

# THE CITY CONNECTION

*"FACETS OF BLACK DIAMOND"*

## Moratorium nearing an end



Some things really aren't as they seem at first glance. Although the City Council voted on September 18th to extend the long-standing subdivision moratorium until December 31, 2008, or unless terminated earlier by Council action, it is anticipated that the moratorium will be lifted before the December deadline. The City reminds the public that the moratorium only applies to subdivisions of more than four lots and master planned development applications. Permit applications will continue to be accepted for single family homes and multi-family housing, commercial or industrial projects where allowed by zoning.

The City Planning Commission has reviewed a majority of the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code and is beginning its review of the draft Design Guidelines. In the next month, the City Council will conduct a public hearing on the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code, plus begin to review updated regulations for protecting environmentally sensitive areas.

Your Council is meeting at least every week in an effort to complete this important work, with the goal of ending the moratorium before Thanksgiving.

For more information on this effort, please contact the Community Development Department.

## Sensitive areas reviewed by Council

As directed under the Growth Management Act by the State Legislature, the City of Black Diamond is nearing completion of its update to the Sensitive Areas Ordinance (SAO). Sensitive areas perform key functions that enhance our environment and protect us from hazards.



to adopt a Sensitive Areas Ordinance utilizing a Best Available Science (BAS) standard, including "buffers" around wetlands, streams and other areas.

The City Council held its first public study session on this subject on September 25th. The Council will conduct a public hearing in the future. Watch the City's website for future agendas and public hearing notices.

Sensitive areas include streams, wetlands, wildlife corridors and steep slopes. The beneficial functions and values provided by sensitive areas include water quality protection and enhancement, fish and wildlife habitat protection, food chain support, flood storage, flood water conveyance, and attenuation (the slow release) of flood waters, ground water recharge and discharge, erosion control and protection from natural hazards—just to name a few.

The State of Washington requires all cities planning under the Growth Management Act



WELCOME FALL!



### 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, Jamey Kiblinger, Chief
- ◆ Public Works, Seth Boettcher, PE

### Inside this issue:

Park Survey Results	2
Park Survey Results ( <i>cont'd</i> )	3 – 4
Fire Protection Week Information	4
Help Protect Our Lakes, Streams and Bogs	5
City Budgets for 2009	6
Recently Adopted Ordinances	7
City Contacts	7



