



# The City Connection

## Mayor's Message



### City Council Officials

Mayor, Carol Benson

### Councilmembers:

Tamie Deady  
Brad Douglass  
Therron Smith  
Leih Mulvihill  
Kristiana de Leon  
Nathan Jones  
Debbie Page

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Mayor's Message	1-2
Community Development	2
Department News	
Public Works Department	3
News	
Police Department News	4-5
Newly Added Ordinances	6
City of Black Diamond	6
Contact Information	
City Council and Planning	6
Commission Meeting	
Information	

City Offices  
will be closed on the  
following days:

Monday, May 29th -  
Memorial Day

Monday, June 19th -  
Juneteenth

Goodbye Winter and Hello Spring! Spring is a time for rejuvenation, growth, and renewal. As the weather warms up and the days get longer people are eager to spend more time outdoors walking, gardening, hiking, or watching an outdoor sporting event. As we head into the second quarter of 2023, I'd like to take this opportunity to share with you the following information and upcoming events.



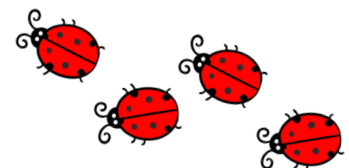
**Welcome New Councilmember** – On March 16th, the City Council appointed a new Councilmember due to the resignation of Bernie O'Donnell. Please welcome Nathan Jones to Position No. 6 on the City Council. I look forward to working with him.

**Council Retreat** – A Council Retreat is set for Saturday, May 20th at the Black Diamond Bakery meeting room. This will be a hybrid meeting and the public can choose to attend by Zoom or in person. If you would like to receive agenda notifications for Council meetings, I encourage residents to sign up by sending your email information to [info@blackdiamondwa.gov](mailto:info@blackdiamondwa.gov) and ask to be added to the Council agenda distribution list.

**2023 Elections - Council Positions** – One way to get involved in your community is to run for an elected position. This year the city will have six (6) Council seats up for election, Positions 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7. To become a candidate, you must complete and file a Declaration of Candidacy, through King County, and meet the qualifications for the office at the time of filing and be registered to vote in the district. For more information on running for office and the requirements, please go the King County Elections website <https://kingcounty.gov/depts/elections/for-candidates.aspx>. The key filing dates for 2023 are:

- \* Online: Online candidate filing is available 24 hours a day starting May 15th at 9 a.m. and ending on May 19th at 4 p.m.
- \* In-person: Filing starts on May 15th at 8:30 a.m. through Friday, May 19th at 4:30 p.m.

**National Society Daughters of the American Revolution** – I was surprised and honored to be recognized and awarded with a proclamation from the Daughters of the American Revolution, Mary Fell Stevenson Chapter at the Council meeting on March 16th, for my service and leadership to the citizens of Black Diamond.



## Mayor's Message~ Continued from page 1

### UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

#### **DONATE BLOOD. DONATE LOCAL.**

Each Spring, when the sun comes out, blood donations drop during school breaks and families taking vacations together, but there's still a need for blood. Consider sharing a little sunshine with patients near you by making blood donation part of your spring break plans. When you donate with Bloodworks, you're giving a critical boost to patients undergoing surgeries, traumas, and cancer treatments. As a donor, you are also encouraging our local community to step up and donate blood every 56 days, rain or shine.

The City of Black Diamond is hosting a blood drive on Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, at the Black Diamond Council Chambers, located at 25510 Lawson Street from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Appointments are required and you can reserve your appointment today by scanning the QR code or calling 1-800-398-7888.

Bloodworks Northwest is the sole provider of blood to more than 95% of hospitals in the Pacific Northwest. It takes 1,000 donors a day to maintain a safe and reliable blood supply and I hope you will consider donating.



**Memorial Day** – The Black Diamond Cemetery will have its usual Memorial Day ceremony, scheduled for 11 a.m. on Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Miners Day** – Miners Day is coming up on July 15<sup>th</sup>. Please mark your calendar to attend. For more information, please visit their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/blackdiamondminersday/>.



