MAY 2009 ISSUE 11

THE CITY CONNECTION

"FACETS OF BLACK DIAMOND"

Council reduces stormwater utility rates

On April 23, 2009, Council passed Ordinance No. 09-901, reducing stormwater utility rates immediately. This will save Black Diamond residences, businesses, churches, and other customers a total of $102,184 in 2009.

The base rate has been reduced from $13 per month to $10 per month for each residence. Businesses and other customers billed by ERUs (Equivalent Residential Units) will receive the new base rate as well as the increased base of 3,000 square feet of impervious surface (and exempting gravel) instead of the original 2,500 square feet per ERU. For instance, if a development has 9,000 square feet of impervious surface like pavement the monthly stormwater bill will be 9,000 divided by 3,000 = 3 x $10 or $30 per month. This will provide significant reductions to ERU-based billings for businesses, churches and others.

Lower bills for April

In addition to the reductions, the ordinance allowed the City to give credit to everyone in an amount equal to the difference in rates that had been billed in January, February and March (a total credit for the three months of $9). Those in the Lake Sawyer area will see the April bill (which is stormwater only for citizens in that area) for an amount due of $1. Lake Sawyer residents can choose to defer payment until the May billing and make one combined payment. Customers that paid their stormwater for the year will see the adjusted amount on credit reflected on their bills.

Lake Sawyer Bill for Residence

	Old Rate	New Rate	Difference
January	$13	$10	-$3
February	$13	$10	-$3
March	$13	$10	-$3
April	$10	$10	$0
APRIL BILL			$1

Special business discounts

Council authorized an annual credit for customers who pay for a Department of Ecology-required Industrial National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. To receive the credit, customers are required to bring in proof of payment to the main City Hall office. Credit will also be allowed to customers billed under the ERU calculation (not residential) for an approved stormwater detention/ retention facility. To apply for this credit, please contact the Public Works Department at (360) 886-2560 extension 211.

Senior and disabled discounts

Council also recognized the economic hardship that many of our

Continued on page 2

City offices will be closed on

MAY 25, 2009—MEMORIAL DAY

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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Stormwater (*continued from front page)*

seniors on fixed/low incomes are facing, and have authorized a Lifeline Utility Rate Relief Program for low-income seniors and low-income disabled residences. This will allow an annual rate reduction of up to 50 percent of the City's water, sewer (King County Metro and Soos Creek sewer rates excluded) and stormwater rates. Applications will be accepted during the month of May each year. An application is included with your utility bill or can be picked up at City Hall, 24301 Roberts Drive, in the "old" library building. Those who qualify will receive the reduced rate beginning with the June billing each year and the lower rate will continue until the end of May next year. An article on page four has more detail about the Lifeline Utility Relief Program.

Should you have questions regarding your utility bill or the rate reductions, please call City Hall at (360) 886-2560. You can also visit the City website at **www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us** to view previous newsletters regarding stormwater utility.

WHEN IT RAINS IT DRAINS

Black Diamond's inaugural Earth Day celebration a success

The City of Black Diamond held its first annual Earth Day celebration on April 22, 2009 at Eagle Creek Park at the corner of Bruckner's Way and Roberts Drive. The Mayor, Councilmembers (Rebecca Olness, Bill Boston and Kristine Hanson), staff and members of the public showed up to plant over 20 trees and shrubs, all donated by Gary Jensen of Hanging Gardens Nursery, a Black Diamond business that specializes in producing native plants for landscaping projects throughout our region. A special thanks to Mr. Jensen and his generosity to help improve the quality to one of Black Diamond's newest park facilities. In addition to planting, the group weeded and re-mulched all of the planting islands in order to spruce up the park.

A Capital Improvement project is slated for early summer to add some play equipment to the facility. Stay tuned for another opportunity to help the Park's Department put together this equipment in order to improve recreational opportunities for the children of Black Diamond.

For more information, please contact Aaron Nix, Natural Resources/Parks Director at (360) 886-2560 extension 220 or email him at **anix@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us**.

