

THE CITY CONNECTION

"FACETS OF BLACK DIAMOND"

Weather, detours and standards lead list

Weather

Generally speaking, the City fared better than other communities during the recent persistent snowfall, icy temperatures and torrential rains. The greatest damage to the City's public infrastructure is the undermining of Roberts Drive at the Ginder Creek culvert. The City of Black Diamond had to close Roberts Drive because the road could cave in and endanger motorists. The City's Public Works staff has contacted several contractors and is obtaining an emergency permit from the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife to expedite repair of the culvert and filling in of the voids under the roadway. The City is hoping to open up Roberts Drive for traffic again by February 5.

Traffic

During the interim, the City has re-routed eastbound traffic on Roberts Drive to Morgan Street and Baker Street back to State Route 169. The King County Library remains open during normal hours while the detour is in place. You may access the library from the west side by going around the first "Road Closed" sign at Morgan Street. See also <http://www.kcls.org/blackdiamond/directions.cfm> for more information.



Construction standards

City staff and the City Council's Public Works Committee (Councilmember Geoff Bowie and Councilmember Kristine Hanson) have been reviewing updated Engineering Design and Construction Standards over the past several months. Those include policy statements, design standards and specifications for water, sewer, stormwater and streets. The Committee intends to forward the revised water design and construction standards to a full Council study session within the next several weeks.

Projects

The City will replace the old, undersized asbestos concrete water main in Railroad Avenue before the reconstruction of the roadway planned for this summer. The water main replacement project is anticipated to start construction toward the end of February. The City will also extend the sidewalk on the north side of Morgan Street to the City Hall site on Roberts Drive this fall.

For more information on Public Works issues, visit the City's website or call Public Works Director Seth Boettcher at (253) 886-2560 ext. 211.

Elected Officials

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

Department Heads

- ◆ 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/Parks, Aaron Nix
- ◆ Police, Jamey Kiblinger
- ◆ Public Works, Seth Boettcher, PE



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Beaver management controlled by state, local laws

Black Diamond is well-known for its large and active beaver population. Therefore, it's important that all citizens become informed on the appropriate way to handle these animals and protect property from their potential impacts.

Black Diamond policies govern all animals (View HPA information at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/hpapage.htm>)

The City of Black Diamond does not have a "beaver policy," although there are regulations (explained below) regarding treatment of all animals. In addition, the City doesn't hold any regulatory authority for beaver control. Dealing with any problems caused by beavers is a landowner's responsibility. The situation becomes tricky when a beaver on one person's land causes a change in hydrology that affects another person's property. The best solutions result when the two (or more) landowners work together towards a common solution. Potential solutions can include: choose and place plants carefully; install barriers; apply repellants; control the height of water behind a beaver dam to prevent flooding; prevent beavers from plugging culverts and live trapping. Most of your options require a permit from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). WDFW has a web page describing Hydraulic Project Approvals, which are required under the "Hydraulic Code" (Chapter 77.55 RCW) passed in 1949. In brief, anyone wishing to conduct any construction activity that will use, divert, obstruct, or change the bed or flow of state waters must obtain a permit (called the Hydraulic Project Approval, an HPA). See website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/hpapage.htm>.

State laws govern beaver removal or displacement (View state laws at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/wlm.living.beavers.htm>)

To be sure you're following all current regulations, contact your local wildlife office for updates. In Black Diamond, our wildlife resource is the North Puget Sound, Mill Creek Office, Region 4. You can contact them by phone at (425) 775-1311 or fax (425) 338-1066 or via email at TeamMillCreek@dfw.wa.gov.

Hunting: The beaver is classified as a furbearer (WAC 232-12-007). A trapping license and open season are required to trap or shoot a beaver. The owner, the owner's immediate family, an employee, or a tenant of property may shoot or trap a beaver on that property if a threat to crops exists (RCW 77.36.030). In such cases, no special trapping permit is necessary for the use of live traps. However, a special trapping permit is required for the use of all traps other than live traps (RCW 77.15.192, 77.15.194; WAC 232-12-142). There are no exceptions for emergencies and no provisions for verbal approval. All special trapping permit applications must be in writing on a form available from the Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

Releasing: It is unlawful to release a beaver anywhere within the state, other than on the property where it was legally trapped, without a permit to do so (RCW 77.15.250; WAC 232-12-271).

Dam removal: To remove or modify a beaver dam you must have a Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA)—a permit issued by WDFW for work that will use, obstruct, change, or divert the bed or flow of state waters (RCW 77.55). A permit application can be obtained from your WDFW Regional Office (information above) or from the Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) web page at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/hpapage.htm>.

