

# The City Connection

“Facets of Black Diamond”

Volume 1, Issue 1

A Quarterly Newsletter  
January/February/March 2016

## Mayor's Message

### City of Black Diamond



**Brian Weber & Pat Pepper**

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### CITY HOLIDAYS

The City will be closed in observance for the following holidays:

- \*New Years Day—January 1st
- \*MLK Day—January 18th
- \*President's Day—February 15th

### \*City Council Officials\*

- Mayor, Carol Benson
- Councilmembers
- Tamie Deady
- Erika Morgan
- Janie Edelman
- Brian Weber
- Pat Pepper

**Welcome 2016!** Since first taking office as your Mayor, on Dec. 2, 2014, I have remained focused on improving the quality of life for Black Diamond residents. This includes working to help new and existing businesses along with streamlining governmental processes. The continued challenge facing the City, like many other cities, is to maintain current service levels while at the same time balancing costs, which are increasing faster than our resources.

As Mayor, I'm proud of the City's accomplishments this past year and I am pleased to present a 2016 Budget that continues a reasonable level of service while maintaining the financial integrity of the City. The General Fund ending balance will be increasing by \$89,035 to a total of \$734,115. This is 17% of the General Fund operating expenditures and exceeds the recommendation of 10%. Fortunately, the economy is slowly improving with a sales tax increase of about 6% due to building within the City and the expected increases in 2016 for the construction of the new elementary school. In addition, the water, sewer and stormwater budgets are also in balance for 2016, with a rate study expected in the spring of 2016.



The Black Diamond Maple Valley Kiwanis sponsored their annual "FREE" Thanksgiving Luncheon on Sunday November 22, at the Black Diamond Elementary School. When our meal was complete the Cub Scouts were tasked with cleaning the tables. Johna Thompson, of the Enumclaw School Foundation, asked if I would like to take a picture with the Cub Scouts. It was quite a task rounding them all up, but we were finally successful.

I am happy to announce that on Monday, December 7, Brian Martinez was sworn in as the new Police Commander by Chief Kiblinger. He replaces Commander Goral, who passed away last August. He was supported by his family and the entire police department who were all in attendance. He is a good community officer and frequently volunteers at the Black Diamond Community Center.

Saturday, December 12, I had the honor to attend the annual "Shop with a Cop" at the Covington Walmart. I joined Officer Megan Ross of the City of Black Diamond and officers from Seattle, Maple Valley, King County Sheriff and many other jurisdictions in shopping with over 550 kids. The event was funded and sponsored by the Maple Valley Rotary who provided \$50 tax free for each of the kids participating. Also in attendance were the "Soup Ladies" who provided breakfast for the many volunteers and kids in attendance.



As we start 2016 I look forward to serving this wonderful community and urge you to contact me, Councilmembers or staff with any concerns you may have.

Warm regards,  
Mayor Carol Benson

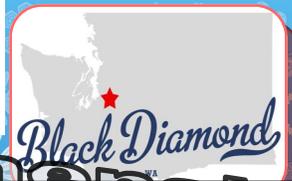
## Comprehensive Plan Update News!

### What is a Comprehensive Plan?

A Comprehensive Plan is a broad statement of the community's vision for the future. It contains policies primarily to guide the physical development of the city, as well as certain aspects of its social and economic character. Comprehensive Plans not only indicate how the community envisions the City's future, it also sets forth strategies for achieving the desired vision. It does so by directing regulations and implementing actions and services that support the vision.

### Why are we updating the Comprehensive Plan?

While a Comprehensive Plan is meant to provide a strong and constant vision for the future, it is also meant to be a living document that must accommodate change. Therefore, the plan is meant to be regularly updated to account for changing issues or opportunities that the City faces. Washington State enacted a law, the Growth Management Act, which requires counties and cities to adopt and periodically update a Comprehensive Plan. The City's first Comprehensive Plan and its vision were adopted in 1996. The last update was done in 2009.