Recycling event another huge success

The City held its annual spring recycling event in late March of this year. The following is a recap report of what was collected in Black Diamond from Paul Devine of Olympic Environment Services:

We had a busy day for the Black Diamond Spring Recycling Collection Event this year. Three hundred and one (301) carloads of recyclable material arrived. The total amount of material collected was 57,960 pounds or nearly 29 tons. This averages out to 192.5 pounds of material per vehicle. The event included the collection of:

- 27,700 pounds of scrap metals and electronics. These metals will be sorted into ferrous and non-ferrous metals and made into new products at various manufacturing plants.
- 6 used refrigerators and freezers. The ozone depleting chemicals and gas will be removed from these units and disposed of properly by Total Reclaim in Seattle (2,100 pounds).
- 1 computer monitor. The monitors will be processed and recycled by Ecolights in Seattle (40 pounds).
- 1 small TV set. The TVs will be processed and recycled by Ecolights in Seattle (50 pounds).
- 1 large TV set. The TVs will be processed and recycled by Ecolights in Seattle (100 pounds).
- 26 propane tanks. The tanks will be re-used through Blue Rhino Cylinder Exchange Service or the tanks will be recycled as scrap metal through Seattle Iron and Metals (1,300 pounds).
- 16,060 pounds of bulky yard debris and scrap wood. The bulky wood will be processed for composting and the scrap wood will be made into composite siding through Glacier Recycle, a wood processor in Auburn.
- 2,200 pounds of reusable household goods. This material was collected by the Tacoma Goodwill for resale through their retail outlets with the proceeds going to Goodwill charity programs.
- 240 gallons of used motor oil and petroleum based products. This will be re-refined into new motor oil or reused as bunker fuel (1,776 pounds).
- 25 gallons of used anti-freeze. This toxic liquid will be recycled into new anti-freeze (200 pounds).
- 9 used oil filters. These will be drained of oil and the scrap metal will be recycled (25 pounds).
- 35 used tires. These tires will be re-used if in good condition; if not, chipped and made into such products as garden hoses, playground mats, road bedding, and burned as fuel (875 pounds).
- 34 lead acid batteries. The batteries will be dismantled, the acid disposed of properly, and the cores recycled into new batteries (1,221 pounds).
- 2,380 household batteries. The batteries will be dismantled, the hazardous material disposed of properly, and the cores recycled into new batteries through All Battery (238 pounds).
- 16 toilets and sinks. The porcelain material will be processed by Stoneway Concrete and Recycling into concrete material (1,200 pounds).
- 2,875 pounds of cardboard. The cardboard will be recycled by Sonoco in Sumner.

The success of this program has kept these materials out of the convential waste stream and into the appropriate recycling businesses' hands. Otherwise, these materials could have found their way into local landfills or parts of the city. The City of Black Diamond was able to provide this service with grant money provided by the King County Solid Waste Division, King County Health Department and Washington State Department of Ecology.

E-cycle Washington is here!

Washington has a **FREE**, convenient and environmentally responsible recycling program for computers, monitors, laptops and televisions.

- **Who can use the program?** Households, small businesses, schools , small governments, special purpose districts, and charities.
- **Where can I recycle?** Call 1-800-RECYCLE or visit 1800recycle.wa.gov to find electronic product recycling services in your area.
- **What can I recycle for free?** Televisions, computers, computer monitors and portable or laptop computers.

(Please note that computer peripherals such as keyboards, mice and printers are not included in this program.)

- **Why recycle electronics?** Many electronics, especially TVs and computers contain toxic materials such as lead cadmium and mercury. Reusing and recycling electronics keeps these toxic materials out of our landfills and incinerators and also recovers valuable resources. The electronic equipment this program collects will be taken apart and separated into materials such as glass, plastic, metal and toxic chemicals. All recycling will follow performance standards set up by the Department of Ecology.

(http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/eproductrecycle/index.html)

Keep your child safe in your automobile

Automobiles have several features to help keep us safe in the event of a motor vehicle accident. Cars have crumple zones, airbags, seatbelts, etc., but some of the primary safety mechanisms are built for adults. Seat belts and airbags are two examples of effective safety devices in your car that are not made for children or infants. This is why it is important to use a car seat or booster seat for your child.

The Washington Child Restraint Law requires children up to 8 years old, or 4'9" tall (whichever comes first) to ride with a child restraint.

There are different child restraints for different sizes of children. The seats include infant seats, convertible seats, and forward-facing seats with harness, combination booster seat and booster seats. You should look at the seat to find the seat that is appropriate for you child based on age, size and weight.

