

# THE CITY CONNECTION

“FACETS OF BLACK DIAMOND”

A BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



## EMERGENCY OPERATIONS ACTIVATION SUMMARY

### Elected Officials

- ◆ Mayor,  
Rebecca Olness
- ◆ Councilmember,  
Tamie Deady
- ◆ Councilmember,  
Craig Goodwin
- ◆ Councilmember,  
Joe May
- ◆ Councilmember,  
Vacant Position
- ◆ Councilmember,  
Ron Taylor

As many of you were aware we got hit with some pretty nasty weather in the middle of January. Many people are still cleaning up and life is getting back to normal. As a City we started monitoring the weather reports early in the week leading up to the first snow fall. These initial reports called for significant snowfall by January 17<sup>th</sup>. As reported the snowfall arrived and at first it only created minor problems, such as snow removal from roads. The real problem hit the following day when the freezing rain/snow mixture arrived, blanketing the area with a layer of ice. This led to trees falling from the weight of the ice, which caused loss of power to numerous residences and businesses within the city.



By the early morning hours of January 19<sup>th</sup> the City activated its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to respond to the problems. This decision required that Public Works, the Black Diamond Police Department and Mountain View Fire Department maintain a 24/7 presence during the incident.

During part of the EOC process warming stations were identified in case shelter was needed. This meant the Red Cross authorized the Black Diamond Community Center to open and provide the citizens a warm place to find shelter and eat. Thanks to the many volunteers, the Community Center stayed open during this incident and served many residents. In addition several volunteers and officers of the Police Department conducted a door-to-door response in Rainier View to assist the elderly residents in getting to the Community Center.

Throughout the 24 hours the EOC was officially open, Public Works, the Police Department and Fire Department worked together efficiently to identify problems

*continued on page 2*

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2 MAR / APR 2012

### In this issue:

Small Business Administration Information	2
Stormwater vs. Wastewater	2
Crime Prevention Tips	3
Community Contacts	3
Town Hall Meetings Scheduled	3
2012 Spring Recycling Event	4
Spring Cleaning Safety Tips	5
Prescription Take Back Event	5
2012 Property Taxes	6
City Information / Meeting Schedules	7



Daylight Savings-  
March 11, 2012



Time to SPRING  
AHEAD!

### Attention Current and/or Future Small Business Owners!

Every January, Americans look ahead with the desire to start the New Year with fresh ideas and hopes to improve.

The U.S. Small Business Administration is doing the same thing – regularly meeting with lenders and resources partners to get feedback on ways to improve our loan programs and services. And, this past year, the SBA engaged over 150 community lenders in all 50 states to provide comments on ways that the SBA's CAPLines Program could work more effectively for both SBA lenders and small businesses, as this program has been underutilized. To locate resources in the state of Washington or to contact your local SBA office visit: <http://archive.sba.gov/localresources/district/wa/index.html> or visit: [www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us/Economic\\_Development](http://www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us/Economic_Development) to see the complete flyer regarding the CAPLines Program.

## WHERE DOES STORMWATER GO?

**Stormwater** is rain and/or snow melt that collects and runs off surfaces such as streets and rooftops. For most of Black Diamond, stormwater runs directly into streams/lakes, or through a catch basin, and then flows through the City's stormwater system until it is discharged into local waterways. Some of the stormwater from more recent developments is partially treated in storm ponds.

**Wastewater** is water that is discharged from household fixtures (sinks, toilets, showers, etc.) and is then discharged into sanitary sewers, which carry the wastewater to the sewage treatment plant in Renton.

A common misconception is that this stormwater enters into the sewer system. The City's stormwater pipes are not connected to the sewer pipes, and household wastewater is not connected to stormwater.



Stormwater and wastewater are separate systems.

Since our stormwater doesn't go with sewer to Renton for treatment, you may wonder what treatment exists for the City's stormwater before it enters into our lakes and streams. Catch basins are set up to "catch" debris and heavy sediment that enters with stormwater runoff. City staff inspects and, when necessary, cleans out sediment build up in catch basins.

Stormwater can be collected in storm ponds, which allows for polluted stormwater to be partially treated before

discharging into local waterways or infiltrating.