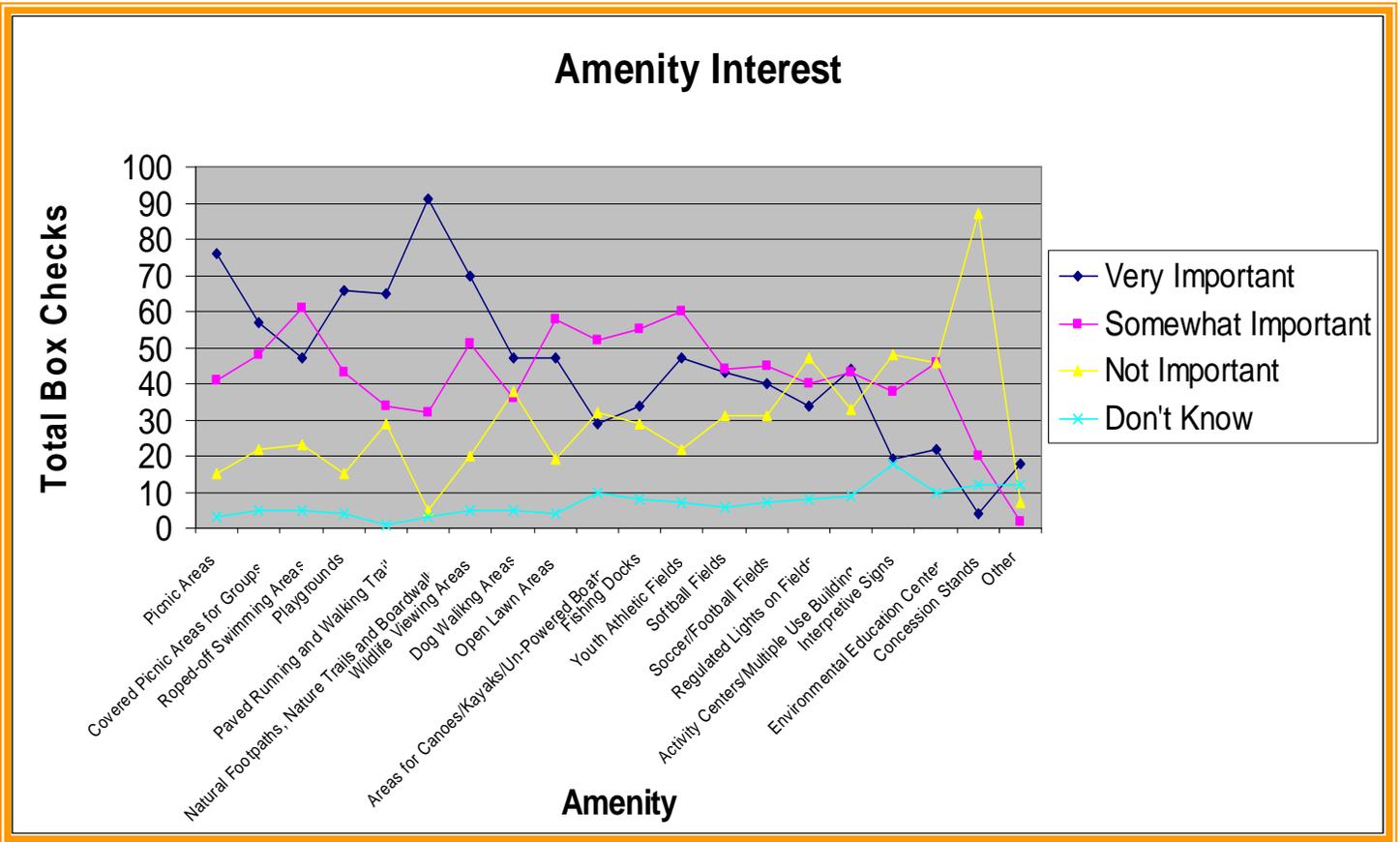
**Black Diamond will be celebrating our 50th Birthday in 2009!**

**If you are interested in becoming a member of the 50th Birthday Committee, please contact Mayor Howard Botts at 360-886-2560 or via email at [hbotts@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us](mailto:hbotts@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us) or Brenda L. Streepy, Assistant City Administrator/City Clerk by email, [bstreepy@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us](mailto:bstreepy@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us).**

## Park survey reinforces citizens like “wild”

The City of Black Diamond recently completed the 2008 park survey measuring citizens' interest in potential park amenities and usage of current park facilities. The City received more than 150 responses. The results clearly indicate that the residents of Black Diamond appreciate open space and the City's natural setting. Most residents would like more emphasis placed on natural trail development and keeping open spaces wild. This information is very timely for staff as preparation of a comprehensive park plan for the entire City is being drafted to include potential parks improvement projects.

Following are graphs summarizing the results and a few answers to common questions. The detailed results including the graphs shown in small format here, are available on the City's website at [www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us](http://www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us). Thanks to everyone who participated in the survey.



### Survey Comments and Questions: General

**Comment/Question:** As a young, growing family we would like to see more family-friendly indoor/outdoor facilities and activities as Black Diamond grows in population.

**Response:** The Mayor and City Council have made it a priority that, as the City of Black Diamond's population grows and development occurs, so will the quantity and the quality of the parks, recreation and open space for our residents. The City Council was very forward-thinking in this regard, requiring various properties over the past years to maintain 50 percent open space as they develop.

**Comment/Question:** If there are toddler friendly parks near town, I don't know where they are. A map of park facilities or clearly visible signs would be helpful.

**Response:** The City understands the lack of these types of resources throughout Black Diamond. Financial limitations currently exist within the City's budget, but the City is aggressively pursuing grant opportunities and other funding mechanisms to help improve our parks, recreation and open space program. A map is currently being developed that identifies these amenities in Black Diamond and will be posted to the City's website when completed.

**Comment/Question:** My husband and I are greatly disappointed with the playgrounds in Black Diamond. We regularly drive to Mud Mountain Dam or to Point Defiance Zoo just to find a nice play area for our three children.

**Response:** Upgrades to existing parks will be included in the City's Comprehensive Parks Plan that is currently under development. The City is actively looking at funding opportunities and will continue to aggressively apply for grant opportunities and other sources of revenue available to us.