In emergency situations (when an immediate threat to property or life exists), verbal approval from WDFW can be obtained for work necessary to solve the problem. A 24-hour hotline (360) 902-2537 is available for emergency calls during nonworking hours. During normal hours, contact your nearest WDFW Regional Office.

Local laws cover trapping, shooting of all animals

The City of Black Diamond also maintains code language in Chapters 6 and 9 of the municipal code that addresses methods for beaver removal or displacement. See the following codes below:

Chapter 9.112 DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS AND HUNTING PROHIBITED

9.112.010 Prohibited.

The discharge of firearms and/or the hunting of animals and birds is prohibited within the city limits. (Ord. 493 § 1, 1993)

Chapter 6.08 ANIMAL CONTROL

6.08.130 Animal traps -Spring traps.

A coyote getter or similar spring trigger device for the killing, harming or trapping of an animal is unlawful within the city limits unless done by the Washington State Department of Wildlife or such other state or federal agency provided it advises the city of the nature of the device, the area to be used in and will monitor the device and insure its timely removal. (Ord. 383 § 13, 1988)

6.08.140 Animal Traps -Prohibited- Exception.

It is unlawful for anyone to use traps to apprehend any animal inside the city, unless by animal control or law enforcement officers for the purposes of apprehending a dangerous or diseased animal, or by representatives from an animal welfare agency recognized by the Humane Society for Seattle-King County, for the purpose of trap/neuter/return or an adoption program. This section does not apply to mouse traps, mole traps, or rat traps. (Ord. 08-864, 2008 § Ord. 383 § 19, 1988)

Please contact the City of Black Diamond with questions regarding the above ordinances. City staff will work with you to help address your specific situation. For online access to the Black Diamond Municipal Code please go to the City's website at www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us and click on the Municipal Code button at the bottom of the homepage.

Background on beavers

(materials provided by <http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/animalsAndPlants/beavers.apx>)

Beavers (*Castor Canadensis*) are the largest living rodents in North America, with adults averaging 40 pounds in weight and measuring more than 3 feet in length, including the tail. These semi-aquatic mammals have webbed hind feet, large incisor teeth, and a broad, flat tail. The beaver's incisors (front teeth) are harder on the front surface than on the back, and so the back wears faster. This creates a sharp edge that enables a beaver to easily cut through wood.

Once among the most widely distributed mammals in North America, beavers were eliminated from much of their range in the late 1800s because of unregulated trapping. With a decline in the demand for beaver pelts, and with proper management, they became reestablished in much of their former range and are now common in many areas.

Beavers are found where their preferred foods are in good supply—along rivers, and in small streams, lakes, marshes, and even roadside ditches containing adequate year-round water flow. In areas where deep, calm water is not available, beavers that have enough building material available will create ponds by building dams across creeks or other watercourses and impounding water.

Beaver dams create habitat for many other animals and plants of Washington. In winter, deer and elk frequent beaver ponds to forage on shrubby plants that grow where beavers cut down trees for food or use to make their dams and lodges. Weasels, raccoons, and herons hunt frogs and other prey along the marshy edges of beaver ponds. Migratory water birds use beaver ponds as nesting areas and resting stops during migration. Ducks and geese often nest on top of beaver lodges since they offer warmth and protection, especially when lodges are formed in the middle of a pond. The trees that die as a result of rising water levels attract insects, which in turn feed woodpeckers, whose holes later provide homes for other wildlife.

Like many rodents, beavers construct nesting dens for shelter and for protection against predators. These may be burrows in a riverbank or the more familiar lodges built in the water or on the shore. However, the basic interior design varies little and consists of one or more underwater entrances, a feeding area, a dry nest den, and a source of fresh air (see Figure 1 below).

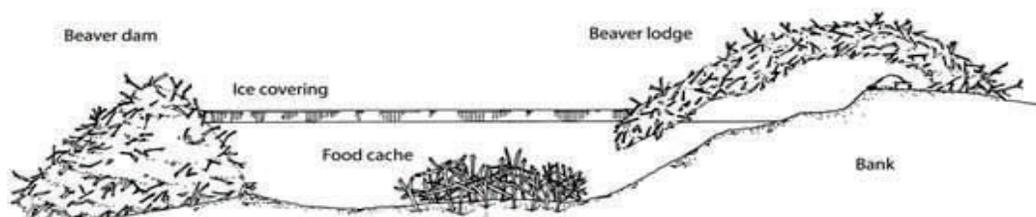


Figure 1—Beaver Habitat

Drawing by Jenifer Rees

February is American Heart Month

Sudden cardiac arrest is a major cause of death in the United States. It claims about 335,000 lives each year. Sudden cardiac arrest means that the heart stops pumping blood. This can happen suddenly and without warning. There are many causes for cardiac arrest which include a heart attack, electrical shock or near-drowning.

