005 and 2006 fiscal years!*

## Community Development Department Grows with the City

The City's Community Development Department has added additional staff in order to serve the needs of current city residents and prepare for growth coming in the future. The department now consists of Director Steve Pilcher; Building Official Cliff Brown; City Planner Steve Munson; Permit Supervisor Amy Donlan; and Permit Technician Teresa Snyder. The department is located in a building adjacent to City Hall at 24301 Roberts Drive and is open 8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

1.) The Planning staff is busy working with the City Planning Commission and City Council in completing the comprehensive plan update, new zoning code, and new design standards. The goal is to adopt all of them by early October. Staff is also working with a consultant (Parametrix) in the preparation of two Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) for the Yarrow Bay projects ("Lawson Hills" and "The Villages"). The EIS process is expected to be completed in about one year.

2.) Permit Center staff is developing processes and procedures for all types of construction permits, including

updating application forms and acquiring permit tracking software. Of course, they are also busy in processing and issuing permit applications.

3.) Building Official Cliff Brown performs plan review and building inspections of all permit applications, plus investigates various code violations.



### Upcoming Planning Commission Meetings

- July 8th
- July 22nd

Location: 25510 Lawson Street  
Time: 7:00 p.m.

## Black Diamond A Special Place



Ginder Creek

**Greetings From Aaron Nix:** I'm amazed at the natural beauty inherent to this place we call Black Diamond. Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote in *Nature* (1836) that "A nobler want of man is served by nature, namely, the love of **beauty**." We are reminded daily of this beauty

This is a beauty only Black Diamond can say they still maintain.

With this beauty comes a desire to help preserve and maintain this special place. We are reminded of the goals set forth years ago by the leaders of Black Diamond:

*In the year 2010, Black Diamond will be a beautiful, friendly community based on a rich historic heritage and exceptional natural setting, and with a small-town atmosphere. Forested areas and open space remain, while development maintains a healthy balance of moderate growth and economic viability.*

This is the role of the Natural Resources Department in the City of Black Diamond: to grow, but work in collaboration and within the limits of nature. As many have expressed to me in my short time here, our goal is to grow with dignity and maintain a superb quality of life for future generations to come.

Please, feel free to contact me with questions or concerns at [anix@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us](mailto:anix@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us) or (360) 886-2560 extension 220. I look forward to seeing you around this special place we call Black Diamond. *Aaron Nix, Natural Resources Director*

## Greetings from Public Works Director

**Hello from Seth:** I am glad to join the team here and am looking forward to assisting you in meeting the challenges of new State and Federal regulations, development and the planning for your streets and utilities. I am already enjoying the small town atmosphere. I am looking forward to meeting many of you in the course of your business with the City or on the street.

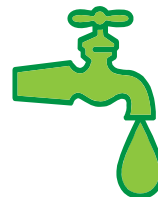
I was born, raised and worked in the Eatonville area before going to the U.W. for an Engineering Degree. Prior work history includes private consulting, Public Works Director for Eatonville in the early to mid 90's, Public Works Director for Bonney Lake for 7 years and most recently serving as the City Engineer for Puyallup. *Seth Boettcher, Public Works Director*

### Good News:

Dan Dal Santo has been following up with testing at various homes to determine if the new treatment of our water system that adjusts the pH of the water has been effective in reducing the leaching of lead and copper from household plumbing into the water. Recent test results show that lead and copper levels in the most high risk homes from samples before flushing the lines have been dramatically reduced and are well below the State and Federal maximum contaminant levels. Thanks goes to Dan for his

*Many residents wonder....  
Is there fluoride in our water?*

*Answer: No*



diligence in guarding the public health in maintenance and monitoring activities of the Black Diamond Water System.

### Railroad Avenue:

The design of the reconstruction of Railroad Avenue from Baker Street to Merino is well underway. When the City gets further along in the design process, a more predictable schedule will be shared. At this point there are several issues to resolve that may have an impact on the schedule. Watch for updates as the project progresses.

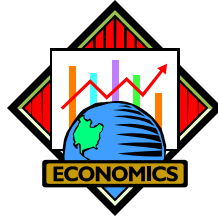


## The Economic Development Department

The Economic Development Department came into existence with the appointment of Economic Development Director Andrew Williamson in the fall of 2007.

The purpose of the Economic Development Department is to improve the economic vitality and the quality of life in Black Diamond.