### Survey Comments and Questions: Lake Sawyer Park and Boat Launch

*Continued to next page...*

**Comment/Question:** Lake Sawyer needs a dock at the boat launch.

**Response:** The City is in the process of creating a contract with Anchor Environmental Consultants to design an improved boat launch, docking facility and swimming area. The City is hoping to obtain a Recreation and Conservation Office Grant from the State of Washington in order to construct the facility in the summer of 2010.

**Comment/Question:** Where is the dock that was supposed to be built at the Sawyer Boat Launch Park? What are we paying \$5.00 to park for?

**Response:** At this time, a majority of the parking funds are used for maintenance and operations of the existing boat launch.

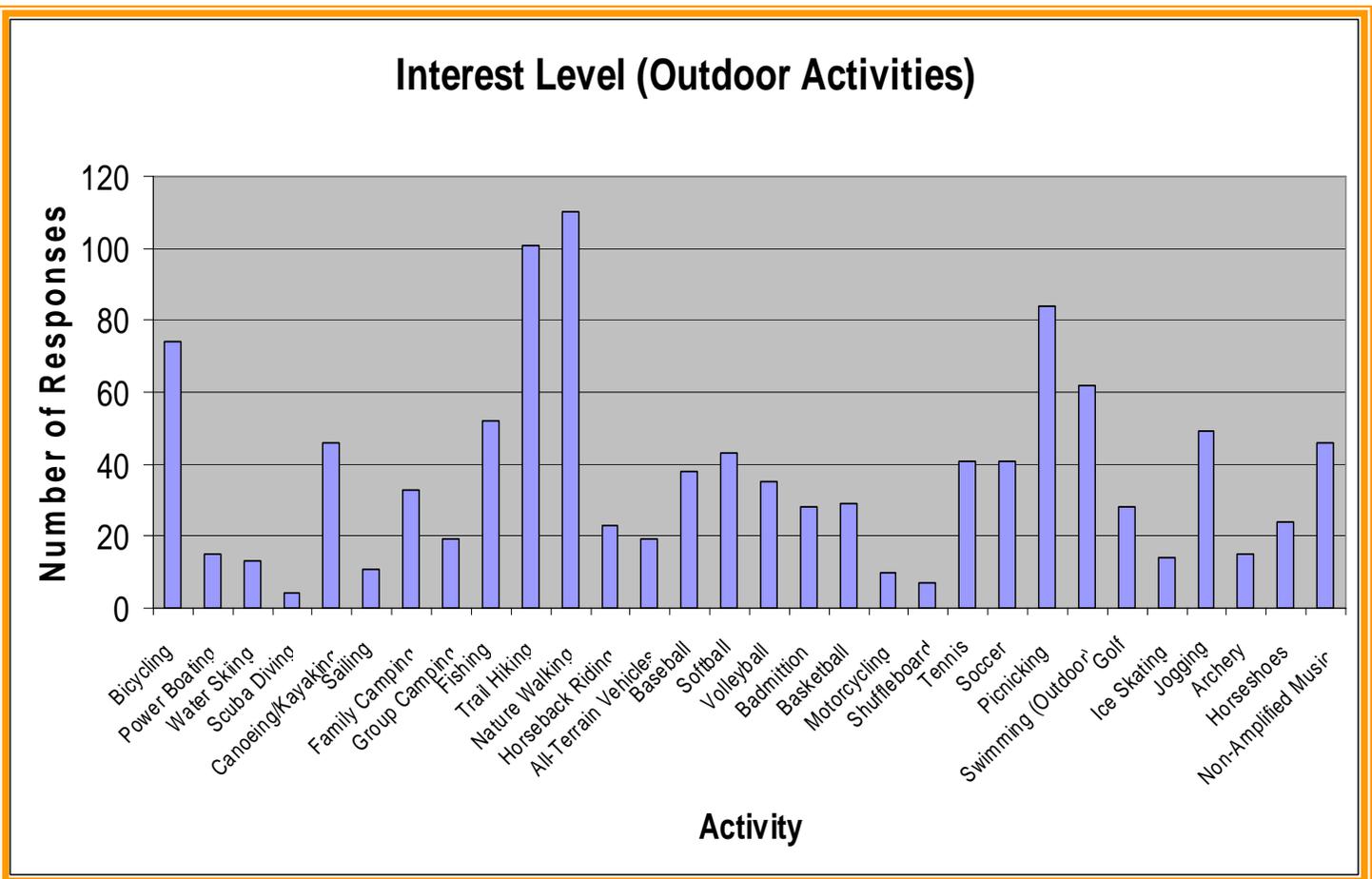
**Comment/Question:** Are these questions related to the Lake Sawyer Master Plan? What has changed from the original plan?

