SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2009 ISSUE 15

THE CITY CONNECTION

"FACETS OF BLACK DIAMOND"
A BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Now a bi-monthly newsletter!

YarrowBay's developments under review

The City's consideration of YarrowBay's two Master Planned Development proposals (Lawson Hills and The Villages) is entering a very formal process. Public notice boards have been posted on the properties and notices have been mailed to surrounding property owners. Publication of the two Draft Environmental Impact Statements (one for each project) is scheduled to occur on September 1. Once published, a 30-day public comment period will commence. During that time, written comments concerning how well the documents address the environmental impacts of the proposal can be submitted to the Community Development Department at P.O. Box 599, Black Diamond, WA 98010. The City also plans to conduct a public hearing on the two documents near the end of the month to provide another opportunity for comment. Once the 30-day comment period is over, no further comments on the Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) documents will be considered. (*Please note that the EIS process only concerns the potential environmental impacts of the projects. This process is intended to identify impacts and how they may be mitigated. The EISs serve as an evaluation tool for the Hearing Examiner and City Council when they consider the MPD applications, which may be later this year).*

Each and every comment will be reviewed and then responded to in the Final Environmental Impact Statements. Depending on the nature of the comments, it is possible additional analysis may be necessary, so it is difficult to determine exactly when the final documents will be published. If they are published by mid-October, a mid-November public hearing on the MPD proposals could be held with the City's Hearing Examiner. The Examiner will issue a written recommendation to the Council, probably at least two weeks after the date of the hearing. If those dates are met, the Council would be able to conduct its own public hearing process beginning in December.

It's important to bear in mind that in order for these timelines to be realized, the process needs to be a pretty smooth one. Substantial issue (like an appeal of the Final EIS documents) could result in a delay. So it's best to keep checking the City's website at www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us or with the Community Development Department at (360) 886-2560 to stay in touch with how matters are progressing.

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. 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

City Hall Offices will be CLOSED on Monday, September 7, 2009, in observance of Labor Day.

Join the Labor Day festivities around town. See the calendar of events on page 3.

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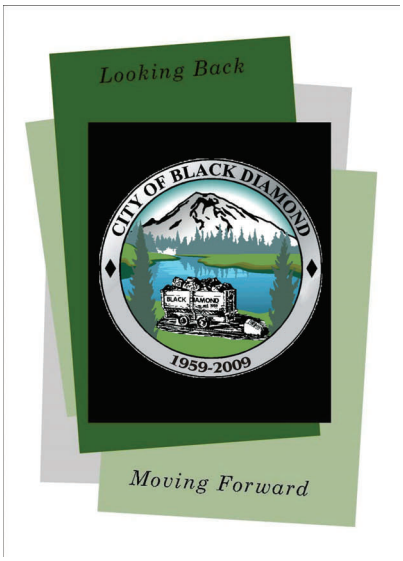


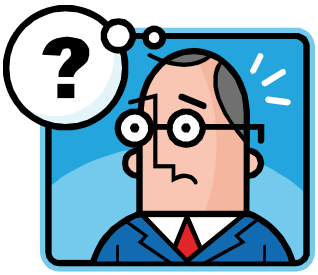
Let's celebrate Septemberfest

Septemberfest is here! On September 26, 2009, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., the City will host a Septemberfest block party to celebrate its 50th Anniversary one last time. Railroad Avenue is the place to be. A variety of vendors are expected to participate. Be sure to visit the guest services booth for additional information and to purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win Mariners game tickets for a family of five. Two winners will be chosen.

Just a block over on First Avenue, you can experience Black Diamond's first PushKart Derby competition on the 26th. All ages are welcome to participate. Awards will be given to not only the fastest, but to the most creative, best designed, best theme and best overall. All interested participants must turn in all application and waiver forms to City Hall by September 24, 2009. Application forms are available at City Hall or on the City's website **www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us** by clicking on Septemberfest PushKart Participant Packet.

Just a reminder that passport applications are now being accepted at City Hall, 24301 Roberts Drive, Suite B. Stop by Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4: 30 p.m. to submit your application. For more information, visit our website at www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us click on Passport Page under Notices.

Everything you want to know about MPDs (or at least a start)



It's true. Notice boards are up around town. Notices have been mailed. The long-anticipated Master Planned Development (MPD) applications have been filed by YarrowBay and are under review. Copies are available on the City's website, at the Black Diamond branch of the King County Library and at the Community Development Department. Individuals are encouraged to review the applications to be prepared for when the applications are considered at public hearings later this year.