The department is actively working with current business owners and commercial land owners and recruiting new businesses to Black Diamond.



The Economic Development Department would like to hear your ideas and comments as the City moves forward.

Stop by the Economic Development office located in the Community Development building at 24301 Roberts Drive or contact Andrew Williamson, Economic Development Director, at (360) 886-2560 extension 215 or [awilliamson@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us](mailto:awilliamson@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us).

## CITY OF BLACK DIAMOND



24301 ROBERTS DRIVE  
PO BOX 599  
BLACK DIAMOND, WA 98010

Phone: 360-886-2560 or  
253-631-0351

Fax: 360-886-2592

E-mail: [info@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us](mailto:info@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us)

Website: [www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us](http://www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us)

## Black Diamond Police Department Community Programs and Events



The Black Diamond Police Department is comprised of eight Police Officers, Commander, two

Patrol Sergeants and a Chief of Police. On January 1, 2008, Chief Rick Luther retired as Chief of Police after serving the Black Diamond community for more than 31 years. Commander Jamey Kiblinger became Acting Chief after Chief Luther retired, until she was promoted on May 15, 2008, to Police Chief permanently.

For those of you who are unaware, The Black Diamond Police Department acquired its first narcotics detection K-9 in January 2007. Officer Kris

Chatterson was chosen to be the department's first K-9 handler and was paired up with a 1-year-old black Labrador Retriever named Sabre. Officer Chatterson and K-9 Sabre have been working the streets as a team now for a year and a half. The team currently has 541 K-9 applications, 2,974 finds of illegal drugs and/or currency that are contaminated with the odor of narcotics and 562 hours of narcotics detection K-9 training. Officer Chatterson and K-9 Sabre conduct safety talks and K-9 presentations for schools, day cares, Cub Scout and Girl Scout troops, various community



group meetings and special events. The Black Diamond Police Department will continue to participate in numerous community programs and events this year. These events and programs include: Block Watch, Business Watch, Operation Identification, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, Home Security Surveys, Residential Security Checks, D.A.R.E., Summer Safe KIDZ, Lake Sawyer Marine Patrol, McGruff Houses, A Night Before Halloween, National Night Out Against Crime and Bicycle Safety Week.

The Black Diamond Police Department want the citizens to know that it will continue to strive to make this

community a safe and enjoyable place to live, work and raise a family.

In the spring of 2008, the Black Diamond Community Center was fortunate enough to obtain a \$2,000 King County mini-grant to help support the K-9 program. In addition, in June King County Council Member Reagan Dunn and Wal-mart presented the Black Diamond Police Department K-9 program with a \$3,000 check to assist the K-9 program with various expenses.

If you haven't met your local police officers and fire-fighters, this will be the night. Police officers and fire-fighters will be at your disposal to answer any questions you may have and to provide you with crime and fire prevention tips.

On Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, neighborhoods throughout Black Diamond are being invited to join forces with thousands of communities nationwide for the "25<sup>th</sup> Annual National Night Out" crime and drug prevention event. National Night Out, sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch and co-sponsored locally by the Black Diamond Police Department, will involve over 11,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases around the world. In all, more than 35 million people are expected to participate in "America's

## "America's Night Out Against Crime" August 5, 2008

Night Out Against Crime" on August 5<sup>th</sup>. National Night Out is designed to: (1) Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; (2) Generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime efforts; (3) Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and (4) Send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and

**From 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. on August 5<sup>th</sup>, residents in neighborhoods throughout Black Diamond and across the nation, are asked to lock their doors, turn on outside lights and spend the evening outside with neighbors and police.**

fighting back. Many neighborhoods throughout Black Diamond will be hosting a variety of special events such as block parties, cookouts, parades, visits from police, flashlight walks, contests, youth activities and anti-crime rallies.

The Black Diamond Police Department, Black Diamond Fire Department and the Black Diamond Community Center will also be hosting an enormous

outdoor party at the Black Diamond Gym located directly across the street from the Police Department (25511 Lawson St). The festivities will begin at 5:00 p.m. on August 5th and will continue into the evening. Come join us for a free BBQ that will include hot dogs, chips, cookies and soda pop. While you are eating and socializing with other community members, your children can take a tour of the fire engine and police car that will be parked out front.

Black Diamond Police Officers will be cruising from neighborhood to neighborhood to attend each party. Don't forget to turn on your outside lights and get outdoors Tuesday, August 5th.

