



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

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City Offices
will be closed on the
following days:

Friday, November 10th -
Veterans Day

November 23rd & 24th -
Thanksgiving

December 25th -
Christmas

Fall is in the air! The daylight hours are getting shorter, the nights are getting cooler, and the trees are beginning to sport their fall colors. This time of year, is a busy time here at the city and below are some announcements, events, and updates that I'd like to share with you.



Labor Days – It was so nice to see everyone out enjoying themselves at this annual event. This year's theme was "Everyone Matters in Black Diamond" and throughout this three-day event there were many activities ranging from doggie days, the pie baking contest, field games, and vendor booths for all ages to enjoy!

On Monday, many people lined the streets to enjoy the parade.

If you couldn't come this year, please mark your calendar for next year, it's a fun event for the whole family. I want to share that our Operations & Maintenance Superintendent Jesse Stavano was named Civil Servant of the Year. Jesse is a great employee and an asset to our community. Lastly, I want to thank the many volunteers, sponsors, and vendors who gave their time to put on this event, without them events like this would not happen!



Little Free Library – Recently installed at the newly dedicated Gomer Evans Jr Memorial Park, is the Little Free Library. Members of the Mary Fell Stevenson Chapter partnered with the City to build a little free library. When I was approached about the project, I knew who I could ask to help design and build structure - Tony Clifton, Building Official, and



Darla Clifton, Senior Accountant with the city. Tony and Darla did an excellent job designing, building, painting, and installing the library. All the intricate details that were done on the structure are truly amazing. A special thanks goes to them for the beautiful contribution to our community and to the public works department for their help with the installation. If you haven't stopped by the park, I encourage you to do so and check it out!



2024 Operating Budget - On November 3, I will be filing with Council the 2024 Preliminary Budget. Staff and I have been busy working on this since August and my focus is to present a fiscally responsible budget that is responsive to the needs of the city. This is a very challenging balancing act and one I do not take lightly. We must exercise sound fiscal responsibility by budgeting for current needs all while preparing for the future as much as possible. You can read more about the budget process and dates for public hearings on page 5 of this newsletter.



Mayor's Message~ Continued from page 1



Gomer Evans Jr Memorial Park Dedication

During the Labor Days festivities, the city held a dedication ceremony at the pocket park next to the Black Diamond Museum. This park was dedicated as the Gomer Evans Jr Memorial Park. It was wonderful to see all the family members and citizens in attendance as we dedicated this park to Gomer.



Groundbreaking Ceremony Lawson Hills Fire Station

On August 2nd there was a groundbreaking ceremony for the Lawson Hills Fire Station. The weather was great, and it was nice to have such a big turnout for this event.



Camp Eyabsut

In July Camp Eyabsut (camp for kids that are burn victims) held at Black Diamond Camps recognized Mountain View Fire and Rescue for their support during this year's camp.

Town Hall Meetings - Mark your calendar! On October 12, 2023, the city will be holding a Town Hall meeting at 7:00 p.m. Town Hall meetings are held twice a year on the second Thursday in the months of March and October. I encourage you to please join this meeting to talk with your Councilmembers on any concern, issue, or questions you may have.



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.

Hometown Christmas – December 9th from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. in the Downtown Historical District. Please make sure to mark your calendars for this fun event for all ages.



In closing, should you have any concerns or questions I encourage you to reach out to me, your Councilmembers, or city staff.

Stay safe and healthy,

Mayor Carol Benson



**Where's
MY
Collar ID?**

**License your
pet with
RASKC**

LICENSE ONLINE AT:
**kingcounty.gov/
LicenseMyPet**
Or, call 206-296-2712

Community Development News

Community Development wants to thank those of you that visited our City booth at various community events over the summer...it was a pleasure to meet all of you! We especially want to give a shout out of appreciation to those that took the time to fill out the Comprehensive Plan survey! We anticipate having the results of that survey posted to our website soon. As a reminder, be sure to regularly check <https://www.blackdiamondwa.gov/comprehensive-plan> for current updates and happenings around the 2024 periodic update to the comprehensive plan.

*Thank
you!*

Do you live near Lake Sawyer? If you are doing any work within 200 feet of the shoreline, please check with Community Development to see if a permit is required under the Shoreline Master Program. City staff are happy to assist you and avoid a potential code violation for environmental impacts.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT NEWS

Stormwater Education – Free Soil Testing

With a long warm summer coming to an end, many of us are getting anxious to get out into our yards to plant fall gardens, re-establish grass, and other plants as the rainy weather returns. 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!