**Black Diamond Labor Days** – Black Diamond Labor Days planning is underway. This year's theme is "Everyone Matters in Black Diamond" and the event is September 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>. For more information on this three-day event or to volunteer please visit their website <https://www.blackdiamondlabordays.org/>. Please look on their website for more information regarding their scholarship. If you are interested in volunteering, there will be a Volunteer Open House at the Black Diamond Bakery on April 25<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

In closing, thank you to our citizens, council, and staff for your continued support. Should you have any questions or concerns please feel free to reach out to me, Council, or staff.

Stay safe and healthy,

*Mayor Carol Benson*



## News from Community Development

The City held a Kick-off event and visioning workshop on the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update on March 30, 2023 at the Community Gym. Citizen participation is an important element of the Growth Management Act (GMA). Please check out the Comprehensive Plan tab on the City's website under Community Development to keep up-to-date on future meetings and workshops! We hope to see you there!



### Before You Cut Down Trees, Just a Friendly Reminder

The Black Diamond Municipal Code regulates tree preservation and removal. Call the Community Development Department before you cut trees on your property to make sure you don't need a tree removal permit!



### Stormwater Education – Free Soil Testing



With all the gloom, snow, and rain we've been experiencing this winter, many of us are getting anxious to get out into our yards to plant gardens, grass, and other plants. A big part of having a successful garden or having plants thrive is knowing what we can add to our soil to encourage that growth. Of course, dirt isn't always the same wherever you are. Even within Black Diamond, there are different soil types and we need to adapt our approach to be successful.

Did you know King County residents have a free resource that can be used to help you determine what types of fertilizer to use for whatever you're trying to grow? Well, now you do. The King Conservation District (KCD) has a Soil Nutrient Testing Program that provides up to five free basic soil nutrient tests for residents within the KCD service area, which includes Black Diamond. Additional soil tests can be ordered for \$25 each.

More information, including how to submit your soil sample, can be found on the KCD website here: <https://kingcd.org/programs/better-soils/healthy-soil/>. After submitting your soil samples, along with details about what you are trying to grow, KCD will analyze your soil and prepare a detailed report showing what you would need to add to your soil for a particular planting and what nutrients to avoid. It will help you calculate how much fertilizer you will need based on square footage, and the type of fertilizer. If the report shows you have plenty of



phosphorus in your soil but not enough nitrogen, you will be able to get a fertilizer that will help you take advantage of what you already have in your soil.

As an added bonus, having the right type of fertilizer protects our lakes and streams. Having high concentrations of these nutrients can be damaging to our waterways. This service provided by the KCD (which is funded by your property taxes) is a great way to help you find the right balance for your yard and for protecting our waterways.

Best of luck with your yard projects but taking advantage of this soil testing might help minimize the amount of luck you'll actually need. Happy planting!



### Don't Flush Wipes

The Public Works Department is reminding everyone to not flush wipes of any kind down the toilet. Wipes clog pipes, jam pumps, and can lead to sewer spills and backups. We understand disinfectant wipes are being used more to protect us from diseases, but wipes should never be flushed down the toilet.

All wipes, including disinfectant wipes, "flushable" wipes, baby wipes, etc. all belong in the garbage, not the toilet. Toilet paper and human waste are the only things that should be flushed down the toilet.

Even wipes labeled as "flushable" do not readily dissolve in water like toilet paper. They can get stuck in bends of pipe (including in your home) and can cling to grease buildup, which can cause clogs and unnecessary backups and/or spills. These wipes can also jam sewer pumping facilities located around the city, causing other unnecessary backups. When the pumps get clogged with wipes, the Public Works crew has to remove the pumps in order to remove the wipes.

Please help out the Public Works Department by throwing away all wipes. We would like to make sure that sewage only moves away from your house and not back into it.



## POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

### WELCOME OUR NEWEST OFFICERS!!

**Christopher Chi** graduated from the Basic Law Enforcement Academy on December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022. He worked in federal security prior to becoming a police officer with us. Chi is currently in field training. Christopher served in the military for 8 years. During his time, he found a strong passion for working with those in the service and to aid in others success by striving to become a team player and always willing to assist. Christopher enjoys discovering new places to eat and going on adventures away from home. He finds passion in exercising and during his down time finding new shows to watch. Christopher is happy to be here with the City of Black Diamond and is looking forward to his new chapter.



**Cal Garbini** is originally from California where he grew up near the San Francisco Bay area. He began studying Krav Maga at 14 years old. He later moved to Oregon to open his own Krav Maga gym and ran it for 5 years until Covid struck and he had to shut it down. He moved to Washington to be closer to his family and began his Law Enforcement career in 2022.



**Anna Brandt** is originally from Lake Park, Iowa. She joined the Iowa Army National Guard in 2013 while attending Morningside University. She was deployed to Iraq from 2017-2018, where she was promoted to Sergeant. After being honorably discharged in 2019, she relocated to Washington to pursue a career in law enforcement. She started as a Juvenile Detention Officer for the King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention and then worked as a Corrections Officer for the Enumclaw City Jail. She joined the Black Diamond Police Department in November 2022 and began her training at the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission's Basic Academy. She graduated on March 28<sup>th</sup>!



**Chase Goddard** first became a police officer in January 2007 with Rockdale County Sheriff Department in Georgia. Chase lateraled to Washington State in September 2013 and continued working as a police officer until April 2021 when he and his wife decided to relocate to Idaho. They soon discovered they needed and wanted the support of friends and family back at home resulting in their relocation back to Washington.

### FLOCK SAFETY CAMERAS

The City of Black Diamond will soon be testing out automated license plate reader cameras. We'd like to share with our citizens why we feel this is a great crime prevention tool. Our goal is to reduce crime, protect property, increase public safety, and ultimately serve our victims of crime.

#### HOW THEY WORK:

Similar to popular doorbell cameras or toll cameras, Flock Safety's LPR system is motion-activated, meaning that it snaps a photo of passing vehicles when it detects movement. However, instead of focusing on specific homes or businesses like a doorbell camera does, the Flock camera is pointed at the roadway, where it can detect and take photos of vehicles. Flock cameras are specially designed to identify vehicle characteristics and license plates. The camera only captures the back of the vehicle.



#### WHAT THIS DOESN'T DO:

- \* The cameras do NOT take photos of the driver or passengers in the vehicle. They are designed to photograph the rear of the vehicle.
- \* The cameras do NOT check the license plate through the department of licensing records. The software simply matches the plate with up-to-date state and federal information, as well as Amber Alerts, Silver Alerts, and Missing Endangered Person Alerts.

## POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS CONTINUED

- \* The cameras do NOT record traffic violations such as speeding or running red lights. The information recorded is not used to pursue unpaid fines or citations.
- \* The cameras take still photos only. They do NOT track the vehicle, or record names, addresses or phone numbers. The system does not mark specific locations of where people have been.
- \* Data captured by Flock cameras is never shared or sold to third parties. The information recorded by the cameras is fully encrypted and stored in the cloud. The data is only retained for 30 days.

### **WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT:**

Upwards of 70% of crime is committed with a vehicle. A clear, accurate photo of the vehicle and license plate is information that could be vital when solving crimes. It's important to understand that the LPRs are used for only for investigative leads of criminal offenses. The LPRs are not set up to capture images, such as a pedestrian walking on a sidewalk. The LPRs are not traffic cameras and do not capture traffic violations.

As our city continues to grow, we want to keep Black Diamond safe. This is a tool that will allow us to better protect our city.



## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

As summer quickly approaches, the Black Diamond Police Department is once again looking for qualified individuals who want to assist the marine patrol unit. Join our team and help keep our lake one of the safest to recreate.

