

THE CITY CONNECTION

"FACETS OF BLACK DIAMOND"

Credit and Debit now accepted by City

Beginning June 4, 2009, the City of Black Diamond will accept payment by VISA, MasterCard and Discover debit and credit cards.



This new service provides a convenient option for customers to pay all fees and charges due to the City. Now building permits, business licenses, pet licenses, gun permits, Municipal Court fines and fees, utility bills and just about everything else due to

the City is payable by credit card. The best part is there is no extra charge for this service!

Debit and credit cards can be accepted in person at City Hall, Community Development, the Police Department and at the Municipal Court, or by phone. See addresses for City offices on page 4. Regular business hours are 8:30 a.m.— 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

To make payments by phone, please call the following numbers for specific transactions:

- **Police Department:**
(253) 631-1012
- **Municipal Court:**
(360) 886-7784
- **Community Development
(Building Permits and Land Use Fees):**
(360) 886-2560 extension 217
- **City Hall (Utilities and Business Licenses):**
(360) 886-2560

Municipal Court amnesty program extended

In an effort to help citizens regain their driver's licenses and reduce debt, the Black Diamond Municipal Court offered a "Debt Reduction Program" throughout the month of May. Great news for those who thought they missed out: The program has been extended throughout the month of June.

The Debt Reduction Program is designed to help those with outstanding traffic tickets and fines. The court and its collection agency have agreed to waive interest and a significant portion of collection costs. Courts throughout Washington participated in the program throughout the month of May.



The Municipal Court is offering an extension through June 30, 2009. Defendants with outstanding tickets or fines should contact the court directly by calling (360) 886-7784 or come to the court offices. Clerks will also be able to provide names of other courts where fines may be outstanding.

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 Martinez, 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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Stormwater rates in effect for June



Just a friendly reminder that your June billing statement will reflect the new stormwater rate of \$10 for each residence. Businesses and other customers are billed by ERUs (Equivalent Residential Units) at the new base rate of \$10 per ERU as well as the increased base of 3,000 square feet of impervious surface (and exempting gravel).

To view the new rate change ordinance, please visit www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us and click on Departments/City Clerk/Ordinances/2009 Ordinances/**Ordinance No. 09-901**. See also the May issue located on the website at www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us/Departments/City Clerk/City Connection/**May**.

Should you have questions regarding your bill, please contact City Hall at (360) 886-2560 to speak to our customer service representative.



Black Diamond updating park rules

In order to assure that all citizens of Black Diamond have an opportunity to enjoy the parks, the City Council is currently reviewing and updating its park rules. These were last reviewed in 1987 and are in need of updating based on citizen input. The proposed new rules will address subjects such as:

- ✓ Motor vehicles
- ✓ Animals
- ✓ Littering
- ✓ Inappropriate behavior

Look for a public hearing on these issues in June of this year. Your input is essential for helping Black Diamond make its parks special for everyone that lives here and enjoys our facilities. Check in at the City's website www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us for the date and time of the public hearing so that your voice can be heard. For more information, please contact Aaron Nix, Parks/Natural Resources Director at (360) 886-2560 extension 220 or email anix@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us.



Black Diamond Parks

- ◆ **Union Stump Historical Site – Corner of Cemetery Road and Roberts Drive**
Site is a historical location where miners voiced their opinions with regard to activities associated with the Black Diamond coal mines. Old Douglas Fir stump has been encased in concrete to preserve the location where these meetings happened.
- ◆ **School Park – 25314 Park Street**
The park maintains a tennis court, skate park and basketball hoop next to Black Diamond Elementary School. Play equipment as well as a picnic table are provided at the facility.
- ◆ **Eagle Creek Park – Corner of Roberts Drive and Buckner's Way**
Open to the public, Eagle Creek Park offers picnic facilities and a basketball hoop.
- ◆ **BMX Park – 25510 Lawson Street**
Circuit riding for BMX enthusiasts. The park has integrated dirt mounds into a round BMX circuit track.
- ◆ **Lake Sawyer Regional Park – South end of Lake Sawyer (entrance at the end of SE 312th Street)**
Currently, an unimproved park that maintains terrific views of Lake Sawyer and adjoining wetlands. The park contains approximately 165 acres of open space and hiking trails for public use.

City makes budget cuts

Due to the economic downturn, a significant 2009 budget shortfall has been forecasted for the City of Black Diamond.

In a memo to City staff, Mayor Botts stated: "You may or may not know that the City was already using reserves to balance the beginning budgets over the last several years. This year, it was more than \$250,000 used from our "savings account" to meet current expenses. In some years, that money has not been used as employee vacancies have helped fill the gap or revenues have come in higher than expected. But we can't count on that this year with a full complement of staff and the economy dragging down all City revenues."