Child Restraint Tips and Guidelines:

- The best child restraint is the one that best fits your child, best fits your vehicle, and properly used.
- Car seats are similar to bicycle helmets in that, once it is involved in a crash it should be thrown out. There may be damage to the seat that may prevent it from being effective in a second crash. For this reason, you should be cautious about buying a used car seat from online websites or at garage sales.
- Car seats are generally good for six years after the date of manufacture. You should check the date on the seat to see if the seat is still safe to use.
- It is best to keep a child in a rear-facing seat for as long as possible. You should look at the seat to see what size, age and weight it recommends for rear facing.
- There are several add-on items that you can buy for car seats. Please remember that these items probably have not been tested and may be a problem during a crash.
- It is important to read the owners manual to your child restraint for proper installation, placement, adjustment and fit.
- It is important to read the owners manual to your vehicle before installing a child restraint. This will inform you on the seat belt systems, airbags, child restraint placement and other information such as LATCH (Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children)

FREE Car Seat Inspection

Safe Kids (King County South) provides free car seat inspection at five locations every month. This includes Auburn Regional Medical Center's parking garage on the second Thursday from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. The inspections are done by certified technicians that will help you with your car seat. The technician will help you with installation, check for recalls and guide you for the best use of the seat. They can also accept old seats for recycling, to minimize seats in our landfills.

For more information, please visit www.800bucklup.org or call Tim Perciful at Mt. View Fire and Rescue at 253-735-0284.

Lifeline utility rate program brings relief

Black Diamond's Lifeline Utility Rate Relief Program is an annual discount program. It is designed to help low-income seniors 62 years or older and low-income permanently disabled persons with their water sewer and stormwater bills. Low-income on kidney dialysis at home can apply for a water rate discount as well.

The Lifeline Program provides discount relief of up to 50 percent from Black Diamond base utility rates. The actual annual discount rate will be specified each year by City Council.

Do I qualify?

- Applicants must be the head of household at the qualifying residence, and
- Applicants must be receiving at least one city service of water, sewer and/or stormwater from the City of Black Diamond, and
- Applicant must be at least 62 years of age or older, or be permanently and totally disabled, or have a household member on kidney dialysis at home, and
- Total household income shall not exceed the limits as set annually by the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Continued on page 5

Lifeline utility rate relief program *(continued from page 4)*

The official HUD income guidelines are revised each March, and the data is used to qualify applicants into the program. Black Diamond's annual enrollment period is in May of each year with applications due to the City by May 31. In order to stay on the discount program, households will need to reapply each year. The low-income guidelines for 2009 are in the table below.

What determines annual gross income?

Total gross income is the income of yourself, your spouse and that of any other tenants living in the home. Some examples of annual gross income include:

- Wages, salaries and tips
- Interest and dividends
- IRA withdrawals
- Social Security benefits
- Business income
- Pension and annuity receipts
- Governmental assistance

Official HUD Guidelines for 2009

Household Size	Maximum Annual Gross Income
1	$ 44,800
2	$51,200
3	$57,600
4	$64,000
5	$69,100
6	$74,250
7	$79,350
8	$84,500

How do I apply?

Applications are due to City Hall by May 31 of each year for utility discounts beginning with the June billing statement. Black Diamond residents who wish to apply for the Lifeline Utility Rate Relief Program will need to submit an application by that date. Applications are available at City Hall and on the city's website **www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us** or we can mail an application upon request.

Along with the completed application, additional documentation includes a copy of the applicant's driver license or birth certificate for proof of age; a copy of the most recent tax return, social security annual statement, or annual retirement statement for proof of income; for disability, a copy of disability payments from SSI or SSDA or other disability payments and a signed and dated copy of a physician's disability statement.

All documentation is subject to City of Black Diamond Finance Department verification. Please stop by City Hall, 24301 Roberts Drive, if you have questions about the new Lifeline Utility Relief Program, or call (360) 886-2560 for more information.

Public Works project updates

Railroad Avenue Street Improvement Project
The Railroad Avenue Street Improvement Project is in the final stages of design. Unfortunately, some right-of-way issues were discovered recently that will need to be addressed. The schedule will need to be shifted to give the City time to resolve the right-of-way issues. The City is currently planning for an early spring 2010 start for construction with a goal of project completion before Memorial Day 2010. Although we are all anxious for the upgrades, the timing will allow local businesses to take advantage of the tourist season after the Green River State Route 169 bridge opens and still have the project completed before next summers tourist season.

