

# The City Connection

A BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

January /February 2011 Volume 3, Issue 1

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## From the Office of the Mayor

Welcome 2011! As we enter the new year I thought I would share with you my budget message for 2011 which tells the story of how the final budget was balanced and also recalls some of the City's highlights and accomplishments for 2010.

On December 16, 2010 the City Council adopted the 2011 operating budget. Although we have preserved essential core services and completed several projects, I would like to point out that we did not use any fund balance in 2010. The adopted budget will increase the 2011 ending fund balance by \$90,570 combined with \$61,319 from 2010 for a total ending fund balance of \$151,889. With the current economic outlook, we must strive to build our fund balance knowing that 2012 may be an even bigger budgetary challenge. Any savings or unspent revenue will be put into the reserve fund unless there is an emergency.

The Final 2011 Budget has expected General Fund revenue of \$4,552,079, a budget decrease of \$433,389 which does not include fund balance. This reduction is primarily due to the completion of the developer funded Master Planned Development Environmental Impact Statement last year but also includes reduced revenue due to utility taxes, state sales tax to cities, permitting and land use fees, police traffic school fees and court fees.

General Fund expenditures have been reduced by \$508,907 which includes the reduction due to the completion of the developer funded Master Planned Development Environmental Impact Statement last year and other reductions as a result of the freeze on the Police Commander and one officer positions and the City Administrator position. All departments were asked to reduce their budgets which they did. No COLAs will be given to non-represented employees. Management volunteered to again forego any non-union step increases but, recognizing the importance of keeping valuable and knowledgeable employees with history and continuity with the City, requested that their support staff be given a step increase when appropriate since no one received increases in 2010. Furlough days were reduced from thirteen (13) to five (5) for non-union, non-Civil Service and non-utility employees. City Hall will be closed those five days in 2011, on July 5, September 2, October 10, December 23, and December 30. There was an increase in expenditures because of the new Animal Control Agreement we have with King County and the requirement for EMS Management. Fortunately, reductions have offset these increases.

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**Elected Officials**

- ◆ Mayor, Rebecca Olness
- ◆ Councilmember, Kristine Hanson
- ◆ Councilmember, Craig Goodwin
- ◆ Councilmember, Bill Boston
- ◆ Councilmember, William Saas
- ◆ Councilmember, Leih Mulvihill

**Mayor's letter (continued from front page)**

In late 2008, Association of Washington Cities notified members that Regence Plan A and Plan B medical plans will be terminated on January 1, 2012. Since Regence Plan B is one of the medical insurance plans the City offers employees, staff was directed to review options for the City and make recommendations for a replacement plan. With the economy in recession and the revenue shortfall the City is experiencing, it was decided to target January 1, 2011 as the start date for participation in the new plan. At the current level of staffing, savings across all funds realized by the City after switching to the recommended medical plan is approximately \$34,000. Also, new to this year's budget is a change to employee

premium sharing. The proposed budget provides that the City will provide 100% of the premium cost for all non-represented employees and 75% percent of the premium cost for dependent coverage, for additional savings.

The City operates three utilities: Wastewater (sewer), Water and Stormwater. The Stormwater Utility was adopted in 2009 and provides funding to be in compliance with state and federal mandates. As part of a Department of Ecology Stormwater Grant, all catch basins in the City were cleaned this year. For the Water Fund, we are continuing the installation of new water meters as well as other needed maintenance. Work on the Infiltration and Inflow Reduction Program (Wastewater) will begin in the Spring of 2011. Because of decreased Utilities Fund balance and increased costs, rates were reviewed and the approved increases are included in this budget. This budget has the three utilities assuming responsibility for 10% of the salaries and benefits for the Public Works Director and the Administrative Assistant III in 2011, with the Funding Agreement reimbursing 90%.

In addition to the three utilities, the Public Works Department also manages City streets and roads. Street projects completed in 2010 include Railroad Avenue (Transportation Improvement Board Grant), Morgan Street Sidewalk (Community Development Block Grant; Transportation Improvement Grant) and the 232<sup>nd</sup> Street Overlay (Transportation Improvement Grant). We also purchased a used dump truck. Because of the increased work load in Public Works, a new position of Public Works Administrative Assistant III was established. This position was filled in August, 2010.

