

CITY OF BLACK DIAMOND

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

APRIL, MAY, JUNE 2024

Mayor's Message



And just like that the first quarter of 2024 is a wrap! I know the saying goes “time flies”, but boy it’s going at warp speed. As we welcome spring it’s so nice to see all the trees starting to bud and the bulbs blooming – it truly is the season 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 2024, I’d like to take this opportunity to share with you the following information and upcoming events.

City Offices
will be Closed:

5/27 - Memorial Day

6/19 - Juneteenth

Hello
Spring!

Staff Awards



At the March 14th Town Hall, I had the honor of presenting the Mayor’s Distinguished Service Awards to two of our Public Works employees, Justin Ross and Neil Wilson. These awards were given in recognition of their selfless act of service for going above and beyond their role to help the Deady family during a recent house fire that saved lives and for their dedicated service to the City of Black Diamond and its citizens.

Aid Car Blessing

Please join me on Friday, April 5th at 11 a.m. at Black Diamond City Hall (24301 Roberts Drive) for the blessing of our newly returned to duty aid car. Cookies and water will be served.



CITY COUNCIL OFFICIALS:

Mayor:
Carol Benson

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



Volunteer Opportunities

One way to get involved in your community is to volunteer on various boards, commissions, or on community events. If you are interested in volunteering, I encourage you to contact city staff at 360-851-4500. They can help you with board and commission vacancies, or point you in the right direction of who to contact for volunteering on community events.



Hybrid Council and Planning Commission Meetings

The City continues to hold hybrid meetings. These meetings have been very successful, and I hope you can join us either in-person or virtually at a meeting. For dates and times please visit the City's website calendar at www.blackdiamondwa.gov.

King County Metro Transit Update

At a recent South County Transportation Board (SKATBD) meeting, I had the opportunity to talk with a King County Metro Transit representative about restoring our transit route to Black Diamond, that was cut during the pandemic. She directed me to other alternatives for Black Diamond commuters with common destinations. Check out Van Pool, Van Share and Community Van at kingcountymetro.gov. They pay for the vehicle, gas and insurance and the vehicle stays at your residence.

UPCOMING

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Memorial Day - The Black Diamond Cemetery will have its usual Memorial Day ceremony on Monday, May 27th. As the time gets closer please visit the City's website www.blackdiamondwa.gov for more information.



Miners Day - Miners Day is coming up on July 13th. This is a fun event for the whole family so please mark your calendar to attend. For more information, please visit their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/blackdiamondminersday/>.



Black Diamond Labor Days - This year's event will take place August 31 – September 2. For more information on this three-day event or to volunteer please visit their website <https://www.blackdiamondlabordays.org/>.

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

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

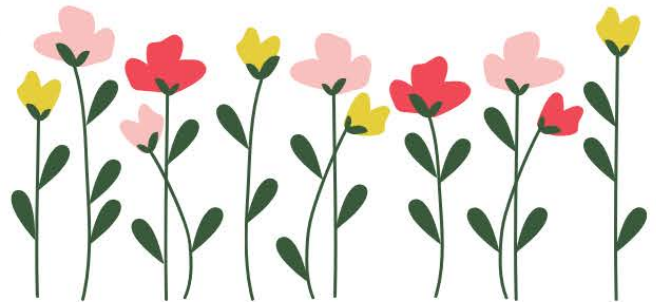
State Audit Results - In January, the City completed a four-years' worth of Financial Statements and Accountability Audits. After a thorough review from the State Auditor's Office, we are excited to announce that we have had zero audit findings. The Finance Department's run of perfect audits is now 16 years! The City of Black Diamond has, and will continue to support transparency, honesty, and fiscal responsibility for the benefit to the residents of Black Diamond.