Morgan Street Sidewalk Project
The Morgan Street Sidewalk Project is moving through the early preparation phases. This project will construct a sidewalk along the north side of Morgan Street from Abrams Avenue to City Hall. King County Community Development is currently processing the federal environmental review paperwork. City staff has selected Gray and Osborne to provide the engineering services for the project. Surveying and engineering is expected to start in June, with a possible construction start in the fall. If there are delays in the environmental review, the start of this project will also be planned for an early spring start in 2010.

Meter Replacements
This summer the Public Works staff will be very busy with meter replacements in addition to their regular duties.

This summer on Lake Sawyer, think "safety first"

I know it's hard to believe, but summer is almost here. Since the 2008 boating season on Lake Sawyer ended without any major accidents, The Black Diamond Police Department looks to build on that for this year. The Police Department's Marine Services Unit will continue to ensure the safety on Lake Sawyer through a combination of education and enforcement.

Officer Kris Chatterson

¤ Lake Sawyer laws

Please take a moment to review some of the below listed laws specific to Lake Sawyer. These can also be viewed on the City of Black Diamond's website at **http://www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us/citycode**, title 8 chapter 8.24. For all other Washington State Boating Laws, including the Mandatory Education Card Law, visit **www.parks.wa.gov/boating**.

¤ Required Vessel Safety Equipment

Personal flotation devices (life jackets) are required in every vessel for each person on board. The life jacket must be of appropriate size, in serviceable condition and readily available. Additionally, vessels 16 feet or longer must also carry a throw-able type IV floatation device. Every child 12 years of age or younger must wear a Coast Guard approved personal flotation device while on board any vessel, except while in a cabin. Vessels shall also have a fire extinguisher and a sound-producing device, such as a horn or whistle.

¤ Vessel Registration

You are required to carry the vessel registration certificate on board at all times. In Washington State, vessel registrations expire every year on June 30. On the First of July, every boater should have the new validation sticker displayed on the vessel behind the hull numbers.

¤ Speed Limits and Hours of Operation

You may only operate your vessel above 5 m.p.h. during designated times on Lake Sawyer. Vessels may exceed the 5 m.p.h. speed limit between the hours of 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Monday through Friday and from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Sunday, and holidays. Speeds of 5 m.p.h. or less (no wake) are required when operating within the buoys. The maximum speed limit on Lake Sawyer is 36 m.p.h. providing you are outside the buoys and at least 100 feet from any other vessel.

¤ Direction of Travel

The general direction of travel is counter-clockwise around the lake.

¤ Restricted Areas and Buoys

Certain areas of the lake have been designated as restricted or regulated areas. A visible system of buoys has been installed to identify these areas. Please observe and obey all restrictions and speed limits. It is illegal to move or remove any marker buoy placed by law enforcement. Additionally, it is unlawful to strike or damage a buoy in any way. Marker buoys are not for boat moorage or swimming activities.

¤ Reckless or Negligent Operation

It will be considered reckless to operate a vessel while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug. Boating under the influence (BUI) will be aggressively prosecuted. Negligent operation may include disregard of careful and prudent operation and speeds.

¤ Water Skiing Safety

An observer is required when towing any person on water skis, inner tubes, kneeboards or other water toys. They shall continuously observe the person being towed and immediately display a flag whenever the person is in the water. The flag must be at least a 12-inch square mounted on a 24-inch pole or longer and be either bright red or brilliant orange in color. A life jacket is to be worn by the person being towed.

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Every child 12 years of age or younger must wear a Coast Guard approved personal flotation device while on board any vessel.

Municipal Court offers debt reduction program

More than 100 courts throughout the state are participating in a similar Debt Reduction Program in May.

In an effort to help citizens regain their driver's licenses and reduce debt, the Black Diamond Municipal Court is offering a "Debt Reduction Program" throughout the month of May.

The 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.

The court is offering the 30-day program from May 1 through June 1, 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.

With the recent adoption at the April 16 Council meeting, acceptance of debit and credit cards for payments will be a convenient option to pay off tickets and fines, which may help people with suspended or revoked driver's license become re-licensed at significant savings.