### **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

- At least eighteen (18) years of age.
- Have a clear background check and no felony convictions.
- Have not been released or discharged from any branch of the Armed Forces under any conditions other than honorable.
- Have on file a completed, processed volunteer application.
- All marine volunteers will have a signed waiver from their physician that they are in good health and able to perform volunteer duties.
- Good moral character.
- Possess a valid WA driver's license.
- Pass a drug test provided by the police department.
- Ability to successfully obtain the Washington State Boater's Education card.
- Marine volunteers will receive no benefits, remuneration, or entitlements including sick leave, etc. However, the marine volunteers are covered by the City of Black Diamond's insurance and workers compensation for injuries received while acting in the capacity of a marine volunteer.
- Agree to volunteer a minimum of (16) hours per month during the summer months. If a member has a valid excuse, the time requirement may be waived by the Black Diamond Police Department supervisor.
- Successfully complete marine training as required by the Black Diamond Police Department.



If you are interested in applying for this position, please email Commander Brian Martinez  
[bamartinez@blackdiamondwa.gov](mailto:bamartinez@blackdiamondwa.gov).





## PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

Apr. 11th @ 6 p.m.  
May 9th @ 6 p.m.  
Jun. 6th @ 6 p.m.



### 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 at 6 p.m. Planning Commission meetings are held on the first Tuesday after the first Council meeting at 6 p.m. of each month. Please contact the Clerk's office for more information 360-851-4564, or check the City Clerk's webpage at: [www.blackdiamondwa.gov/Depts/Clerk](http://www.blackdiamondwa.gov/Depts/Clerk). If you'd like to be added to the Council Agenda or Planning Commission Agenda Distribution List, please email your request to: [info@blackdiamondwa.gov](mailto:info@blackdiamondwa.gov). Typically meetings are held in the Council Chambers located at 25510 Lawson Street unless otherwise specified. ***All meetings are now being held both in-person and via ZOOM until further notice.***

### NEWLY ADDED ORDINANCES

- 23-1190** - Ordinance Regarding Minor Code Amendment to Fireworks Code in Chapter 8.04.130  
**23-1191** - Ordinance Amending Black Diamond Municipal Code Title 15 Chapter 15.04

### CITY OF BLACK DIAMOND CONTACTS

#### CITY HALL

(Admin., Public Works, Comm. Dev. and MDRT/Econ. Dev.)  
Physical Address.....24301 Roberts Dr.  
Mailing Address..... P.O. Box 599  
Phone Numbers: Main Line.....360-851-4500  
Comm. Dev.....360-851-4447  
MDRT/Econ. Dev.....360-851-4448  
Public Works.....360-851-4446  
*For any Public Works emergencies, call the main line and use the prompts*  
Fax Number: (for all depts. listed above).....360-851-4501

#### POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Physical Address.....25510 Lawson St.  
Mailing Address ..... P.O. Box 309  
Phone Numbers (non-emergencies) .....360-851-4450  
(EMERGENCIES).....911  
Fax Number.....360-851-4451

#### MUNICIPAL COURT:

Physical & Mailing Address.....25510 Lawson St.  
Phone Number.....360-851-4490  
Fax Number.....360-851-4491

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT

Phone Number (non-emergencies) .....253-735-0284  
(EMERGENCIES) .....911

### CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Apr. 6th @ 7 p.m. (Regular)  
Apr. 13th @ 6 p.m. (Work Session)  
Apr. 20th @ 7 p.m. (Regular)  
May 4th @ 7 p.m. (Regular)  
May 11th @ 6 p.m. (Work Session & Joint Meeting w/Planning Comm.)  
May 15th @ 7 p.m. (Regular)  
May 20th @ 8 a.m. (Special/Retreat)  
May 24th @ 6 p.m. (Special/Tri-City)  
Jun. 1st @ 7 p.m. (Regular)  
Jun. 8th @ 6 p.m. (Work Session)  
Jun. 15th @ 7 p.m. (Regular)

#### Administration Mayor Carol Benson

City Clerk/HR Manager  
Brenda L. Martinez, MMC

#### Community Development

Mona Davis

#### MDRT/Economic Development

Andrew Williamson

#### Public Works

Scott Hanis

#### Finance

Mayene Miller

#### Police

Chief Jamey Kiblinger