In March, Mayor Botts met with all City staff and asked for ideas for budget reductions. Departments submitted their ideas and the Mayor chose a variety of cuts. The major cut was in the salaries and benefit area, which is 62 percent of the General Fund expenditures. All non-union, full-time and permanent part-time employees received a 5.1 percent wage reduction to cover 10 days of furlough (leave without pay) that must be taken between April 1, 2009, and December 31, 2009.

To minimize the impact on any one specific paycheck each employee's base pay has been decreased by 5.1 percent for the next nine months. It is unknown at this time if the pay decrease will continue for 2010. That question and other potential budget cuts will be addressed in the 2010 budget discussions starting this summer.



The Police Guild joined the other employees by approving a \$200-per-month city pay reduction for each union member. Altogether, the salary and benefit cuts totaled a savings of \$46,472 for the General Fund.

Since the furlough leave without pay reductions were made by the Mayor for all employees, the utility funds also saved \$11,625 and the Funding Agreement positions saved an additional \$46,162 for a total city salary and benefit reduction of \$104,259 for 2009.

In the General Fund, another \$80,900 was saved by reducing various General Fund line items which included: reducing the budget for gasoline, deferring an invasive plant program, securing a better price for copier paper, reducing travel and training, and various other cuts. Also included in this amount is a \$15,000 retirement savings due to a state-wide rate reduction that goes into effective July 1, 2009, and reducing health insurance costs by capturing the \$50 a month co-pay that employees began January 1, 2009.

The grand total of General Fund saving is \$127,372 and the saving in all funds totaled \$185,159. The individual revenue and expenditure budgets have been reduced by a budget change adopted at the May 21, 2009, Council meeting. The Mayor and all the employees are to be commended in helping Black Diamond meet the current financial shortfall.

Statement from Nestlé Waters North America

The following is a statement from Chris Kemp, Project Manager of Nestlé Waters North America (Nestlé) :



Nestlé Waters North America (Nestlé) has been in discussions with the City of Black Diamond for a number of months, exploring the possibility of establishing a spring water bottling plant and becoming a commercial customer of Black Diamond's spring water.

This has been part of the company's strategy to develop a new facility in the Pacific Northwest to meet regional market needs. As we have looked at logistics and optimizing our production network, we've decided for business reasons not to continue to pursue developing a spring water bottling facility in Black Diamond at this time. It is possible that sometime in the future we could revisit that decision.

Speaking on behalf of our team, we appreciate the opportunity to have worked with the staff, officials and community over the past several months, and wish you the best of luck in the future with your economic development efforts.

Signed,

Chris Kemp
Project Manager

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.

Tips for a happy and safe Fourth of July

The Fourth of July is coming up and Mountain View Fire and Rescue/Black Diamond Fire Department would like you to have a safe holiday.

Fireworks are one of the biggest attractions for Independence Day celebrations. The safest way to enjoy fireworks during the holiday is by attending a public display. This allows people to view commercial fireworks from a safe distance and many times they are choreographed to music. Please visit <http://www.wsp.wa.gov/fire/docs/fireworks/fireshow.pdf> for a list of fireworks displays in the state.

Many people would prefer to purchase their own fireworks. Fireworks are dangerous and can damage property and cause injuries. Please use fireworks appropriately and safely. Below are some safety tips for fireworks.

Who:

- ✧ Spectators should keep a safe distance from the area where the fireworks are being lit, and the person designated to light the fireworks should wear safety glasses.
- ✧ Alcohol and fireworks do not mix. Have a "designated lighter" to light the fireworks.
- ✧ Only people 12 and over should handle sparklers of any type. They should then be supervised by an adult. Children should be extremely cautious around fireworks and never try and use fireworks.



What:

- ✧ Always have water on hand (a hose and/or buckets of water).
- ✧ Only use fireworks as intended. Do not try to alter them or combine them.
- ✧ Never re-light a "dud" firework (wait 20 minutes and soak it in a bucket of water).
- ✧ Do not use homemade fireworks or illegal explosives. You may see a fireworks safety video at this link http://www.fireworksafety.com/safety_video.html

When:

- ✧ Fireworks can be sold from June 28th to July 5th.
- ✧ In the City of Black Diamond fireworks can only be discharged between the hours of 9 a.m. and 12 midnight on July 4th.

Where:

- ✧ Use fireworks outdoors only.
- ✧ Obey local laws. See section 8.04.100 of the Black Diamond Municipal Code.