I continue to be impressed by the hard work and expertise of all staff and the support of Council and our citizens. 2010 has been an extremely busy year for all of us and some major decisions have been made which will affect the future of our City. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support.

Rebecca Olness, Mayor

## Community Contacts

### **Black Diamond Community Center (360) 886-1011**

Hours of Operation:

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### **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 Museum / Historical Society**

**(360) 886-2142**

Hours of Operation:

Thursdays – 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

### **Black Diamond Post Office**

**(360) 886-9429**

Hours of Operation:

Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

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](mailto:bmartinez@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us).

## Black Diamond Police Department 2010 Year in Review

First, the Department would like to thank the citizens for their continued support of public safety in our community.

Over the past year we have been dispatched to approximately 2,500 calls for service. These calls ranged from the City's first homicide in several years, burglary reports to domestic disputes, thefts, traffic collisions and numerous other crimes. Additionally we continue to provide a safe commute for our City through Traffic Safety & Enforcement.

As a department we made approximately 35 DUI arrests and 140 arrests for other criminal violations.

Additionally we continued to patrol Lake Sawyer through our Marine Services Unit, which logged approximately 250 hours of time on the water. We are happy to report another safe summer on the lake for everyone.

An important aspect of policing is community involvement. We continue to be active in the community, but will strive to increase our involvement every year. This past year we saw new 5<sup>th</sup> grade students from the Black Diamond Elementary School graduate their 8-week DARE Program. We also attended and contributed in many local events, including Miner Days, the X-terra Race, National Night Out, Labor Days, Shop with a Cop and the local Christmas Tree Lighting Festival. As the holidays approach our officers feel this time of year is a chance to "give back", this year serving the senior citizens at the Thanksgiving Luncheon at the Community Center. We also participated alongside the Fire Department with the local food & toy drive.

As we enter 2011 we continue to apply our Mission Statement & Values to our policing philosophy, see our webpage on the City's website at [www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us/Depts/Police/police\\_home](http://www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us/Depts/Police/police_home). We are proud to serve our community and provide a type of service that is professional and which you are proud of!



### Recently Adopted Ordinances

**Ordinance No. 09-950 -**  
Adopting Property Tax Levy

**Ordinance No. 09-951-**  
Adopting Certain Portions of KCC Title 11 Regarding Animal Care and Control

**Ordinance No. 09-952 -**  
Amending Building Code Ordinance

**Ordinance No. 09-953-**  
Authorizing Interfund Loan from Wastewater Fund to Water Fund

**Ordinance No. 09-954 -**  
Adopting the 2010 Final Budget Amendment

**Ordinance No. 09-955-**  
Adopting Sewer Rate Increase

**Ordinance No. 09-956 -**  
Adopting Water Rate Increase

**Ordinance No. 09-957-**  
Adopting 2011 Final Budget



## WELCOME BILL BOWMAN- MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE

Judge Bill Bowman was sworn in on December 22, 2010 as the City of Black Diamond's new Municipal Court Judge, effective January 1, 2011. We are excited to have Judge Bowman join our team!

## Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poisoning

### What is Carbon Monoxide?

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is colorless, odorless, gas that can kill a person or animals in minutes. Carbon Monoxide is produced when fuel such as wood, gas, kerosene, oil and charcoal is burned.



### Who is in danger?

Anyone who burns the fuels listed above in or near their home. This includes people with attached garages, wood burning stoves, fire places, gas appliances, etc. Those that are especially vulnerable are fetuses, infants, elderly people and people with anemia or with a history of heart or respiratory disease.

### Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Symptoms

Many of the symptoms are flu-like but they can kill. Some of the basic things to look for are severe headaches, dizziness, nauseated, feeling faint and shortness of breath.

### What to do

- ✓ Get to fresh air immediately
- ✓ Call 9-1-1
- ✓ Get checked for Carbon Monoxide poisoning
- ✓ Do not go back into the home until it is cleared by emergency responders.