MASTER DEVELOPMENT REVIEW TEAM NEWS

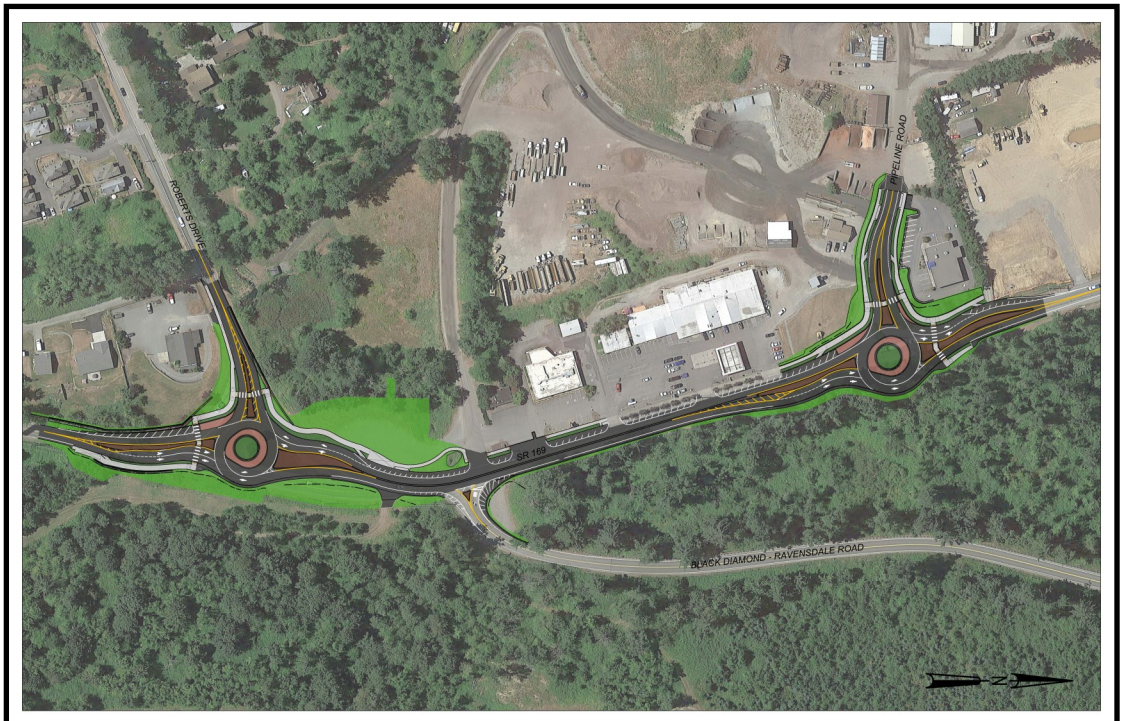
ROUNABOUTS TO START

The City is expecting to start construction in September on the two roundabouts on highway 169.

Construction will start with the first roundabout on highway 169 and Roberts Drive.

The entire project is anticipated to take two years.

Look for project updates on the city's website, Facebook and Instagram accounts.



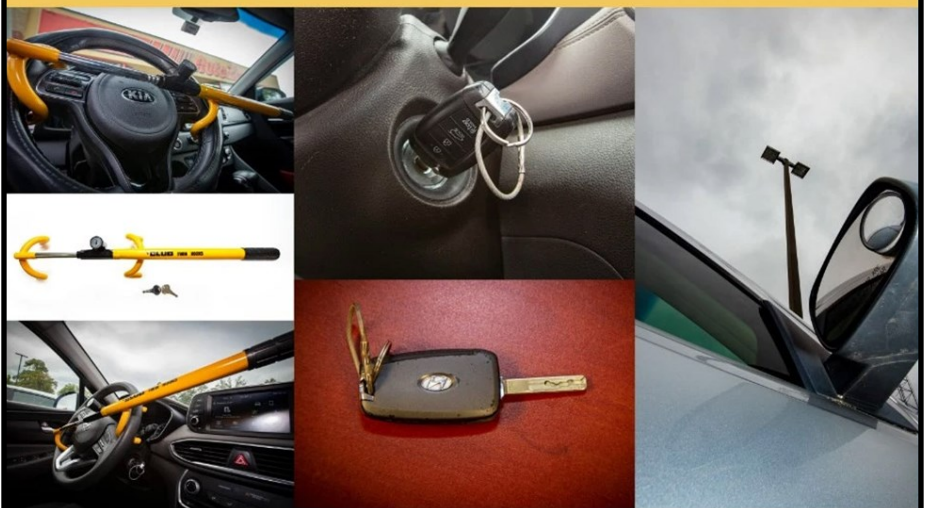
POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

The Black Diamond Police Department is warning owners who drive a 2015 to 2021 Hyundai or a 2011 to 2021 Kia, you may be targeted by car thieves. Due to a design flaw in these vehicles, a regular USB cable can be used to turn the ignition tumbler, start the vehicle, and release the steering lock. In turn, this allows the Hyundai or Kia to be driven away and started again at any time using the same cable. The thieves specifically target certain vehicles with a physical key slot as push-button start models can't be bypassed as easily.