For more information about fireworks please contact Tim Perciful with Mountain View Fire & Rescue/Black Diamond Fire Department at (253) 735-0284 or the Washington State Patrol at <http://www.wsp.wa.gov/>.



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.

Inattentive driving ordinance and what it means

Since passing Ordinance No. 09-905, which makes inattentive driving a violation of the City's traffic code, some citizens have asked if they will be pulled over and cited because they are drinking coffee or talking on their cell phone while driving.

"No," said Police Chief Kiblinger. "Drivers will not be stopped for that occasion. However, if an officer observes a violator swerving all over the road and discovers the person was reading the newspaper, they might be cited. Or more seriously, a person driving down the road not paying attention to their surroundings because they are texting and then collides into another vehicle, that offender could be cited for this new offense."



Inattentive driving is generally the failure to pay proper attention to the road while driving. Characteristics described as inattentive driving can include talking, eating, putting on make up and attending to children. Using cell phones and other wireless or electronic units are also considered distractions. The purpose of this ordinance is to address situations where the driver has not been driving recklessly but nevertheless fails to exercise due care and thereby causes minor accidents or creates a reasonable likelihood of one.

To review Ordinance No. 09-905 on inattentive driving, please visit the City's website at www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us under Departments/City Clerk/Ordinances or feel free to stop by City Hall to view a copy. For more information, call the Police Department at (253) 631-1012.





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

bmartinez@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us

Recently adopted ordinances

At the May 7 and May 21 Council meetings, the Council adopted the following ordinances:

- ◆ **Ordinance No. 09-906** — Mayor's Authority to Deviate from Established Fees Where Appropriate
- ◆ **Ordinance No. 09-907** — 2009 Budget Amendment and Salary Schedule

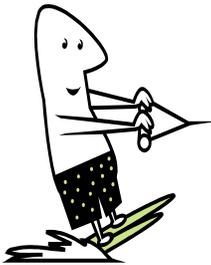
Get involved with your community: attend Council public hearings

- June 4 ~ Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan
- June 4 ~ Capital Facilities Plan
- June 4 ~ Amendment to Sign Code for Temporary Banners, etc.
- June 18 ~ Subdivision Moratorium Extension (*Tentative*)



Watch the City's website for the latest information

Lake Sawyer rules and regulations



With summer just around the corner, take a moment to review the boating rules and regulations on Lake Sawyer at <http://www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us/citycode>, title 8 chapter 8.24, or you can visit the Public Works page under Parks and click on Lake Sawyer Rules and Regulations. For all other Washington State Boating Laws, including the Mandatory Education Card Law, visit www.parks.wa.gov/boating.

Lake Sawyer pamphlets are available at the Black Diamond Police Department on Lawson Street as well as the front lobby at City Hall on Roberts Drive.

CITY MEETINGS

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS
25510 LAWSON STREET

- JUN 4 - 7 p.m.
- JUN 18 - 7 p.m.

COUNCIL STUDY SESSIONS:

- JUN 11 - 7 p.m.
- JUN 25 - 7 p.m.

PLANNING COMMISSION
25510 LAWSON STREET

- JUN 9 - 7 p.m.

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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.

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

EVENT CALENDAR	CITY OF BLACK DIAMOND
JUN 3 — Black Diamond School Reunion at BD Community Center JUN 22 — Last Day of School — Enumclaw School District JUN 23 — Last Day of School — Kent School District	All City Offices Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. CITY HALL (360) 886-2560 P.O. Box 599 / 24301 Roberts Drive (253) 631-0351 Fax: (360) 886-2592
COMMUNITY CONTACTS 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.	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/ NATURAL RESOURCES/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (360) 886-2560 (253) 631-0351 Fax: (360) 886-2592 P.O. Box 599 / 24301 Roberts Drive
Black Diamond Community/Senior Center (360) 886-1011 Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	POLICE DEPARTMENT (253) 631-1012 P.O. Box 309 / 25510 Lawson Street Fax: (360) 886-2901
Black Diamond Post Office (360) 886-9429 Hours of Operation: Monday — Friday 9 a.m. — 5 p.m.	MUNICIPAL COURT (360) 886-7784 P.O. Box 599 / 25510 Lawson Street Fax: (360) 886-7758
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.	FIRE DEPT. DISTRICT #44 (253) 735-0284 PUBLIC WORKS (360) 886-2560 P.O. Box 599 / 24301 Roberts Drive (253) 631-0351 AFTER HOURS (EMERGENCY PAGER) (253) 333-5555 Fax: (360) 886-2592