### **How Can I Help?**

City staff is always looking for ways to treat stormwater before it enters into our local lakes and streams. There are things that you can do to help as well. They can be simple things such as washing your car at a commercial car wash rather than at home, locating a compost bin further away from a body of water, following directions for proper use and disposal of products (pesticides, paints, motor oil, etc.), and cleaning up pet waste are all simple things that can be done to protect our local waterways.

We thank you for your efforts in keeping our local waterways less susceptible to stormwater pollution.

### ***EMERGENCY OPERATIONS ACTIVATION SUMMARY (CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)***

and maintain public safety.

As a reminder it is recommended that you be prepared to survive for at least 3 days after a disaster or significant incident. The chances are high that a catastrophe could happen in the Northwest. For more information visit [3days3ways.org](http://3days3ways.org), a website provided by the King County of Emergency Management on how to make a plan!



## CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

Southeast King County, including the City of Black Diamond, has recently seen an increase in both residential and vehicle burglaries and thefts. Many of these crimes can be easily prevented by locking your doors and closing garages when nobody is home.

Despite the fact that we have made arrests of burglars and thieves, and worked diligently to complete thorough investigations we still continue to have ongoing incidents. The Black Diamond Police Department hopes to work together with the community in both educational tips like the ones that will be found in this article, but more importantly by urging citizens to call 911 when they see any activity that they feel is suspicious.

Officers have had contact with citizens after recent events, learning that they thought something was suspicious but were not sure and therefore did not want to "bother 911." The Black Diamond Police Department would prefer to have the opportunity to rule out these suspicious circumstances, rather than find that a crime may have been prevented. The single biggest crime prevention tip we can provide pertaining to these crimes is to avoid being an easy or inviting target. Because we live in such a great and safe community, people can sometimes let their guard down. Working together through constant communication and neighborhood watch we can

make a difference. Below you will find some great crime prevention tips and ideas citizens can follow to help reduce becoming a victim of these types of crimes:



- ◆ Call 911, at the first sign of anyone casing vehicles or homes. Casing is defined as looking into vehicles or homes or loitering around them with no apparent lawful purpose.
- ◆ Report persons sitting in parked vehicles with no apparent purpose.
- ◆ Call 9-1-1 if you see anyone tampering with automobiles.
- ◆ Bottom line is: immediately report suspicious activity or persons in your neighborhoods.
- ◆ Be a good witness - Try to get a vehicle license plate number. If you can't get the vehicle license plate number try to get as much identifying information about the vehicle or person as you can. Such as, color, make, model, damage, etc. pertaining to vehicles. Clothing, scars, tattoos, etc. pertaining to people.

For more comprehensive details, please visit our website at [www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us/police](http://www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us/police).

## COMMUNITY CONTACTS

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

Hours of Operation:  
Monday – Friday 8 – 4:30

**Black Diamond Post Office**  
(360) 886-9429

Hours of Operation:  
Monday – Friday 9 – 5

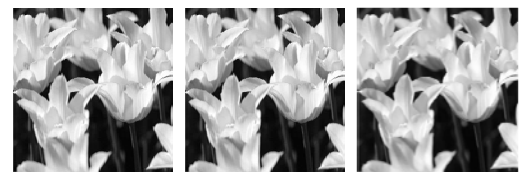
**Black Diamond Museum  
Historical Society**  
(360) 886-2142

Hours of Operation:  
Thursdays – 9 - 4  
Saturdays and Sundays – 12 - 3

**Black Diamond Library**  
(360) 886-1105

Hours of Operation:  
Monday – Thursday 10 – 9  
Fridays – 10 – 6  
Saturdays – 10 – 5

Town Hall meetings are now scheduled to occur on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. (Location to be determined at the March 15th Council Meeting. Please look in your utility bill for an informational flyer regarding meetings held with your City Council and Planning Commissioners. This convenient flyer can be posted to your refrigerator for easy access and use throughout the year. Check the City's website regularly for any updates or changes to these meetings at [www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us](http://www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us).