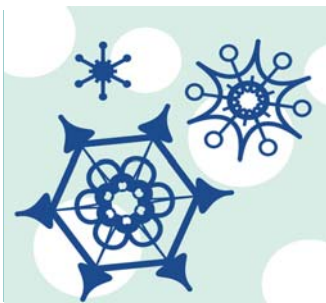
### Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Smoke alarms will not detect carbon monoxide so you need to be sure to have Carbon Monoxide alarms in your home. They should be on every level of the home and near the sleeping areas.

There are several types of Carbon Monoxide alarms and they can be purchased at hardware stores, box stores, etc. Many of them can plug into the wall but be sure that you have a battery backup. Installation is easy and it is important to follow manufacture guidelines. Please remember that most Carbon Monoxide alarms will last between 5 and 7 years and buy one with an Underwriters Laboratory (UL) symbol on it.

*Remember to keep checking our website for up to date and current information !*

*[www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us](http://www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us)*



City Offices will be closed on the following Holidays:

◆ JANUARY 17TH — MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

◆ FEBRUARY 21ST — PRESIDENTS DAY



## Shop with a Cop Event

On December 11, 2010 Mayor Olness, Officer Cripe and Sergeant Weinreich arrived at the Covington Wal-Mart to participate in the 2010 Shop with a Cop event. Law Enforcement Officers from Maple Valley, Covington, King County Sheriff's Office, The US Marshalls Office and Seattle also participated. This program provides a means for children and families to purchase Christmas presents, which would not otherwise have the financial resources to do so. Each family was paired up with a Law Enforcement Officer and given a spending limit of \$50.00 per child, 470 children were able to benefit from this years event. The money was raised mostly by the Maple Valley Rotary Club. One of the many benefits of this program is to provide a positive and rewarding experience between children and the men and women in uniform.



## Utility Rate Changes in 2011

Black Diamond's water, wastewater, and stormwater utility customers will see a combined total average utility increase of approximately 13% effective January 1, 2011 which total an average about \$11.25 a month for a typical resident that uses about 860 cubic feet of water a month and is billed for all three Black Diamond utilities. Rates will vary depending on water usage and size of meters.

Eligible low-income lifeline customers will receive a rate reduction of approximately 50% on the city share of the rates. Council held several Committee meetings and Workstudy sessions during November and December. A public hearing was also held December 2, 2010.

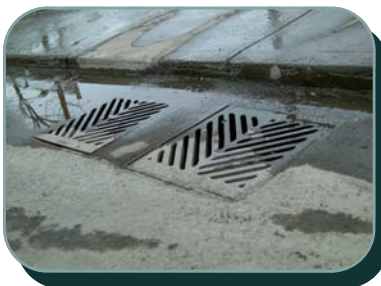
The rate increases will be reflected on the utility bills that are mailed out at the end of January 2011 and due in February 2011.

Below is a break down of each utility rate increase.

### WASTEWATER

The wastewater rate increase is approximately 8% or \$4.20 per month per resident. This is a pass-through rate increase that King County Wastewater Treatment (Metro) has imposed for all their wastewater system customers effective January 1, 2011 to recover their cost of operating their transmission and sewage treatment system. This amount is collected by the City each month and remitted monthly to Metro per our contract. Council approved this increase at their December 16, 2010 meeting with Ordinance No. 10-955.

### STORMWATER



Stormwater rates will change from \$11.50 per month for a residence or Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) to \$13.00 per month for a \$1.50 per month increase. This is the last year of the three years of rate increases adopted by Council in 2009 with Ordinance No. 09-901. Stormwater rates cover the costs of:

- ◆ Maintaining the stormwater system which includes a little over 9 miles of storm pipe, over 570 catch basins and 9 storm ponds

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### 2010 Holiday Engine/ Santa Food Drive

The 2010 Holiday Engine / Santa Food Drive was a huge success again this year! Despite the weather they collected approximately 3,500 lbs. of food and \$530 for the Black Diamond and Auburn Food Banks. Thank you to Fire District 44 crews, Mayor Rebecca Olness, Councilman Bill Boston, Officer Scott Oak and the Black Diamond Community Center for their hard work and organization, and to everyone in our community who contributed food and financial donations to this worthy cause.