# Comprehensive Plan 2035

## VISION

*In the year 2035, Black Diamond will be a beautiful, friendly community based on a rich historic heritage and exceptional natural setting, with a small-town atmosphere. Forested areas and open space remain, while development maintains a healthy balance of moderate growth and economic viability.*

*The economic base will be a mix of retail, industrial/Business Park, office, tourist and local cottage industries. Residential development will be a mix of types, sizes, and densities, clustered to preserve maximum open space and to access a system of trails/bikeways/greenbelts which connect housing, shopping, employment, with nearby regional parks and recreational facilities.*

*Citizens actively participate in an effective and open government decision making process that reflects community values. There will be good cooperation among nearby jurisdictions, and adequate public services and environmental protection to provide a safe and healthy quality of life for all citizens, from children to seniors.*

### What does a Comprehensive plan do?

A Comprehensive Plan serves many purposes, including policy determination, policy implementation, and communication/education.

**\*Policy Determination** - First, it encourages City officials to look at the big picture, to step away from current pressing needs to develop overriding policy goals for the community. Second, it creates an environment for the City Council to guide its decision-making openly and democratically. The plan serves to focus, direct, and coordinate the efforts of the departments within City government by providing a general comprehensive statement of the City's goals and policies.

**\*Policy Implementation** - A community that has agreed to and formally adopted the goals and policies in its Comprehensive Plan can move more effectively toward implementing those goals and policies. The Comprehensive Plan is a basic source of reference for officials as they consider the enactment of ordinances or regulations affecting the community's physical development (such as a zoning ordinance or a particular rezone), and when they make decisions pertaining to public facility investments (such as capital improvement programming or construction of a specific public facility).

**\*Guidance** - The Plan also provides a practical guide to City officials as they administer City ordinances and programs. This ensures that the day-to-day decisions of the City Council and staff are consistent with the overall policy direction established by the Council.

**\*Communication/Education** - The Comprehensive Plan communicates to the public and to City staff the policy of the City Council. This allows the staff, the public, private developers, business people, financial institutions, and other interested parties to anticipate what the decisions of the City are likely to be on any particular issue. As such, the plan provides predictability. Everyone is better able to plan activities knowing the probable response to their proposals and to protect investments made on the basis of policy. In addition, the Comprehensive Plan can educate the public, the business community, the staff, and the City Council itself on the workings, conditions, and issues within their City. This can stimulate interest about the community affairs and increase the citizen participation in government.

### What is the Planning Process?

DATA  
GATHERING

IDEA REFINEMENT  
Community Input  
Joint Council/Planning Commission  
Workshops

POLICY DEVELOPMENT  
Draft Policies  
Community Review  
Public Hearings and Adoption

## Comprehensive Plan \*Continued\*

### **Where are we in the Planning process?**

City staff is in the process of compiling and analyzing data and drafting policies for refinement. Last April, an open house was held to kick off the beginning of this process. This summer, the City set up a table at the Labor Days festival. As we progress, more community input is needed. There are several ways to participate. If you have computer with internet access, please consider taking a short survey at this SurveyMonkey™ link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Y65QM5D> or stop by or call the Community Development Department for information. Beginning in January, the Planning Commission and City Council will be holding joint work sessions to review staff's work. After the draft plan has been reviewed, the public hearing process for adoption will begin. All meetings and workshops will be posted on the City's website calendar. Go to <http://www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us/> and click on the "Calendar" link. Additionally, Comprehensive Plan Update information will be uploaded on the City's website at this link: [http://www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us/Depts/CommDev/2015\\_CompPlan.html](http://www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us/Depts/CommDev/2015_CompPlan.html)

### **Questions (?) too many computer links!**

The Community Development Department is located at 24301 Roberts Drive. The office is open Mon, Wed, and Thurs from 8:30am to 5:00pm. For more information on the Comprehensive Plan Update, please contact Barbara Kincaid via email [bkincaid@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us](mailto:bkincaid@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us) or phone (360) 886-5700.