Chapter 18.98 of the Black Diamond Municipal Code addresses MPDs and the review process. (You can find a copy of the Code on the City's website). MPD approval is required for any development proposal of more than 80 acres. An MPD is intended to provide a higher quality and more coordinated development than might otherwise occur with conventional zoning. Flexibility in development standards is allowed to encourage innovative design that retains significant features of the natural environment, including sensitive environmental features such as wetlands, steep slopes and views. Up to 50 percent of the total area in an MPD is intended to be preserved as open space--both active recreation areas and sensitive areas. MPDs are also intended to develop as complete communities with a variety of housing types, school sites and commercial development. Commercial uses in the MPDs are required in order for the projects to provide a fiscal balance in terms of revenues vs. public service demands. Generally speaking, residential areas generate more demand for services than the tax revenues they provide, so it is important for the City's fiscal health for the MPDs to have a commercial component that will generate off-setting taxes.

Flexibility is a big key to an MPD. The City's adopted development standards provide a "baseline" from which to work, but the City can consider alternative approaches (for example, narrower streets in some conditions, "alley-loaded" lots, "auto courts," etc.). A variety of lot sizes and housing types is also anticipated, as the MPD code does not establish a minimum lot size. However, the MPD code does limit housing density to generally no more than 18 dwelling units per acre (however, up to 30 dwelling units per acre could be allowed in select areas, subject to Council-approved design standards). Currently, the two YarrowBay MPD proposals average a little less than four dwelling units per acre.

Approval of an MPD generally will last for 15 years, as these are long-term projects that will take significant amounts of time to build out. Given the length of the approval, it is very important that the City evaluate these proposals carefully. That is why Environmental Impact Statements are being developed for each project (see page one) and also why public hearings on the proposals will be conducted by both the City's Hearing Examiner and the City Council. While the public will have the opportunity to comment at both public hearings, you are encouraged to attend both.

If you have any questions, please contact the Community Development Department at (360) 886-2560.

ISSUE 15

America's Night Out a huge success

Andrew Williamson and Officer Chatterson

National Night Out 2009 was a smashing success for Black Diamond citizens. On Tuesday, August 4, neighborhoods throughout Black Diamond joined forces with thousands of communities nationwide for the "26th Annual National Night Out" crime and drug prevention event. Many neighborhoods hosted block parties and neighbors enjoyed good food and company. More than 100 Black Diamond community members showed up for the event and had the opportunity to meet their local police officers and firefighters. Black Diamond Police Officers made their rounds to each and every block party to promote safe communities. Police officers and community members worked together to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime efforts; strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and to send a message to criminals letting hem know that Black diamond neighborhoods are organized and ready to fight back against crime.

Black Diamond Police visiting with community members

The Black Diamond Police Department, Black diamond Fire Department and the Black Diamond Community Center hosted a party at the Black diamond Community Center. The festivities began at 5 p.m. and continued into the evening. Mayor Botts and his wife provided hot dogs, buns and a wonderful fruit salad. Mama Passarelli's served a cold pasta salad that kept people coming back for more. Special thanks are also in order for Elsie Parkin, Judith Black, Keith and Judy Watson and Bill and Alyssa Saas for providing the baked beans, rice salad, bean salad, potato salad, cookies and other refreshments. While community members socialized with each other, the children took tours of fire engines and police cars parked out front. Officer Chatterson brought K-9 Sabre to the event and the children enjoyed giving him belly rubs (and so did Sabre). Thank you to everyone who made this annual event a success.

Mama Passerelli and Chief Kiblinger

Labor Days event calendar

Come and join the festivities!

The City-sponsored Labor Days event kicks off September 5th. A calendar of events is below. For more information please call Leih Mulvihill at (360) 886-2182.

Saturday, September 5

- Puget Sound Blood Drive **9 a.m. -12 p.m. and 1 -3 p.m. at Masonic Lodge**
- Doggie Day Events **10 a.m.-2 p.m.**
- BD Museum Tours **12 – 4 p.m.**
- Family Night at the Movies **9 a.m. -11:30 p.m.**

Sunday, September 6

- Pie Baking Contest **9 a.m.-12 p.m.**
- Children's and Women's Games **10:30 a.m.**
- Booths and Inflatables **10 a.m.- 3 p.m.**
- BD Museum Tours **12 – 4 p.m.**
- Entertainment **11 a.m. -1p.m.**
- Citizenship Awards **1 p.m.**
- Entertainment **2-4 p.m.**