FINANCE DEPARTMENT CONTINUED

Open Hours - The Finance Department is excited to offer Open Hours to the public every first and third Thursday of every month from 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm to coincide with City Council Meetings. We understand that it can be very daunting to speak in front of such a public venue, so we are offering a more personal way for members of the public to communicate with Finance Director, Xavier Mason. With so many fun and exciting things happening in and around Black Diamond, many people have questions. Our goal with Office Hours is to present opportunities for residents to ask those questions and to seek clarification in a more at ease environment. Please contact the Finance Department at (360)851-4513 to schedule a meeting with Director Mason in-person or via Zoom. We look forward to seeing you.

Utility Tax - According to Black Diamond Municipal Code Ch 5.08.030, the city is authorized to levy a tax equal to six percent of the total gross income derived from the operation of any water distribution system within or partly within the corporate limits of the City. For many years, the City of Black Diamond has charged utility taxes for the services that the City provides; however, initially, we did not have the authority to charge utility taxes for services provided by other authorities until very recently. In 2020, the Washington Supreme Court ruled in the Lakehaven Water & Sewer District v. Federal Way case that cities can impose taxes on other municipal agencies including water and sewer utility districts operating within city borders. After approval from the Black Diamond City Council, beginning in January 2024, the City of Black Diamond exercised this authority. Now, all residents of Black Diamond pay the same utility tax, rather than the majority. By exercising this authority, the utility tax has become fair and equitable for all residents.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

DID YOU KNOW...? The City is in the process of completing a periodic update to its Comprehensive Plan, which occurs every ten years and is anticipated to be completed later this year. The Comprehensive Plan serves as a guidebook for the city for providing services, facilities, and amenities to accommodate residential and business growth. City leaders and staff want to engage our residents and community members to get involved in the City's future and attend upcoming workshops and public hearings to learn about the changes and vision for the community. The updated plan will contain a vision describing how the community will look, feel, and function in the year 2044. Goals and policies will provide strategies for achieving the vision. Topics include housing, land use, transportation, parks, economic development, and more.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT. CONTINUED

THANK YOU for participating in the community survey conducted in 2023 to start the work that's in process for our comprehensive plan; please continue to stay involved!

There are many different ways for community members to be involved:

- Visit the City website to keep up with the news and announcements ~

<https://www.blackdiamondwa.gov/comprehensive-plan> Draft elements, meeting presentation materials, and helpful handouts can be found at this link.

- Request to be added to the "Comprehensive Plan Interested Parties List" by e-mailing compplan2024@blackdiamondwa.gov

- Attend Workshops, Open Houses, Planning Commission and Council meetings/public hearings to provide your input...either in person or remotely. The next public Open House is scheduled for April 30th from 6-8 pm at the Community Gym.

- Like us on social media! The City of Black Diamond has Facebook and Instagram accounts, where we provide updates and announcements on events.

- Reach out to staff directly. City offices are open Monday thru Friday from 8:30-5 and staff would be happy to talk with you!

TREE PRESERVATION

As a reminder, a Tree Removal Permit is required if you are falling any tree larger than 6" at breast height. Cutting without a permit will result in a \$1000.00 penalty per tree, as well as a tree replanting plan, or you have the option of paying into the City's tree mitigation fund.

For more information on Tree Preservation, please reference Black Diamond Municipal Code 19.30 at www.blackdiamondwa.gov. Alternatively, you can call Community Development if you have any questions 360-851-4447.

Newly Added Ordinances

24-1200 - BDMC 1.20.010 Official Newspaper

24-1201 - Cross Connection Testing

24-1202 - Amending 2024 Salary Schedule

24-1203 - Palmer Rezone Applications

24-1204 - Repeal Drug Paraphernalia Code Section

24-1205 - Moratorium on Battery Storage Facilities



City of Black Diamond

2024 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update

OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, April 30, 2024 at 6:00 pm

Black Diamond Community Gym
25511 Lawson St, Black Diamond, WA 98010

Please attend to hear staff presentations on the status of the Comprehensive Plan Update and share your feedback! Topics will include draft updates to the plan, future land use map, and zoning map.



Desserts
provided!