## 2012 SPRING RECYCLING EVENT

Spring may not be here yet, but our spring recycling event is quickly approaching. This annual event allows residents of Black Diamond to recycle waste materials that they have accumulated over the long winter months with grant money provided by King County and the Department of Ecology.

Items accepted include:

- ◆ Motor oil and filters
- ◆ Antifreeze
- ◆ Lead acid batteries
- ◆ Alkaline batteries
- ◆ Tires
- ◆ Bulky wood
- ◆ And other items (A minor fee

may apply for certain items)



Get a jump start on your spring cleaning and join us for this annual event on March 31, 2012 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. at the Black Diamond Police Department at 25510 Lawson Street.

We expect that a lot of folks will be bringing tree limbs from our recent ice storm event. Because of this, containers will be used to collect this debris as opposed to

providing chipping services as we have in the past.

Bulky wood includes tree branches over 6 inches in size, logs, clean wood, plywood, pallets and other untreated and unpainted wood. No grass, leaves, rotten or decayed material. Please lay a tarp under these materials for ease of removal.

There are certain household and hazardous wastes that will not be accepted at the event.

Please see the [flyer](#) for this event at the City's website at [www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us](http://www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us) for additional information and specifics about the State's E-Cycle program.

**Reminder for those residents receiving only a stormwater statement (no utilities), you can pay your stormwater bill 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!**

### BULB DRIVE—RECYCLE. RE-ENERGIZE.

Burnt-out CFL bulb? Energy-saving and long-lasting as they are, compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs contain trace amounts of mercury, and can't be tossed in the household garbage or recycling bins. Materials from CFL and incandescent bulbs including reusable glass, circuitry, aluminum and plastic can all be recycled and reused.

Citizens can bring in their spent CFL and/or inefficient incandescent bulbs, even collect them from their friends and neighbors, and together we can keep bulbs out of landfills!

For more information about PSE's Bulb Drive go to [PSE.COM/BULBDRIVE](http://PSE.COM/BULBDRIVE).

### Black Diamond Community Center EASTER BREAKFAST

- **April 7 –**  
Easter Breakfast – **8 a.m. – 11 a.m.**  
\$5 Adults - \$4 Seniors and \$2.50 for Youth 13 and under

Contact the Black Diamond Community Center at 360-886-1011 for more information.

### DISTRIBUTION LISTS

Contact the City Clerks office to be added to the Council agenda distribution list, please call us at (360) 886-5700 or contact the City Clerk by email at [bmartinez@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us](mailto:bmartinez@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us).

## SPRING CLEANING SAFETY TIPS

Longer days, more sunshine, and Spring cleaning all go together. Many people pay little attention to safety while cleaning but below are a few tips to help you tidy up in a safe manner.



### Your Safety

- ◆ Check your equipment such as ladders, mowers, and trimmers before using them.
- ◆ Do not rush because you are tired or in a hurry. Many people get injured because they are tired and take short cuts.
- ◆ Be careful moving large pieces of furniture and appliances. Get someone to help you move something if it is too heavy and be sure to wear sturdy shoes. Remember if it is too heavy, don't move it.
- ◆ Be safe while on ladders and step stools. Be sure the ladder is on a firm, level surface and it is steady before you climb it. Don't reach too far or climb too high which may cause the ladder to fall with you on it.
- ◆ Be careful when walking on wet surfaces. Walk carefully on wet surfaces with good shoes. Be sure to block these areas from children or adults so they are aware of the danger.
- ◆ Keep stairs, landings, and walkways clear of boxes, bags and other clutter. It is easy to block walkways and stairs with boxes, cleaning supplies, and other items while cleaning. These can cause a hazard when you are carrying objects or when there is limited light.

- ◆ Don't carry too much stuff at once, especially on stairs. More trips will help prevent falls, muscle fatigue, allow you to do more work. So try to limit the amount of stuff you carry at any given time.
- ◆ Always follow cleaning product label safety instructions and recommendations and don't mix products. If you have any questions about a cleaning product you should call the number on the bottle, but if it is an emergency you should call 9-1-1 and/or the Washington Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222
- ◆ Wear a mask when cleaning dusty areas.