The American Heart Association reports that 75 percent to 80 percent of all out-of-hospital cardiac arrests happen at home. So learning CPR may help you save the life of a loved one if they have sudden cardiac arrest while you are with them. If bystander CPR is not provided, a sudden cardiac arrest victim's chances of survival fall about 10% for every minute of delay until CPR and defibrillation is started, and brain death starts to occur 4 to 6 minutes if no CPR and defibrillation occurs.

Mountain View Fire & Rescue/Black Diamond Fire Department have first aid classes, and CPR classes that are open to the public. The classes are taught by fire department personnel and are conveniently held at various locations within the district. For more information on attending a class, please visit www.kcfd44.org or call Tim Perciful at (253) 735-0284.



Some warning signs of a heart attack:

- ✦ Chest discomfort. This discomfort may come and go and may feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain.
- ✦ Discomfort in other areas of the upper body. Symptoms can include pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, the neck, jaw or stomach.
- ✦ Shortness of breath, cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness.



Denial is very common with heart attack victims. Heart attacks can happen to men and women of all races and ethnicities. If you suspect that someone is having a heart attack tell them to sit quietly and then you should call 9-1-1.

Learn more about the American Heart Association's efforts to reduce death caused by cardiovascular disease at www.americanheart.org

For more information on attending first aid and CPR classes please visit www.kcfd44.org or call Tim Perciful at (253) 735-0284.

1st annual citizens' police academy begins in March



The Black Diamond Police Department is hosting its 1st Annual Citizens' Police Academy. The citizens' academy is a free, seven-week, two-nights-per week classroom based course that includes hands-on learning and mock scenes. Our goal is to facilitate a better understanding of the criminal justice system and local police services through education. A time commitment of two evenings per week for seven weeks is required. Class begins March 3, 2009. Class hours are from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. There will also be one Saturday scheduled for firearms and emergency vehicle operations. The class will be hosted at the Black Diamond Elementary School Library located at 25314 Baker Street. The curriculum of the academy is intended to provide a comprehensive overview of the operational dynamics of the Black Diamond Police Department. Classes include criminal law, police patrol procedures, 9-1-1 communications, crime prevention, driving under the influence (DUI), traffic enforcement, domestic violence, school violence, narcotics and investigations. There will also be K-9 demonstrations, student participation in "mock scenes," and hands-on firearms and emergency vehicle operations. All applicants interested in attending the citizens' police academy must be at least 18 years of age or a high school senior, have a valid driver's license, no felony convictions or outstanding warrants. There is no requirement that a participant live or work in the City of Black Diamond. All applicants are subject to a background check. There is no fee to attend the academy and class notebooks and identification badges will be provided to participants.

If you are interested in attending the academy, please visit the City of Black Diamond's website at www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us. Click on "Departments" then click on Police Department. Print out the application form and return it to the Black Diamond Police Department by February 18, 2009. If you have any questions, call Debbie McGraw or Amy Murphy at (253) 631-1012 or email contactus@police.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us.



Low-interest loans available to area businesses

On January 2, 2009, Governor Chris Gregoire asked the U.S. Small Business Administration to declare an economic injury disaster for our area. The action resulted from the Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) closure of the Kummer Bridge on State Route 169 between Black Diamond and Enumclaw on November 18, 2008. The bridge remains closed and WSDOT estimates that it will reopen around the Fourth of July.

The Small Business Administration took action on the Governor's request and on January 13, 2009, Acting Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration Sandy K. Baruah issued a declaration. That declaration immediately made low-interest loans available to help small businesses and most private, non-profit organizations impacted by the disaster meet their financial obligations. The deadline for applying for the loans is October 13, 2009. The press release on the program and a fact sheet are available on the City's website on the Economic Development Department page.

If you should need additional information on this program, please visit the SBA website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. You may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>. You can also obtain information and application forms from the SBA's customer service center by calling toll free (800) 659-2955 or emailing disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

The City of Black Diamond is hosting office space for the Small Business Administration (SBA). Rene Aguilera of the SBA is currently assigned to this area and can be contacted at rene.aguilera@sba.gov.

For Economic Development questions and requests, contact Andrew Williamson at (360) 886-2560 ext. 215 or email awilliamson@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us.

Support Black Diamond businesses. Shop locally.