Monday, September 7

- Pancake Breakfast **7 a.m. - 11 a.m. at Masonic Lodge**
- Parade Line-up **8 a.m.**
- Car Show **9 a.m. - 3 p.m.**
- Booths and Inflatables **10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**
- Parade **10 a.m.**
- BD Museum Tours **12 – 4 p.m.**
- BBQ at Black Diamond Eagles Clubhouse **12-1 p.m.**
- Entertainment **1:30 p.m.**
- Sport Activities **1- 4 p.m.**
- Button Raffle Drawing **2:30 p.m.**

Park rules generally prohibit fires, alcohol, more

The City of Black Diamond recently passed a new set of rules for conduct within city parks. The new rules include:

Lake Sawyer Regional Park

♦ **9.86.040 Liquor**
The possession and/or consumption of intoxicants are prohibited in all parks in the city without a permit.

♦ **9.86.050 Animals**
No animal shall be allowed in any park without a permit except for police animals, service animals or domesticated animal under restraint by a person able to properly control the animal or while the animal is within a designated off-leash area. All horses shall be confined to those areas designated as roadways, parking areas or trails that have City signs designating the trail for use by horses. The person who has brought the animal into the park shall be responsible for depositing all of the animal's solid wastes in a designated waste receptacle. No animal shall be abandoned or left to remain unattended in a city park.

♦ **9.86.140 Open Fires—Fires prohibited**
It is unlawful for any person to build a fire in any park. The city may prohibit barbecues, or other sources of flame within any city park whenever, in the opinion of the Fire Chief, allowing such activities would create risk of fire. Nothing in this section shall prohibit commissioned members of the Fire Department from enforcing any other rules or regulations related to open fires and any flame-related cooking activities.

Recreational fires may be permitted in city parks for special events with prior approval of the Fire Chief or designee. A special permit as approved by the Fire Department must be obtained, prior to any recreational fires in city parks. Barbecues, charcoal grills, hibachis and gas fired cooking grills must be raised at least two feet above the ground. Disposal of barbecue coals directly onto the ground or in to park garbage receptacles is forbidden and shall be disposed of in approved receptacles provided by the City.

Other rules cover: camping, team sports, erecting signs, disturbing wildlife, begging, firearms and explosives, solicitation and commercial activity, overnight moorage, amplified music, littering, smoking and more...

Ordinance No. 09-918 can be found online at the City's website **www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us** or you can contact Aaron Nix at (360) 886-2560 extension 220 for more details.

The City Connection is now bi-monthly and will be distributed six times a year to the residents of Black Diamond. You will still receive the same great information, just not as frequently. The City Connection newsletter will be sent out the first week of the month of publication in the utility/ stormwater billing. You can also keep up to date on what's happening in your city by visiting our website at www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us.

Comprehensive trails planning continues

Work is continuing on the development of a citywide trail system plan. Staff hosted another open house on Thursday, August 13 and received good input from citizens who attended the event. Stay tuned as work winds down on this project and is brought back to the City Council for review. Final opportunities for comment are included in the trail planning calendar (on the left). Thanks to all who have participated. For questions, contact Aaron Nix at (360) 886-2560 extension 220.

Trails Plan Calendar

- September 10—Committee Meeting—Select final plan/ implementation– 5 p.m. in the Public Works Conference Room
- September 24—Council Workstudy—Present plan/ implementation– 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers

When addressing mail to the City of Black Diamond, please use P.O. Box 599 and not the street address. The Post Office reads addresses electronically and if you have the street address on the envelope with the post office box number it will be returned to you as undeliverable. Thanks for your help!

September is disaster preparedness month

With September being national Preparedness Month, Mountain View Fire & Rescue/Black Diamond Fire Department will be busy informing people on various safety topics. Some basic information is below.

•**Disaster plan:** It is a good idea to make a plan for your family and/or business before a disaster happens. Remember that your family may not be together when a disaster strikes. It is a good idea to have an out-of-area contact. It may be easier to make a long-distance phone call than a local call. Be sure that every family member knows the phone number and that the emergency contact knows how to reach each of your family members.

•**Disaster kit:** A kit can be invaluable during a disaster. These should include necessities that you use on a daily basis and should be include items for every season. Food, water, batteries, clothing, flashlights, games, pet supplies, etc., should be included in the kit.

•**Emergency Radios:** You can purchase radios to provide emergency information. You can find radios with various options such as battery-operated, wind-up, radios with flashlights, etc. The important thing is that it will get you the information that you need when you need it and are without electricity. Wind-up radios are nice during an emergency because you don't have to worry about having spare batteries.

Emergency Information
Now is a good time to write down resources and emergency information so you are not scrambling during the disaster. Create a central spot for local resource numbers and include your utility providers.