## Promotions & Recognitions!!

### **Congratulations to Black Diamond's new Police Commander**

On December 7th, 2015, Sgt. Brian Martinez took his oath of office and was promoted to Police Commander. Cmdr. Martinez has been with the Black Diamond Police Department since July of 2012. Prior to working for Black Diamond, he worked for and retired from the Albuquerque Police Department. Cmdr. Martinez also serves as the department's firearms instructor.



Mayor Benson honored employees Dan Dal Santo, Public Works Utilities Superintendent and Ken Blakely, Public Works Utilities Operator for their 20 years of dependable, dedicated and creative service to the City. They were presented with plaques to memorialize this significant accomplishment and loyalty to the City of Black Diamond.

Dan Dal Santo grew up in Black Diamond, worked for Paccar and TRM before starting at the City of Black Diamond. Dan was hired to supervise the public works employees. Dan took on the new responsibility with a high initiative getting the training and certifications needed and significantly increased the maintenance levels of the City's infrastructure.

Ken Blakely started with the City shortly after Dan. Ken enlisted in the Army out of high school serving as a motor sergeant. After his term in the Army, Ken worked for the City of Mukilteo advancing in municipal infrastructure knowledge during a period of rapid growth. Ken brought to Black Diamond the experience the City needed in public works maintenance.

In the early years when the infrastructure was not in very good condition and there was no intertie with Tacoma and very little water storage, it was only through Ken and Dan's constant vigilance, hard work in all kinds of weather that kept the citizens in water. A big thank you to Dan and Ken for their service to the City of Black Diamond.



## City Sewer Rate Increases for 2016

### **Sewer Rate Increase-January 1, 2016**

Effective January 1, 2016 the City of Black Diamond's city portion of the sewer rate will increase by 26 cents per month from \$19.97 to \$20.23 per month. Ordinance No. 13-1007 authorizes the 1.3% increase based on the July 2015 Consumer Price Index-U for the Western area. Lifeline Utility customers will receive a 50% discount with a 13 Cent increase. This increase will be reflected on the January 2016 Utility bills that will be mailed out at the end of January, with payment due in February 2016.

## **New Utility Bill Pay Service!!!! Change is coming!**

In February, we will implement a new online payment service that will be easy for you to use and offer more payment options than you have today.

### New Bill Pay Service. More Benefits

1. One-time Pay - registration is not required
2. Recurring payments with credit/debit card
3. Pick the day your payment is processed
4. Best secure platform with double encryption
5. Intuitive simple interface for mobile payments
6. Multiple email notifications keep you up-to-date



Not a computer person? Try our Pay by Phone Option! (844) 286-1781

If you have questions already, please email [mmiller@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us](mailto:mmiller@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us) or call (360) 886-5700 - we are always happy to help!

The City of Black Diamond is excited to offer our utility customers an upgraded Utility Billing System. New software has been installed that will improve customer access to their accounts, allow paperless billing and easy payment scheduling and processing. The initial software has been installed and customers received their first utility bills from the new system the first week of December 2015. Customers may have noticed a new account number and a graph of water usage for the last year.

Staff is currently working on installing the next improvements that will offer our customers a **NEW** and easy way to view and pay utility bills online, with a tentative "Go-Live" planned for February 2016. Exciting new features will be offered:

\*Fast and Easy - No registration requirement to view or pay your bills. \*Easy- One-time payment options for Credit Card or E-Checks. \*Scheduling of recurring payments option. You pick the dates. \*Receiving email confirmation of payments. \*Pay by web, mobile or telephone options. \*Avoid late payments by enrolling in Auto-Pay. \*Customers can review payment history and & download/print bills 24/7. \*Eco-Friendly-paperless process! Sign up to receive your bills via email. \*Multiple email reminder notifications to keep you up-to-date. \*Safe and 100% secure information, with double encryption.

More specific information will be mailed out with the future utility bills and will be posted on the City of Black Diamond's Website [www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us](http://www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us).



## **Grant success this Fall!**



\*The City had some great success in pulling in more grant funds this fall for streets, stormwater and water quality.