**Response:** There was a major concept plan developed for Lake Sawyer and adopted by City Council in 2007. That plan dealt only with Lake Sawyer park plans. But the latest city-wide park plan was dated 1989. This plan will address the needs and wants of its citizens for the entire City. Information from this survey will be utilized in putting together a city-wide plan that will give the City more flexibility in pursuing grants and other funding opportunities.

**Survey Questions and Comments: Trails, Open Space and Bicycling**

**Comment/Question:** One thing that would be important is to be able to safely walk/ride bikes to these recreational facilities. Right now, we don't have wide streets or sidewalks throughout the City.

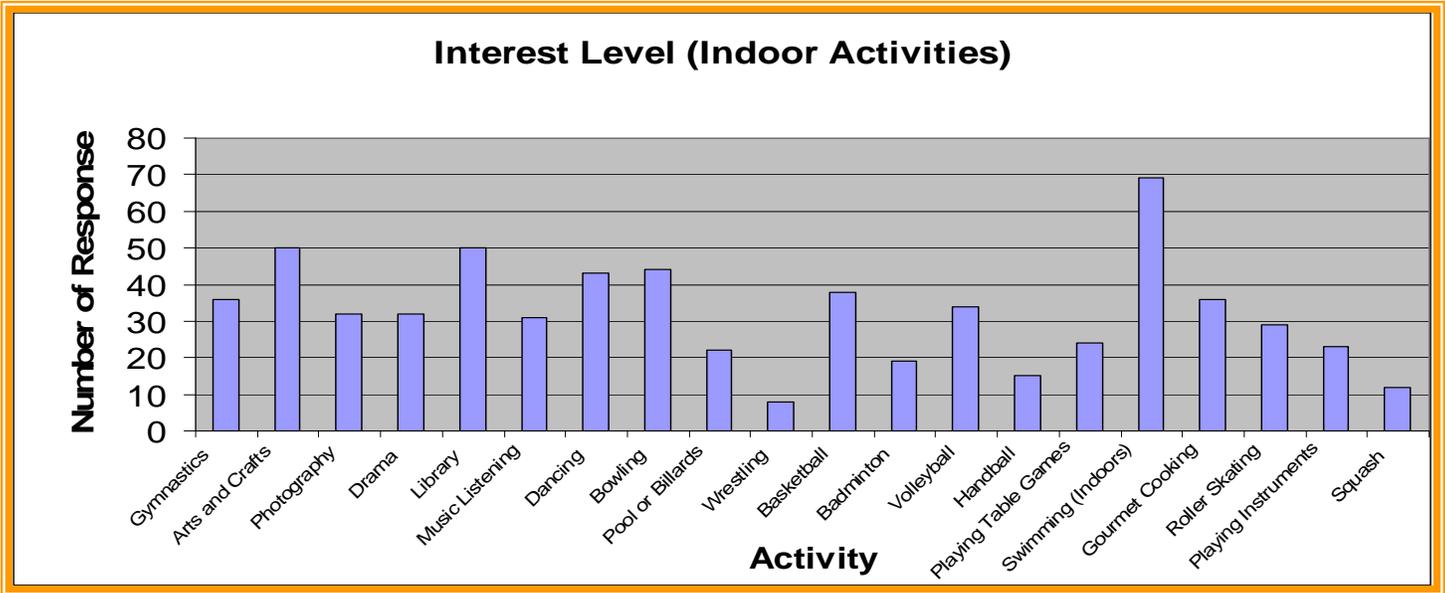
**Response:** The development of comprehensive parks and transportation plans will help the City prioritize these needs and apply for funding. The Natural Resources Department is nearing completion of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan. City Council has updated the City's Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) and is working with the Planning Commission on the transportation element of the Comprehensive Plan. *(continued on page 4...)*



**Survey Questions and Comments: Parks, Recreation and Open Space Program Interest**

**Comment/Question:** If Black Diamond could become a destination for outdoor activities that would be beyond wonderful. We love the feel of our Small Town and are concerned that there's a good possibility it could be gone forever.