•**Online Information:** A good local resource is www.rpin.org or the Regional Public Information Network (RPIN). You can sign up to get the information that you need.

•**Cell Phone Alerts:** Mountain View Fire & Rescue/ Black Diamond Fire Department has a Twitter account for emergency information. The account will be used if available during a disaster and you can choose to have messages arrive directly on your cell phone. You must sign up to Twitter (at twitter.com) then look for **MtnViewBDFire**.

There are several links to get information about disaster preparedness including **www.rpin.org** , **www.ready.gov** or **http://www.govlink.org/3days3ways/**. Please call Tim Perciful at Mountain View Fire & Rescue/Black Diamond Fire Department to learn more about disaster preparedness and Community Emergency Response Classes (CERT) at (253) 735-0284.

LOOKING FOR PHOTOS OF THE CITY

Do you have scenic pictures of the city or events held within the city that you would like to contribute to our website or city-published documents? Please share your good works with us! Any photos used will be tagged with the contributor's name. Please email your pictures to rpitzel@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us or send by mail to City of Black Diamond, Attn: Rachel Pitzel, P.O. Box 599, Black Diamond, WA 98010 or drop them by City Hall at 24301 Roberts Drive.

(Please keep your pictures in .gif or .jpg format if sending via email).

Black Diamond Business Partners meeting in the works

The city will host the next meeting of the Black Diamond Business Partners in late September or early October and would like to invite all business owners to attend. Meetings are free of charge and held at various locations around the city. This is a great way to connect with other business owners and receive information on loans, marketing, business-to-business selling, new technologies and programs and activities the City is undertaking. The next meeting topic will be an interactive session on the selling points of Black Diamond and discussion of next steps to market the city and preserve existing businesses.

If you would like to attend these meetings and be added to an email update list, please contact Andrew Williamson by email at awilliamson@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us or call City Hall, (360) 886-2560 extension 215.

Budgeting for 2010 in full swing

During the last half of August and September, the Finance Department will update the 2010 revenue forecast for the General Fund and other funds for 2010 using 2009 trends and forecast information provided by the Municipal Research and Services Center and other agencies. A first draft review of this information will be provided to Council at a scheduled workstudy on October 22, 2009, at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

***2009-2014 DRAFT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN SCHEDULE**

- **SEP 3—** WORKSTUDY ON PROPOSED PROJECTS
- **SEP 17—**WORKSTUDY ON PUBLIC WORKS PROPOSED PROJECTS
- **OCT 1—**PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION OF 2009—2014 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Calendar subject to change

Black Diamond has not been immune to the economic downturn and has decreased the expected sales tax and other General Fund revenues for 2009 in a budget adjustment in July 2009. This decrease in revenue was accompanied by a decrease in the salaries and benefits of 5.1 percent covered by mandatory leave without pay (furlough days) for 10 days in 2009 for non-represented (non-union) employees. Furlough days began in April and continues through December 2009. Departments also offered other budget cuts and the Police Guild agreed to a $200 per month wage decrease for a period of time. Since then, other revenues have continued to fall, prompting a restructure of the Police Department in August 2009.

INTERNAL DATE	CITY OF BLACK DIAMOND 2010 BUDGET CALENDAR
October 1 **(Workstudy)**	Chief Administrative Officer provides Council with current info on revenue from all sources as adopted in 2009 budget, and provides them with the proposed preliminary budget setting forth the proposed General Fund revenue.
October 22 (**Workstudy)**	Mayor, Finance and Department heads review General Fund expenditures budgets with Council.
October 29 **(Workstudy)**	Council reviews Public Works budgets for revenues and expenditures for all Public Works budgets, including street, water, wastewater, stormwater and all associated funds. Also reviews overall budget.
November 5 **(Workstudy)**	City Council workstudy to review proposed 2010 budget for revenues and expenditures for all funds, including projects from Capital Improvement Plan.
November 19 **(Regular Mtg.)**	City Council holds public hearing on revenue sources and expenditures for the upcoming budget year including possible increases in property tax revenue.
November 19 **(Regular Mtg.)**	Property tax public hearing.
November 19 **(Regular Mtg.)**	City Council adopts preliminary property tax levy for 2010 budget (possibly hold 2nd in December due to delays in information from the County) – Must be done by November 30.
December 3 **(Regular Mtg.)**	City Council holds final public hearing on 2010 budget
December 3 or 17 **(Regular Mtgs.)**	City Council adopts Final 2010 budget and transmits to the State Auditor's Office.