Safety first on Lake Sawyer *(continued from page 6)*

¤ Personal Watercraft Safety

A life jacket is required for operating personal watercraft such as jet skis and wave runners. No one may operate a personal watercraft without attaching the lanyard to his or her person, clothing or personal flotation device. It is illegal to disable or remove an engine cutoff switch. You must be at least 16 years old to operate a personal watercraft on Lake Sawyer. It cannot be operated after legal sunset or before legal sunrise. It is illegal to operate a personal watercraft in a reckless manner and execute tight 360-degree turns commonly referred to as "spinning donuts." Additionally, you must carry a fire extinguisher and sound signaling device. A personal watercraft must be registered just like an ordinary vessel.

¤ Vessel Inspections

Marine Service officers will make courtesy inspections of vessels both on the water and at the launch facility. Our primary concern is for boating safety and education. If you are a Black Diamond resident and would like to schedule a vessel inspection at your residence, please call the Police Department at (253) 631-1012. Upon successful completion, you will be provided with a safety inspection sticker which may save you time getting in the water at the boat launch.

Officer Eric Weinreich

Mandatory Boating Education Card

The Washington State Mandatory Boating Safety Education Law went into effect on January 1, 2008. The new law requires boaters aged 12 years and older to pass a boating safety course or an equivalency exam and to obtain a Boater Education Card before operating a motorized vessel of 15 horsepower or greater. The card requirement is being phased in from 2008 to 2014. See the table to the right for phase-in dates and ages.

MANDATORY BOATER CARDS

Year	Age Group
*2008	12 years to 20 years old
*2009	25 years and under
*2010	30 years and under
*2011	35 years and under
*2012	40 years and under
*2013	50 years and under
*2014	60 years and under
*After 2014	All boat operators except those exempted elsewhere in RCW 79A.60.640

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 April 2, April 16 and April 23 Council meetings, the Council adopted the following ordinances:

- **Ordinance No. 09-895** — Modifications to the Transfer of Development Rights Code
- **Ordinance No. 09-896** — Amending Weight Limit Restrictions Within the City
- **Ordinance No. 09-897 —** Adopting Master Planned Development Code Amendments
- **Ordinance No. 09-898** — Amending Code Enforcement Procedures
- **Ordinance No. 09-899** — Amendments to Hearing Examiner Code
- **Ordinance No. 09-900 —** Amending BDMC 2.24—Planning Commission
- **Ordinance No. 09-902** — Adopting Stormwater Loan from Wastewater Fund
- **Ordinance No. 09-901 —** Establishing new Stormwater Fees, Utility Lifeline Program
- **Ordinance No. 09-903** — Amending Weight Restrictions on Certain City Streets
- **Ordinance No. 09-904 —** Amending BDMC 9.96 Regarding Domestic Violence
- **Ordinance No. 09-905 —** Adding New Section to BDMC 10.40 Regarding Inattentive Driving

City surplus sale

The City of Black Diamond will be holding a surplus sale in May, watch the city website for the exact date and time. Items will be on sale at the City Shops, located across the street from the Police Department at 25510 Lawson Street. All items will be sold on a cash only basis and must be removed at the time of the sale. A list of the items can be viewed on the City website at www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us.

CITY MEETINGS

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS
25510 LAWSON STREET

- MAY 7 - 7 p.m.
- MAY 21 - 7 p.m.

COUNCIL STUDY SESSIONS:

- MAY 14 - 7 p.m.

PLANNING COMMISSION
25510 LAWSON STREET

- MAY 12 - 7 p.m.
- MAY 26 - 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

MAY 25 — Black Diamond / Maple Valley VFW Post 5052 — Memorial Service - Black Diamond Cemetery - 10:30a.m.

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.

Black Diamond Community / Senior Center **(360) 886-1011**
Hours of Operation:
Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Black Diamond Post Office **(360) 886-9429**
Hours of Operation:
Monday — Friday 9 a.m. — 5 p.m.

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.

CITY OF BLACK DIAMOND

CITY HALL **(360) 886-2560**
P.O. Box 599 / 24301 Roberts Drive **(253) 631-0351**

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/ NATURAL RESOURCES/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT **(360) 886-2560** **(253) 631-0351**
P.O. Box 599 / 24301 Roberts Drive

POLICE DEPARTMENT **(253) 631-1012**
P.O. Box 309 / 25510 Lawson Street

MUNICIPAL COURT **(360) 886-7784**
P.O. Box 599 / 25510 Lawson Street

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**

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.