### Child's Safety:

- ◆ Have someone take care of small children when you are using chemicals or when dust may be created.
- ◆ Get rid of broken toys, bicycles, and furniture. These items can cause a safety hazard for children because they may not understand the consequences. If it needs to be fixed then make the repairs right away, otherwise discard of the broken object.
- ◆ Childproof your home and don't forget to strap down heavy objects such as TVs and microwaves that may fall on a small child. You can purchase tie down childproofing materials at local home improvement stores.

Good luck with your Spring cleaning, we hope you are successful and safe. For more safety tips please follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/kcfd44](http://www.facebook.com/kcfd44)

### BLACK DIAMOND POLICE DEPARTMENT TAKING BACK UNWANTED PRESCRIPTION DRUGS SATURDAY, APRIL 28TH FROM 10 a.m.-2 p.m. AT 25510 LAWSON STREET, BLACK DIAMOND

**Black Diamond, WA** – On Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Black Diamond Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will give the public another opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Bring your medications for disposal to the Black Diamond Police Department at 25510 Lawson Street, Black Diamond. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

During our last event on October 29<sup>th</sup>, over 21,500 pounds of unwanted/unused pharmaceuticals were collected. This was the total in the four states of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, in which 157 law enforcement agencies participated. As a Black Diamond community we had over 250 pounds turned in.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental

poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines—flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash—pose potential safety and health hazards.

Four days after the first Take-Back event in September 2010, Congress passed the Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act of 2010, which amends the Controlled Substances Act to allow an “ultimate user” of controlled substance medications to dispose of them by delivering them to entities authorized by the Attorney General to accept them. The Act also allows the Attorney General to authorize long term care facilities to dispose of their residents' controlled substances in certain instances. DEA has begun drafting regulations to implement the Act, a process that can take as long as 24 months. Until new regulations are in place, local law enforcement agencies like the Black Diamond Police Department and the DEA will continue to hold prescription drug take-back events every few months.



## 2012 PROPERTY TAXES

King County recently mailed their calculated 2012 appraised property values to all County property owners. 2012 property taxes are based on the prior year's assessed value as appraised by King County, and then divided by the total dollars needed by each jurisdiction. Some property values have gone up this year, as seen in the commercial sector. Private property owners have seen slight increases or decreases. The overall assessed valuation average for Black Diamond property increased slightly in 2011 by \$3.66 million to a total of \$536.6 million. This is less than 1%.

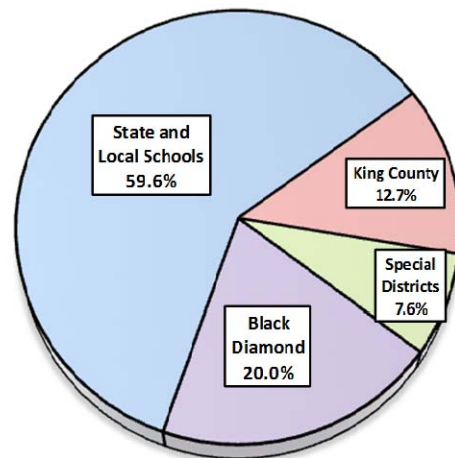
However, rising or falling property values don't necessarily equate to higher or lower property taxes. What you pay depends on the total levy amount for all different taxing entities, such as the local school district, King County, Washington State, our City and others, compared to each individual assessed valuation for that year.

Increases in property tax bills usually occur if citizens vote to pass school and other levy increases or if individual assessed values increase more than others increase. King County sets assessed valuation and calculates the levy rates.

In Washington cities such as Black Diamond, property tax increases are limited to a 1% total dollar annual increase per year unless voters approve a lid-lift or larger percent increases. The adjacent pie chart shows how Black Diamond's 2012 property taxes might be distributed in 2012.

In Black Diamond the total tax levy rates range between \$12.95 and \$13.74 per thousand dollars in assessed valuation, depending on the school district in your neighborhood. Of that amount Black Diamond collects \$2.59 per thousand of a property's value, or close to 20% of the total. All of that money is used to support Black Diamond's Fire, Police and Emergency Services. The City's portion of the property tax bill on a \$250,000 Black Diamond home will cost approximately \$53.96 per month in 2012. This is a .42 cent per month increase from last year for a home with the same value.