### Winterizing your water pipes:

- \* Locate and insulate pipes most susceptible to freezing, typically those near outer walls, in crawl spaces or in the attic.
- \* Wrap pipes with heat tape (UL approved). Seal any leaks that allow cold air inside where pipes are located.
- \* Disconnect garden hoses and shut off and drain water from pipes leading to outside faucets. This reduces the chance of freezing in the short span of pipe just inside the house.
- \* Let hot and cold water trickle at night from a faucet on an outside wall.
- \* Open cabinet doors to allow more heat to get to un-insulated pipes under a sink or appliance near an outer wall.
- \* Make sure heat is left on and set no lower than 55 degrees.
- \* Make sure you and your family knows how to shut off the water, in case pipes burst. Stopping the water flow will minimize the damage to your home. Call a plumber and contact your insurance agent.
- \* Never try to thaw a pipe with an open flame or torch.

## MPD Development Agreements Moving Forward

In September 2010, the City Council approved the two Master Planned Development (MPD) applications of Yarrow Bay, known as The Villages and Lawson Hills. City Code requires the conditions of MPD approval to be included within a Development Agreement that must be finalized prior to the City authorizing any implementing approvals such as subdivisions or site plan approvals.

Staff has been working with Yarrow Bay in developing draft Development Agreements that will be presented to the Hearing Examiner and City Council in the first quarter of 2011. Similar to the MPD process, the Hearing Examiner will hold an open record hearing, where any individual may provide oral or written testimony. Following issuance of the Examiner's recommendation, the City Council will conduct closed record hearings, at which only those individuals who participated at the Hearing Examiner open record hearing will be able to provide testimony.

If you plan on providing testimony, it will be important to focus your comments on whether the draft Development Agreements adequately address the MPD conditions of approval and any concerns with the development standards contained within the agreements. As part of the MPD approval, the Hearing Examiner and City Council determined the proposals were consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan and MPD Code, and included conditions to address the environmental impacts that were identified in the EIS documents. The Development Agreement process is not an opportunity to re-debate the merits of the two MPDs and whether they should have been approved. Nor is it a venue to raise issues with specific MPD conditions of approval, as those are part of the approving ordinances.

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

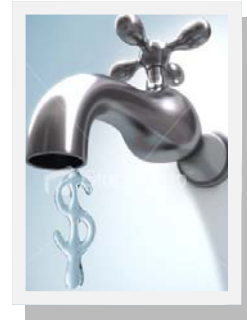
### ***Utility Rate Increase (continued from page 5)***

- ◆ Enforcing new Illicit Discharge ordinances and Construction Stormwater Pollution prevention
- ◆ Fulfilling the Department of Ecology Stormwater Discharge Permit Program requirements

The stormwater system primarily handles the runoff from the public road system which we all utilize on a daily basis. The storm system preserves and protects our roads but also absorbs contaminants from automobiles that needs to be dealt with.

#### **WATER**

Water rate will increase an average of 15%. The base rates will increase \$5.55 per customer but the commodity rate will not increase any further at this time. In 2008, Council adopted the PacWest Rate Study - Alternative C, which included rate increases of 15% for the years 2009, 2010 and 2012. Council adopted the first year of rate increase in 2009 but deferred the second rate increase planned for 2010, due to the economy and the new stormwater rates. Council approved this rate increase at their December 16, 2010 meeting with Ordinance No. 10-956.



Even with the 2009 rate increase, revenue did not increase as anticipated and the operational costs of the water utility continue to run at a deficit. Labor, health care, power, fuel and new treatment requirements have added to the cost of the water operations. Additionally the rates also need to cover the cost of replacing the old water meters. In the long term the City will need to address the replacement of the old asbestos and small diameter galvanized water mains within the City.

**For those Lake Sawyer residents receiving only a stormwater statement (no utilities), you can pay your stormwater bill (the new rate per month for 2011 is \$13) in advance for the whole year, several months or monthly since it is a fixed rate per month. You will still receive your bill in the mail, but it will show a negative balance indicating a credit. We also accept payments over the phone using your debit/credit card.**



## **New Addition to Triangle Park**

You may have noticed a new addition to Triangle Park (corner of Roberts Drive and Highway 169) in the form of an 18 foot Gigantea Sequoia tree partially donated by Gary and Deb Jenson of Hanging Gardens Nursery. The new tree is part of the evergreen family and has awl (long, pointed) shaped leaves. Its conical shape makes it an ideal species to look at and admire as it appears full and vibrant. Because of these characteristics, some entrepreneurs have attempted to grow these trees as Christmas trees, but the trend has been hard to catch on. The new tree replaces a shorter Douglas Fir tree that took a turn for the worse this past summer. The new tree makes a nice, new addition to Triangle Park, which includes a coal car marker and will eventually have a new flagpole, letting folks know that they are in the heart of Black Diamond.