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

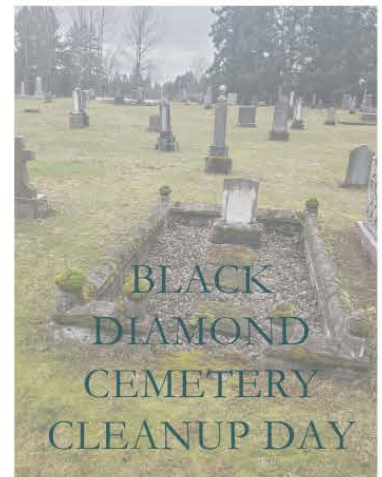
Stormwater Education – Lawn Fertilizers

Spring is upon us! As many of us prepare our yards for the spring, we may look to find the best fertilizer and lawn treatments to get our yards looking as best as they can. As you look to purchase fertilizers, you may notice the bags have numbers on the front, something like: 10-20-10. What do those numbers mean?

These numbers represent percentages by weight in the bag. The first number is the percentage of available nitrogen (N), the middle number is phosphorus (P), and last is potassium (K). So a 50 pound bag of fertilizer with 10-20-10 on the front would be made up of 5 pounds of nitrogen, 10 pounds of phosphorus, and 5 pounds of potassium (10% of 50 pounds each). The remaining 30 pounds would be filler (usually sand and/or granular limestone).

So now we know what the numbers mean, but what does that mean for our yard and the environment? All three elements have their benefits. Nitrogen helps with plant growth and leaf development; phosphorus helps with root growth and the creation of fruit, seeds, and flowers; and potassium aids root development and helps plants resist drought and disease. Of course, if we do more than is needed, we cause more harm than good to our yard. Consequently, too much can affect the surrounding environment. We hear a lot about phosphorus here in Black Diamond and the negative impact it has on waterways (where there's algae, there's usually too much phosphorus). If we do what we can to prevent these nutrients from leaching out from our yard and into storm drains, we can help protect our waterways.

This leads to the question, how much of each nutrient do I need for my yard? The King Conservation District has a soil testing program which allows each resident in the District Service Area (which includes Black Diamond) to receive five free basic soil nutrient tests (<https://kingcd.org/wp-content/uploads/Soil-Testing-2024.pdf>). The District will provide a report specific to your yard detailing the nutrients that are in the ground and amendments you may need to make to your soil to enrich it and balance out the pH levels (pH means potential hydrogen). The benefit of a simple soil pH test is that it can tell you whether it is correct for what you want to grow. Between 6.2 and 6.8 is ideal for vegetables but is not right for rhododendrons or blueberries. Products are available to correct or adjust the pH either up or down. The report will also give suggestions as to how you can offset nutrients your yard may have too much of. As you use this report, you can look at the numbers on the fertilizer bags to determine how much of each nutrient you actually need, which will help your yard, the surrounding environment, and your budget as you only buy what you need. And as always, be sure to read the directions on the package before applying any fertilizers or chemicals.



Saturday May 11, 2024
10:00am to 2:00pm

The City of Black Diamond is welcoming volunteers to participate in its annual cemetery cleanup day. Interested volunteers are encouraged to bring gloves, buckets, and garden tools. Water will be provided. Please arrive at the chain link fence on the north side of the cemetery at 10:00am.

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

Xavier Mason

Police

Chief Jamey Kiblinger

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. 4th @ 7 p.m. (Regular)

Apr. 11th @ 6 p.m. (Work Session)

Apr. 18th @ 7 p.m. (Regular)

May 2nd @ 7 p.m. (Regular)

May 9th @ 6 p.m. (Work Session)

May 16th @ 7 p.m. (Regular)

Jun. 6th @ 7 p.m. (Regular)

Jun. 13th @ 6 p.m. (Work Session)

Jun. 20th @ 7 p.m. (Regular)

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS:

Apr. 9th @ 6 p.m.

May 7th @ 6 p.m.

Jun. 11th @ 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. 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.

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.