Updates to Plans and Regulations nearing the end



Prior to rescinding the long-standing moratorium on subdivision and master planned development (MPD) applications, the City Council committed to revising the various plans, regulations and guidelines that apply to development within Black Diamond. The wide-ranging updates are intended to ensure that future development meets the expectations of citizens and implements the community vision. The Planning Commission and Council have been diligently working on these issues for months and the end of the process is in sight. Late this month, the Planning Commission intends to wrap up its review of the proposed new design guidelines and will be left with only the proposed Capital Facilities Plan (CFP)—a portion of the Comprehensive Plan to review. The CFP will establish level of service (LOS) standards for city services and facilities like police, fire, parks, etc. The City Council continues to conduct public hearings on these items as they receive them from the Planning Commission, but is withholding formal adoption until all

work is completed.

All agendas and work items in progress are posted as they become available on the City's website. If you have any questions about the process, feel free to contact the Community Development Department at (253) 631-0351.

Visit the City Clerk webpage

Click on the City Clerk tab on the main menu under departments to view past and current resolutions, ordinances, Council agendas and packet material. You can also view City Connection newsletters and download forms like public records requests, request to be on Council agenda and citizen feedback forms.



To be added to the Council Agenda distribution list, please call us at (360) 886-2560 ext. 209 or contact the City Clerk by email at bstreepy@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us



Recently adopted ordinances

At the January 15 Council meetings, the Council adopted the following ordinances:

- ◆ **Ordinance No. 08-893** — Amending Black Diamond Municipal Code Regarding Business Licenses

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 ext. 209.

**Get involved with your community:
attend public hearings**

Council Public Hearings
February 5 ~ Puget Sound Energy Gas Franchise

Watch the City's website for the latest information.

CITY MEETINGS

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS
25510 LAWSON STREET

- FEB 5 - 7 p.m.
- FEB 19 - 7 p.m.

COUNCIL STUDY SESSIONS:

- FEB 5 - 6 p.m.
- FEB 12 - 7 p.m.
- FEB 26 - 7 p.m.

PLANNING COMMISSION
25510 LAWSON STREET

- FEB 10 - 7 p.m.

**MONTHLY MEETINGS
CITY COUNCIL:**
1st & 3rd Thursday
at 7 p.m.

PLANNING COMMISSION:
First Tuesday after the
first Council meeting -
at 7 p.m.

For meeting agendas and packet material please view the City Clerk page on our website www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us click on the meeting packets or agendas then click on the date of your choice.

New utility rates tier step information

Just a reminder that you will be receiving your first new utility billing for the month of January in the next few days. Below is a breakdown of how to calculate the water portion on your bill using the tier step:

Water consumption = 2100
 Consumption 0—600 (600 ÷ 100cf X 1.82 —tier 1)= **\$10.92**
 Consumption 601—1200 (600 ÷ 100cf X 2.09—tier 2)= **\$12.54**
 2100 minus 1200 = 900 (remaining consumption total)
 900 ÷ by 100 (cf) = 9.00
 9.00 x by 2.40 (Consumption over 1, 200—tier 3)= **\$21.60**

For more information see [Ordinance No. 08-879](#) on the website under departments, click on City clerk or contact the City clerks office at (360) 886-2560.

Basic Water Rate: **\$17.88**
 Water portion due: **\$62.94**

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE @ WWW.CI.BLACKDIAMOND.WA.US

EVENT CALENDAR	CITY OF BLACK DIAMOND	
FEB 19 - 6 p.m. 50th Anniversary Kick-Off Event at the Black Diamond Community Center	CITY HALL P.O. Box 599/24301 Roberts Drive	(360) 886-2560 (253) 631-0351
COMMUNITY CONTACTS	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/ NATURAL RESOURCES/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT P.O. Box 599/24301 Roberts Drive	(360) 886-2560 (253) 631-0351
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.	POLICE DEPARTMENT P.O. Box 309/25510 Lawson Street	(253) 631-1012
Black Diamond Community/Senior Center (360) 886-1011 Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	MUNICIPAL COURT P.O. Box 599/25510 Lawson Street	(360) 886-7784
Black Diamond Post Office (360) 886-9429 Hours of Operation: Monday — Friday 9 a.m. — 5 p.m.	FIRE DEPT. DISTRICT #44	(253) 735-0284
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.	PUBLIC WORKS P.O. Box 599/24301 Roberts Drive AFTER HOURS (EMERGENCY PAGER)	(360) 886-2560 (253) 631-0351 (253) 333-5555
<p>If you would like to be added to the City's E -Alert Program, email Rachel Pitzel at rpitzel@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us , please include "E-Alert Addition" on the subject line.</p>		