Did you know? Gigantea Sequoia is known as the largest living species on earth. Record trees have measured 311 feet in height and up to 56 feet in diameter. Although based on our climate, this tree will not come close to sizes of that proportion, usually only reaching a height of 70 to 90 feet around here.

## Contact Information

**All City Offices Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. — 5 p.m.**

### Departments

- ◆ City Administrator,
- ◆ 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

<b>CITY HALL</b>	<b>(360) 886-2560</b>
P.O. Box 599 / 24301 Roberts Drive	<b>(253) 631-0351</b>
	<b>Fax: (360) 886-2592</b>
<b>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/NATURAL RESOURCES/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>	<b>(360) 886-2560</b>
P.O. Box 599 / 24301 Roberts Drive	<b>(253) 631-0351</b>
	<b>Fax: (360) 886-2592</b>
<b>POLICE DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>(253) 631-1012</b>
P.O. Box 309 / 25510 Lawson Street	<b>Fax: (360) 886-2901</b>
<b>MUNICIPAL COURT</b>	<b>(360) 886-7784</b>
P.O. Box 599 / 25510 Lawson Street	<b>Fax: (360) 886-5354</b>
<b>FIRE DEPT. DISTRICT #44</b>	<b>(253) 735-0284</b>
<b>PUBLIC WORKS</b>	<b>(360) 886-2560</b>
P.O. Box 599 / 24301 Roberts Drive	<b>(253) 631-0351</b>
	<b>Fax: (360) 886-2592</b>
<b>UTILITY AFTER HOURS (EMERGENCY PAGER)</b>	<b>(253) 333-5555</b>

**Check out our website at [www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us](http://www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us)**



**City of Black  
Diamond**



PO Box 599  
24301 Roberts Drive, Suite B  
Black Diamond, WA 98010  
Phone: 360-886-2560  
Fax: 360-886-2592  
Email:  
[info@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us](mailto:info@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us)

## Council/Commission/Committee Meetings

### CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS 25510 LAWSON STREET

- JAN 6 - 7 p.m.
- JAN 20 - 7 p.m.
- FEB 3 - 7 p.m.
- FEB 17 - 7 p.m.

### COUNCIL WORKSTUDIES 25510 LAWSON STREET

- JAN 20 - 6 p.m.

### PLANNING COMMISSION 25510 LAWSON STREET

- JAN 11 - 7 p.m.
- FEB 8 - 7 p.m.

**ALL COUNCIL/COMMISSION MEETINGS  
ARE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

### FINANCE/BUDGET COMMITTEE 24301 ROBERTS DRIVE

JAN 14 and JAN 28 - 9 a.m.  
FEB 11 and FEB 25 - 9 a.m.

### PARKS/CEMETERY COMMITTEE 24301 ROBERTS DRIVE

**Dates to be determined**

### PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE 24301 ROBERTS DRIVE

JAN 11 and JAN 25 - 4 p.m.  
FEB 8 and FEB 22 - 4 p.m.

### PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE 24301 ROBERTS DRIVE

**Dates to be determined**

### PLANNING/COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE 24301 ROBERTS DRIVE

**Dates to be determined**



**ALL COMMITTEE MEETINGS ARE TENTATIVE, ALL  
COMMITTEE MEETINGS ARE HELD IN THE PUBLIC  
WORKS CONFERENCE ROOM UNLESS OTHERWISE  
NOTED. CHECK WEBSITE FOR ANY CHANGES.**

Monthly meetings for City Council are held the first and third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. Planning Commission meetings are held on the first Tuesday after the first Council meeting at 7 p.m. of each month (unless otherwise noted). Please contact the Clerks office for more information or meeting materials at (360) 886-2560 or check out the City Clerks webpage at [www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us/Depts/Clerk](http://www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us/Depts/Clerk).