With the revenue picture not showing improvement for 2010, the Mayor has asked departments to prepare 2010 requests with a 10 percent reduction to line items other than salaries and benefits. The Mayor will bring forth a budget that uses no cash reserves (our city savings account) to balance the General Fund budget. That will make the final balancing act even more difficult this year. Many options will be reviewed for 2010, including continuing leave without pay (furlough days), increasing employees' share of medical insurance and other reductions or increased revenues that can contribute to balancing the budget.

A public hearing is scheduled for November 19 on the revenues and property tax levy and another one for December 3 on the final budget. Workstudies are scheduled for late October and early November. Public input is welcomed and encouraged. See budget calendar on the left and watch the City's website for the latest.

In-city forest water project completed

King County Councilman Dunn along with Mayor Botts, Councilmembers Olness and Mulvihill and Bill Kombol discuss the in-city forest water project.

Several years ago, late Congresswoman Jennifer Dunn secured a $240,000 grant to assist the City of Black Diamond with the replacement of a section of water supply line. The City is wrapping up this significant improvement to the City's water system. A portion of an old 1945 asbestos water main was replaced east of the City.

The City is pleased to report that this project was completed under budget and on schedule. Additionally, with the bids coming in well under the engineer's estimate, 50 percent more water main was replaced for the project than originally intended. City staff recently took King County Councilman Reagan Dunn, Mayor Botts, Councilmembers Rebecca Olness and Leih Mulvihill and citizens Bill Kombol and Keith Watson on a short tour of the project. The City expresses its thanks to Councilman Reagan Dunn for the efforts of his mother to help the City of Black Diamond.

CITY OF BLACK DIAMOND

Recently Adopted Ordinances

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

Ordinance No. 09-917 — Stormwater Illicit Discharge, Detection and Elimination Program
Ordinance No. 09-918 — New Park Rules
Ordinance No. 09-919 — Public Safety Levy Ballot Measure
Ordinance No. 09-920 — Amendments to Sign Code

Scheduled Public Hearings

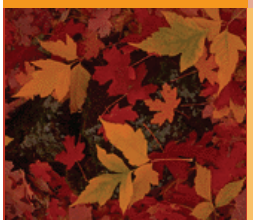
Get involved with your community: attend public hearings

September 17 ~ Water System Comp Plan/Adoption
October 1 ~ 2009-2014 Capital Improvement Plan

Watch the City's website for the latest information.

September 22, 2009

7 p.m.— Wilderness Lodge



TRI-CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT WILDERNESS LODGE-7 PM

On September 22nd, the City Council of Black Diamond will be joined by the Councils of Maple Valley and Covington for a joint meeting. The three cities met last year and kicked off the diesel multiple unit project that is now gaining speed. At this meeting, the three Councils will discuss that project as well as park projects in each city. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. at Lake Wilderness Lodge, 22500 SE 248th Street. For more information on the DMU project, visit the City of Black Diamond's website at www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us under Departments, Administration.

CITY MEETINGS

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS
25510 LAWSON STREET

- SEP 3 - 7 p.m.
- SEP 17 - 7 p.m.
- SEP 22 - Tri-City Council Wilderness Lodge - 7 p.m.
- OCT 1 - 7 p.m.
- OCT 15 - 7 p.m.

COUNCIL WORKSTUDIES:

- SEP 3 - 6 p.m.
- SEP 17 - 6 p.m.
- SEP 24 - 7 p.m.
- OCT 1 - 6 p.m.
- OCT 15 - 6 p.m.
- OCT 22 - 7 p.m.
- OCT 29 - 7 p.m.

PLANNING COMMISSION
25510 LAWSON STREET

- SEP 8 - 7 p.m.
- OCT 6 - 7 p.m.

MONTHLY MEETINGS
CITY COUNCIL:
1st and 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 at 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

SEP 5, 6 & 7 **Black Diamond** Labor Days (see article on page 3 for event times)
SEP 11 **Black Diamond** K-9 Benefit Dinner—Eagles Hall—6-8 p.m.
SEP 26 **Black Diamond** Septemberfest 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (see page 2)

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

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 DEVELOPMENT/ NATURAL RESOURCES/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT **(360) 886-2560**
(253) 631-0351
Fax: (360) 886-2592
P.O. Box 599 / 24301 Roberts Drive

POLICE DEPARTMENT **(253) 631-1012**
P.O. Box 309 / 25510 Lawson Street **Fax: (360) 886-2901**

MUNICIPAL COURT **(360) 886-7784**
P.O. Box 599 / 25510 Lawson Street **Fax: (360) 886-7758**

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