**For a \$250,000  
Appraised Black Diamond Home  
\$3,238 in Property Taxes will be due in 2012\***



\*Example shows Enumclaw School District levy rate of of \$5.31  
(Kent's school rate is \$5.60 and Tahoma's school rate is \$5.58)

Taxing Entity	2012 Levy Rate per \$1,000	Annual Property Tax on a \$250,000 home	Monthly Property Tax on a \$250,000 home
School District (Enumclaw)	\$5.31	\$1,327	\$111
State Schools	\$2.42	\$605	\$50
<b>Black Diamond</b>	<b>\$2.59</b>	<b>\$648</b>	<b>\$54</b>
King County	\$1.42	\$354	\$30
Port of Seattle	\$0.23	\$58	\$5
Library District	\$0.57	\$142	\$12
Floods and Ferries	\$0.42	\$104	\$9
<b>Total Property Taxes</b>	<b>\$12.95</b>	<b>\$3,238</b>	<b>\$270</b>

## LIFELINE UTILITY PROGRAM

Those senior citizens or citizens with a permanent disability that are currently on the Lifeline program should be receiving a renewal application in the mail in late April - early May. Deadline for renewal is May 31st. Please keep a look out in your mail for your application.

If you are new to the City and are a Senior or a resident with a permanent disability and you need assistance with your utility bill, stop by City Hall to pick up an application and see if you qualify.

## COUNCIL/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE MEETINGS

### CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS 25510 LAWSON STREET

- MAR 1 - 7 p.m.
- MAR 8 (Special Meeting/Town Hall Meeting in Council Chambers)- 7 p.m.
- MAR 15 - 7 p.m.
- APR 5 - 7 p.m.
- APR 12 (Town Hall Meeting –location TBD)- 7 p.m.
- APR 19 - 7 p.m.

### COUNCIL WORKSTUDIES 25510 LAWSON STREET

### PLANNING COMMISSION 25510 LAWSON STREET

- MAR 6 - 7 p.m.

**FINANCE/BUDGET COMMITTEE**  
24301 ROBERTS DRIVE  
MAR 8 and MAR 29 - 9 a.m.  
APR 12 and APR 26 - 9 a.m.

**PARKS/CEMETERY COMMITTEE**  
24301 ROBERTS DRIVE  
Dates to be determined

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**  
24301 ROBERTS DRIVE  
Dates to be determined

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**  
24301 ROBERTS DRIVE  
Dates to be determined

**PLANNING/COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE**  
24301 ROBERTS DRIVE  
Dates to be determined

**ALL COUNCIL/COMMISSION MEETINGS ARE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. ALL COMMITTEE MEETINGS ARE TENTATIVE AND HELD IN THE PUBLIC WORKS CONFERENCE ROOM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED ON THE AGENDA. CHECK WEBSITE FOR ANY CHANGES.**

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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

<b>CITY HALL</b> P.O. Box 599 / 24301 Roberts Drive	(360) 886-5700 (253) 631-0351 Fax: (360) 886-2592
<b>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/NATURAL RESOURCES/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b> P.O. Box 599 / 24301 Roberts Drive	(360) 886-5700 (253) 631-0351 Fax: (360) 886-2592
<b>POLICE DEPARTMENT</b> P.O. Box 309 / 25510 Lawson Street	(253) 631-1012 Fax: (360) 886-2901
<b>MUNICIPAL COURT</b> P.O. Box 599 / 25510 Lawson Street	(360) 886-7784 Fax: (360) 886-5354
<b>FIRE DEPT. DISTRICT #44</b>	(253) 735-0284
<b>PUBLIC WORKS</b> P.O. Box 599 / 24301 Roberts Drive	(360) 886-5700 (253) 631-0351 Fax: (360) 886-2592
<b>UTILITY AFTER HOURS (EMERGENCY PAGER)</b>	(253) 333-5555

### Departments

- ◆ 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

Monthly meetings for City Council are held the first and third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. Town Hall Meetings are held the second 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) 886-5700 or check out the City Clerks webpage at [www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us/Depts/Clerk](http://www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us/Depts/Clerk).