\*The City was awarded \$58,100 from the Transportation Improvement Board to retrofit the streetlights in town to high efficiency LED lighting. This project will improve the street lighting in the City and cut the power bill by almost \$4000 per year.

\*The City also received a \$135,219 Transportation Improvement Board grant to overlay Jones Lake Road from Railroad Ave to SR 169. This project will complete and tie in to the Railroad Ave project that was funded about 5 years ago.

\*The City was awarded \$145,000 from the King County Flood Control District to design a box culvert to replace the deteriorating corrugated metal culverts on Covington Creek under 224th Ave SE. In addition to eliminating the risk of losing the road during a flood, a new box culvert will enhance fish passage. This grant will prepare the project for bid and assist the City in finding the construction funding.

\*The City was notified that they will be receiving \$243,000 of funding from the King County legislative process for the North Commercial Storm Pond project. A big "thank you" from Black Diamond to Reagan Dunn is in order. The design for this project was funded by the Department of Ecology. Now with the funds from King County, along with \$70,000 from the Opportunity Fund, the City is looking for an additional \$606,000 for full funding. This project has been championed by former council member Craig Goodwin and Bob Rothschild, a local citizen with particular interest in protecting the water quality of Lake Sawyer.

\*The Department of Ecology will also be providing the City with \$25,000 to assist the City with implementing the City municipal stormwater permit requirements. YEAH! This brings this years grant success up to \$676,319.

## Disaster Pot Luck & Social

**January 20, 2016  
6:30 PM until 8:30pm  
Mountain View Fire & Rescue, Station 96**



What would you and your family eat if a disaster were to happen today? How would you store it and prepare it without electricity, or gas?

Mountain View Fire & Rescue is hosting a disaster potluck on January 20<sup>th</sup> from 6:30pm until 8:30pm so you can prepare food that you may eat during a disaster and share with other participants. This may help you learn about foods that not only taste good, but foods that are easy to prepare without the comforts of home.

### The Rules:

Bring pre-packaged food with all of the labeling or bring multiple items, such as cans of food, to create a dish. This food must be in its original packaging and can't be opened. The reason for the unopened food is so people can see ingredients, expiration date, nutrition labels, etc. on the packaging.

You can bring more than one package, or can so you can trade with someone else.

Bring items necessary to prepare the food. Examples: water, camp stove, pot, etc.

You will prepare the food at the event so everyone can see how difficult it is to make the dish.

You will share the dish with other participants so everyone can try different kinds of food.

There is limited space so please be sure to register with Tim Perciful at [tperciful@kcf44.org](mailto:tperciful@kcf44.org) or call 253-508-7273.

## **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training every month.**

We welcome you to attend our CERT training as a new member or as a refresher. We meet the first Wednesday of each month (Starting in Feb) for the CERT curriculum then meet the third Wednesday of each month for additional emergency classes. For more information please visit <http://www.kcf44.org/>

## Distracted Driving

### **If you're texting, you're not driving**

**9 Americans are killed every day from motor vehicle accidents that involve distracted driving, such as using a cellphone, texting, or eating.**

**1 in 4 is the probability that a motor vehicle crash involved a cell phone.**

**40 percent of teens say they have been a passenger in a car whose driver used a cell phone in a way that put them in danger.**

**33 percent of US drivers ages 18 to 64 reported reading or writing text messages while driving in the previous month.**

**There were 341 motor vehicle crashes in 2013 that involved texting.**

**You are 4 times more likely to be involved in a crash if you are using your cell phone.**

### **\*\*Some tips to help\*\***

**Turn those notifications off. The less you hear your phone, the less tempted you'll be to respond while you're driving.**

**Out of sight, out of mind. When you're in the driver's seat, put your phone where you can't get it. A place where you won't even be tempted to look for it. No phone. No texting.**

**Lead by Example. Children learn from their parent's behavior. No one should text and drive. Be an example for your children and if you need to text or talk on the phone, pull over to a safe place.**