**Response:** Staff truly appreciates all comments offered by the citizens of Black Diamond in regard to parks, recreation and open space. We strongly believe in the quality of life and small town character inherent to Black Diamond and are working to ensure that this continues as the City develops.



**Fire Prevention Week October 5-11**



October 5-11, is Fire Prevention Week. Mountain View Fire & Rescue/Black Diamond Fire Department will be visiting schools and other facilities within the District to talk to students about ways to prevent fires in the home. Please review some ways to "Prevent Home Fires" with your children below:



**Safety in the kitchen**

- Remind grown-ups to stay in the kitchen when cooking. Keep things that can burn (potholders, towels, and paper) away from the stove.
- Stay three feet away from the stove when a grown-up is cooking.

**Electrical check-up**

- Help grown-ups check electrical cords to make sure they are not damaged.

**Heating Reminders**

- Remind grown-ups to keep space heaters three feet from anything that can burn.
- Grown-ups should always turn off space heaters every time they leave the room and before going to bed.
- Remind grown-ups never to use an oven to heat your home.



**Match and lighter safety**

- Tell a grown-up if you find matches or lighters.
- Grown-ups should keep matches and lighters in a locked cabinet.

**Candle caution**

- Remind grown-ups to put out lit candles when they leave a room.
- Stay three feet away from burning candles and keep candles away from flammable objects.

**Safety smart grown-up reminders**

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, inside each bedroom and outside each sleeping area.
- Test smoke alarms once a month.
- Replace smoke alarms every 10 years.
- Make a home fire escape plan with your family.
- Find two ways out of every room and an outside meeting place.
- Know the emergency number for your Fire Department.
- Practice your escape plan twice a year.

When the smoke alarm sounds, get out and stay out!

For more information please contact Tim Perciful (Fire & Life Safety Educator) at 253-735-0284

## Help protect our lakes, streams and bogs

How can you help protect Ginder Creek, Jones Lake, Rock Creek, Frog Lake, our “world class” bog and Lake Sawyer? And why do you need to be concerned? As Black Diamond grows, we will increase our effects on the surrounding environment.

The City mitigated the environmental impacts of residents with the installation of sewers and the subsequent pumping of the sewage to King County Metro wastewater in the early 1990’s. Besides sewer, stormwater also can cause major impacts to creeks, wetlands and lakes in our neighborhoods. Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and flow into our storm sewer system or directly into our lakes, streams, and wetlands. Anything that enters a storm sewer system may be discharged untreated into the water bodies we use for swimming, fishing, or just viewing.



**Pick up after Fluffy or Fido:** Pet waste can be a major source of bacteria in local waters. Make sure you pick up and dispose of your pet waste properly. Flushing it is best.

The City is required to meet Department of Ecology stormwater permit requirements by state and federal law. The City is ramping up to meet the Stormwater Management Program requirements required by law and our permit. The basic components of the program are:

- A process for involving the public in the initial and ongoing development of the stormwater management program.
- A public education and outreach program to educate the public, businesses and others about reducing stormwater pollution.
- Adoption of ordinances to control runoff from new development, redevelopment and construction activities. At a minimum this must include a permitting process for projects that disturb one acre or more, or projects of less than one acre that are part of a larger common development plan.
- An illicit discharge detection and elimination program to identify and remove improper discharges into the storm sewer system.
- An operation and maintenance program to reduce pollutant runoff from municipal operations.

### Here are some things you can do to help:

**Report spills promptly:** If you know of an illicit discharge or accidental spill of something toxic onto the ground, into a stream or into a stormwater drain, please note the location, substance and all other details. Then call the City’s Public Works Department at (360) 886-2560 or e-mail the City Public Works Department at [sboettcher@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us](mailto:sboettcher@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us). You may request that your personal information be kept confidential. If you are unsure as to whether the materials are hazardous, please call so we can investigate the concern.

**Do lawn care the natural way:** Excess fertilizers and pesticides wash off and pollute streams. So use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. Use organic mulch or safer pest control methods whenever possible. Use a soaker hose instead of a sprinkler.