What you can do to help prevent becoming a victim:

- Park in a secured garage whenever possible
- Apply a physical steering wheel lock bar
- Apply a physical wheel boot
- Block in the targeted vehicle with a non-susceptible make vehicle

CRIME ALERT



**STEERING
WHEEL LOCK**

**LEARN IF YOU
ARE AT RISK**

**PROTECT
YOUR CAR**



Cal Garbini was awarded the tri-annual employee award for his dedication, professionalism, and eagerness to go above and beyond. Please be sure to congratulate Officer Garbini when you see him on patrol.

The Black Diamond Police Department received their new vessel to patrol Lake Sawyer. The vessel was purchased with city funds, insurance money from our total loss, and grant money.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★
VETERANS DAY
HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



FINANCE DEPARTMENT NEWS

2024 Budget Process – The budget document tells the City’s financial story and sets spending targets for the programs and services City residents receive. The 2024 budget covers fund revenues and expenditures associated with public safety, public works, community development as well as municipal services. Please watch the City’s website www.blackdiamondwa.gov for adopted schedule of dates for work sessions, public hearings, and council meetings; these usually begin in September and continue through December.



2023 Calendar for 2024 Budget Meetings



| | Process | Work Session | City Council | State Law Limitations |
|----|--|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | City Clerk Submits to CAO the proposed prelim 2024 budget setting forth the complete financial program | | | October 2 |
| 2 | <u>Special Meeting</u> – Work Session 5:30 pm – General Fund Budget REV and EXP for Public Safety, Community Development, Parks etc. & possible property taxes increases. | Oct 19 | | Oct 14 – Nov 18 |
| 3 | <u>Special Meeting</u> – Work Session 6:00 pm – Public Works 2024 Budgets for REV and EXP for Street, Water, Sewer, Stormwater, REET I & II and Gen Govt, Utilities, Capital Projects, and Debt Service. | Oct 26 | | Oct 14 – Nov 18 |
| 4 | Mayor prepares 2024 Preliminary Budget and message and files with Council and Clerk | | Nov 2 | Nov 2 |
| 5 | City Clerk publishes notice of Final Public Hearing on 2024 Budget and filing of Preliminary Budget – once a week for two consecutive weeks | | | Nov 1 - Nov 18 |
| 6 | Preliminary 2024 Budget document made available to public six weeks before Jan. 1, 2024 | | | Nov 21 |
| 7 | <u>Special Meeting</u> – Work Session 6:00 pm - G/F 2024 Revenue review and possible property tax increase & ordinances | Nov 2 | | Nov 1 – Nov 30 |
| 8 | 1st Public Hearing on 2024 revenue sources including possible increases in property taxes, & two property tax ordinances. | | Nov 2 | Nov 1 – Nov 30 |
| 9 | Council adopts two 2024 property tax ordinances & Finance sends to King County by Nov. 30, 2023 | | Nov 16 | Nov 30 |
| 10 | City Council Holds 2 nd Public Hearing on 2024 Prelim Budget | | Nov 16 | Nov 1 – Nov 30 |
| 11 | Council holds Final Budget hearing on 2024 Budget | | Dec 4 | Dec 4 |
| 12 | Council adopts Final 2024 Budget | | Dec 4 | Dec 31 |
| 13 | Council amends 2023 Budget | | Dec 4 | Dec 31 |





PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

Oct. 10th @ 6 p.m.
Nov. 7th @ 6 p.m.
Dec. 12th @ 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 until further notice.***

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Oct. 5th @ 7 p.m. (Regular)
Oct. 12th @ 6 p.m. (Work Session)
Oct. 12th @ 7 p.m. (Town Hall)
Oct. 19th @ 5:30 p.m. (Special)
Oct. 19th @ 7 p.m. (Regular)
Oct. 26th @ 6 p.m. (Special)

Nov. 2nd @ 6 p.m. (Special)
Nov. 2nd @ 7 p.m. (Regular)
Nov. 9th @ 6 p.m. (Work Session)
Nov. 16th @ 7 p.m. (Regular)

Dec. 4th @ 7 p.m. (Special)
Dec. 7th @ 7 p.m. (Regular)
Dec. 14th @ 6 p.m. (Work Session)
Dec. 21st @ 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

Xavier Mason

Mayene Miller

Police

Chief Jamey Kiblinger



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