**It's imperative that every driver remembers, all distracted driving is dangerous! Don't be a statistic.**



## City of Black Diamond

### Departments

- ♦ Administration,  
Mayor Carol Benson
- ♦ City Clerk/HR Manager,  
Brenda L. Martinez, CMC
- ♦ Community  
Development/ Natural  
Resources  
Barbara Kincaid
- ♦ Economic  
Development/MDRT,  
Andrew Williamson
- ♦ Finance,  
Mayene Miller
- ♦ Police,  
Jamey Kiblinger
- ♦ Public Works,  
Seth Boettcher, PE

### Council/Commission/Committee Meetings...

Monthly meetings for City Council are held the first and third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. Work Sessions are held the second Thursday of each month starting at 6 p.m. Town Hall Meetings are held the second Thursday of every other 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. Please contact the Clerk's office for more information (360)886-5700 or check the City Clerks webpage at [www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us/Depts/Clerk](http://www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us/Depts/Clerk)

**CITY HALL**  
P.O. Box 599  
24301 Roberts Drive

(360) 886-5700  
(253) 631-0351  
Fax: (360) 886-2592

**FIRE DEPT. DISTRICT #44** (253) 735-0284

**PUBLIC WORKS** (360) 886-5700  
P.O. Box 599 (253) 631-0351

**\*COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/  
NATURAL RESOURCES/  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**  
P.O. Box 599  
24301 Roberts Drive

(360) 886-5700  
(253) 631-0351  
Fax: (360) 886-2592

24301 Roberts Drive Fax: (360) 886-2592

**\*OFFICE HOURS MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY 8:30 a.m. — 5 p.m.  
\*CLOSED ON TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS**

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
P.O. Box 309  
25510 Lawson Street

(253) 631-1012  
Non-Emergency No: (360) 886-0022  
Fax: (360) 886-2901

**MUNICIPAL COURT**  
P.O. Box 599  
25510 Lawson Street

(360) 886-7784  
Fax: (360) 886-5354

**UTILITY AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY PAGER (253) 569-0525**



### CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS 25510 LAWSON STREET

- \*JAN 7—7 p.m.
- \*JAN 12—7 p.m. (Special joint Council/Planning Commission Meeting—Comp Plan Update)
- \*JAN 14—6 p.m. (Work Session)
- \*JAN 21—7 p.m.
- \*FEB 4—7 p.m.
- \*FEB 9—7 p.m. (Special joint Council/Planning Commission Meeting—Comp Plan update)
- \*FEB 11—(Work Session)
- \*FEB 18—7 p.m.
- \*MAR 3—7 p.m.
- \*MAR 8—7 p.m. (Special joint Council/Planning Commission Meeting—Comp Plan Update)
- \*MAR 10—6 p.m. Work Session & 7 p.m Town Hall Meeting
- \*MAR 17—7 p.m.

### PLANNING COMMISSION 25510 LAWSON STREET

- \*JAN 12—7 p.m.
- \*FEB 11—7 p.m.
- \*MAR 8—7 p.m.

### FINANCE/BUDGET COMMITTEE 24301 ROBERTS DRIVE

- \*JAN 14 and JAN 28 - 3 p.m.
- \*FEB 11 and FEB 25 - 3 p.m.
- \*MAR 10 and MAR 31—3 p.m.

### PARKS/CEMETERY COMMITTEE 24301 ROBERTS DRIVE

\*TBD

### PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE 24301 ROBERTS DRIVE

\*TBD

### PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE 24301 ROBERTS DRIVE

\*TBD

### PLANNING/COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE 24301 ROBERTS DRIVE

\*TBD

### Community Contacts.....

- \* Black Diamond Community Center  
(360) 886-1011  
Hours of Operation:  
Monday-Friday 8-4
- \* 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  
Sat & Sun 12-3
- \* Black Diamond Library  
(360) 886-1105  
Hours of Operation:  
Monday, Wednesday  
and Thursday 10-6  
Tuesdays 10-6  
Saturday 10-5

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