**When leaves fall, please haul:** Compost or mulch yard waste, which when put in streets can wash into storm drains, clog them up and end up in streams.

**Promote fish-friendly car care:** Washing your car and de-greasing auto parts at home can send detergents and other contaminants through the storm sewer system. Dumping automotive fluids into storm drains has the same result as dumping it directly into the water. Use a commercial car wash that treats or recycles its wastewater or wash your car on your lawn so the water infiltrates into the ground. Also watch for leaks and dispose of used auto fluids at designated drop-off spots.

In order to finance this effort the City is considering setting up a stormwater utility that will provide direct funding for a new stormwater utility dedicated to the implementation of the above described program and maintenance of the City stormwater system.

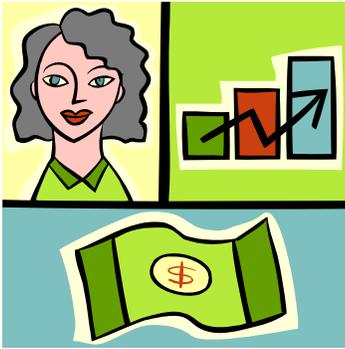
If you would like more information on this subject, please check out the stormwater page under Public Works on the City’s website: [www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us](http://www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us) .

## WELCOME BRIAN LYNCH!

*The Black Diamond Police Department would like to introduce you to their newest Officer—Brian Lynch. Officer Lynch comes to us from the Enumclaw Police Department where he spent the last eight years. Lynch is excited to be a part of Black Diamond and looks forward to serving our community!*



# City Budgets for 2009



Revenues and expenditures. Capital projects and outlays. Service and staffing levels. Trends and forecasts. Those may sound like college business course titles, but they are actually some of the many topics the City Council will deliberate on during the formation and adoption of the 2009 capital and operating budget.

The budget document tells the City's financial story and sets spending targets for the programs and services city residents receive. Currently, the Finance Department is preparing the City's 2009 operating budget—which outlines the day-to-day costs of police, fire, planning, utilities and all City functions—while also preparing the City's first comprehensive Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

For those folks not familiar with a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), it is an important fiscal planning tool that identifies the City's capital asset needs—such as new sewer pipes, park improvements or police cars—and schedules projects for funding and implementation over a period of years. The 2009 capital projects approved by Council will be incorporated into the 2009 budget. A CIP is usually required by granting agencies at the state and federal level to qualify for grant funding and/or low-interest loans. Projects are generally \$5,000 or more and may be funded over a period of many years from sources including grants, real estate excise taxes (from the sale of property), utility charges and fees. Projects remain on the plan until completed or removed by the City Council in its annual review of the CIP. Since the CIP is not a legally binding document, it can and does change every year during the review process by the policymakers on the City Council.

Below are the 2009 Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Plan calendars for your reference. Please note that dates may change, so check the City's website for current calendars and notices.

POTENTIAL MEETING DATES FOR 2009 BUDGET	
✂ OCTOBER 1	DEPARTMENTS REVIEW BUDGET WITH COUNCIL
✂ NOVEMBER 6	COUNCIL WORKSHOP TO REVIEW PROPOSED 2009 BUDGET
✂ NOVEMBER 20	COPIES OF PRELIMINARY BUDGET MADE AVAILABLE TO PUBLIC
✂ NOVEMBER 20	COUNCIL HOLDS PUBLIC HEARING ON REVENUE SOURCES AND EXPENDITURES FOR UPCOMING BUDGET YEAR INCLUDING POSSIBLE INCREASES IN PROPERTY TAX REVENUE.
✂ NOVEMBER 20	PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPERTY TAX
✂ NOVEMBER 20	COUNCIL ADOPTS PRELIMINARY PROPERTY TAX LEVY FOR 2009 BUDGET
✂ DECEMBER 4	COUNCIL HOLDS FINAL PUBLIC HEARING ON 2009 BUDGET
✂ DECEMBER 4 OR 18	COUNCIL ADOPTS FINAL PROPERTY TAX LEVY FOR 2009 BUDGET AND ADOPTS FINAL BUDGET
✂ DECEMBER 4 OR 18	COUNCIL ADOPTS FINAL 2009 BUDGET (IF NEEDED) AND TRANSMITS TO THE STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE

*\*Calendar subject to change*



POTENTIAL SCHEDULE FOR 2008 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN	
✂ OCTOBER 16	PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2008-2013 CIP
✂ OCTOBER 16	COUNCIL ADOPTS 2008-2013 CIP
✂ NOVEMBER 6	COUNCIL ADOPTS 2008-2013 CIP (IF NEEDED)

*\*Calendar subject to change*

## CIP AT A GLANCE

- ✓ The CIP is a mandate of the Growth Management Act.
- ✓ Cities plan public improvements to accommodate anticipated growth, public needs and to implement policy decisions.
- ✓ The CIP process establishes a systematic means to annually identify the capital improvements and financing for a five-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.
- ✓ 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 developed each year and adopted by the City Council by ordinance.



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)

## Recently adopted ordinances

At the September 18, 2008, Council Meeting the following ordinances were adopted:

- ◆ Ordinance No. 08-869 — Extending Mobile Home Landing Moratorium
- ◆ Ordinance No. 08-870 — Extending Building Moratorium

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



CITY MEETINGS

**CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS**  
25510 LAWSON STREET

- OCT 2 - 7 P.M.
- OCT 9 - 7 P.M.
- OCT 16 - 7 P.M.

**COUNCIL STUDY SESSIONS:**

- OCT 1 - 7 P.M.
- OCT 2 - 6 P.M.
- OCT 16 - 6 P.M.
- OCT 22 - 7 P.M.
- OCT 23 - 7 P.M.
- OCT 30 - 7 P.M.

**PLANNING COMMISSION**  
25510 LAWSON STREET

- OCT 7 - 7 P.M.
- OCT 14 - 7 P.M.
- OCT 28 - 7 P.M.

**MONTHLY MEETINGS**  
**CITY COUNCIL:**  
1ST & 3RD THURSDAYS  
AT 7 P.M.  
**PLANNING COMMISSION:**  
FIRST TUESDAY  
AFTER THE FIRST  
COUNCIL MEETING -  
AT 7 P.M.

### Ballot issue won't impact Black Diamond or King County District 17 Residents

Mountain View Fire and Rescue (King County Fire District 44), which serves Black Diamond, will have a General Obligation bond issue on this November's general election ballot. It is important for the citizens of Black Diamond and Fire District 17 to know that this ballot issue relates to the citizens of King County Fire District 44 only. Should the levy be passed, it will not affect property taxes in Black Diamond. You can read more about the fire district at <http://www.kcfd44.org/> or by calling (253) 735-0284.

**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE @ [WWW.CI.BLACKDIAMOND.WA.US](http://WWW.CI.BLACKDIAMOND.WA.US)**

EVENT CALENDAR	CITY OF BLACK DIAMOND
OCT 5th — 11th — Fire Prevention Week	<b>CITY HALL</b> (360) 886-2560 P.O. Box 599/24301 Roberts Drive (253) 631-0351
<b>COMMUNITY CONTACTS</b>	<b>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT</b> (360) 886-2560 P.O. Box 599/24301 Roberts Drive (253) 631-0351
<b>Black Diamond Library</b> (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.	<b>POLICE DEPARTMENT</b> (253) 631-1012 P.O. Box 309/25510 Lawson Street
<b>Black Diamond Community/Senior Center</b> (360) 886-1011 Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	<b>MUNICIPAL COURT</b> (360) 886-7784 P.O. Box 599/25510 Lawson Street
<b>Black Diamond Post Office</b> (360) 886-9429 Hours of Operation: Monday — Friday 9 a.m. — 5 p.m.	<b>FIRE DEPT. DISTRICT #44</b> (253) 735-0284
<b>Black Diamond Museum/Historical Society</b> (360) 886-2142 Hours of Operation: Thursdays — 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays — Noon - 4 p.m.	<b>PUBLIC WORKS</b> (360) 886-2560 P.O. Box 599/24301 Roberts Drive (253) 631-0351 AFTER HOURS (EMERGENCY PAGER) (253) 333-5555
If you would like to be added to the city's E-Alert Program, e-mail Rachel Pitzel at <a href="mailto:rpitzel@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us">rpitzel@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us</a> , please include "E-Alert Addition" on the subject line.	