

# THE CITY CONNECTION

*“FACETS OF BLACK DIAMOND”*

## THE NEW “FRONT” FACE OF THE CITY



When you visit City Hall next, please welcome Luzville Goebel to the City of Black Diamond. Luzville joined our City team on July 1st as the Front Counter Receptionist in City Hall. You will see her when you come to pay your water bill, get a pet license or find copies of City Council Agendas.



### Elected Officials

- ◆ Mayor, Howard Botts
- ◆ Councilmember, Bill Boston
- ◆ Councilmember, Geoff Bowie
- ◆ Councilmember, Kristine Hanson
- ◆ Councilmember, Leih Mulvihill
- ◆ Councilmember, Rebecca Olness

### Departments

- ◆ City Administrator, Gwendolyn Voelpel
- ◆ Asst. City Admin./City Clerk, Brenda L Streepy, CMC
- ◆ Community Development, Steve Pilcher
- ◆ Economic Development, Andrew Williamson
- ◆ Finance, Mayene Miller
- ◆ Natural Resources, Aaron Nix
- ◆ Police, Jamey Kiblinger, Chief
- ◆ Public Works, Seth Boettcher, PE

## RAILROAD AVENUE ROADWAY RECONSTRUCTION DELAYED

### *Be Street Smart...*

*Use these tips to maintain the cleanliness of your city streets!*

- When sweeping driveways and sidewalks, place the resulting debris in proper receptacles instead of hosing debris into the street or storm drain.
- Don't rake, pile, blow or sweep leaves or grass clippings into the street or gutter.
- Never pour oil, antifreeze or any other hazardous material into the street or gutter.

Proper disposal of yard debris and litter keeps neighborhoods looking their best. Clean environments tend to stay clean.

Last year, the City was successful in receiving \$967,943 of grant funding from the State Transportation Improvement Board for the reconstruction of Railroad Avenue from Baker Street to Merino Street. The project is being designed by Hammond Collier Wade Livingstone Engineers and currently is in the preliminary design phase. The project was originally planned for construction in late summer of 2008. When some right-of-way issues arose, the schedule had to be shifted to next summer's construction season.

The current design will incorporate angle parking on both sides of the road

in front of the businesses. Sidewalks will link and connect the boardwalks along the front of businesses. City staff will meet with key property owners to review some of the main design issues within the next couple of months. Public Works Director Seth Boettcher is the Project Manager and can be contacted at (360) 886-2560, Ext. 202.

### Other projects: Lake Sawyer Road paving

The City will be paving Lake Sawyer Road from Roberts Drive North about a half a mile.

This maintenance project is funded by the Transportation Improvement Board Roadway Preservation Program for small cities. This project currently is planned for September/October 2008.

**Keep an eye out for paving construction in September/October**



### Water-Smart Conservation Tips

**Now that warmer weather has finally arrived, here are a few ways you can reduce your water usage and save on water bills:**

1. **Water your lawn during the evening or early morning hours to reduce evaporation. Sprinkler and drip irrigation systems (on timers) should also be used to avoid evaporation losses and to reduce wasteful over-watering.**
2. **When washing vehicles, care should be taken to make sure that hoses are equipped with self-closing nozzles.**
3. **A leak caused by a faulty flush valve in a toilet tank can waste up to 10 gallons an hour, so make sure you repair them quickly.**

### Inside this issue:

Boating Safety	2
Lake Sawyer Water Quality	3
Volunteer Opportunities	3
Community Development- Preparing for the Future	3
Recently adopted Ordinances New Tree Preservation Standards	4
City Meetings/Events & Contact Information	4

## SUN, FUN AND SAFETY: THE MARINE UNIT

Summer is a great time to enjoy Lake Sawyer and other local lakes and water bodies. With the element of fun and a little sun, however, boaters may forget to put safety first. That's where the Black Diamond Police Department Marine Services Unit comes in to protect our citizens and visitors.

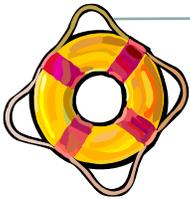
The Marine Services Unit's primary duties are to enforce the boating safety laws of the City of Black Diamond and the State of Washington on beautiful Lake Sawyer. In addition, the Marine Services Unit:

- Performs boating law enforcement patrols
- Performs boating safety inspections
- Investigates boating accidents
- Provides Boating Education Card classes
- Maintains our current patrol vessels, ensuring they are in proper working order



Each Officer that participates within the unit received advanced training in Marine Law Enforcement and is expected to maintain proficiency in operating the patrol vessels. Currently, our Police Department has the privilege of operating a brand new, state of the art, 20-foot Pro-Line Government Series Police Boat and a Bombardier Wave Runner. Officers patrol Lake Sawyer during the primary boating season of May through September; however, boating and water-related activities occur year round.

The Marine Services Unit would like to remind Black Diamond residents and visitors who use Lake Sawyer of some of the important rules and safety tips that will help keep this boating season safe and enjoyable for everyone. Remember the following are only a few of the rules. For a complete brochure, you can visit the Police Department or visit the Washington State Parks and Recreation Website at [www.parks.wa.gov/boating/](http://www.parks.wa.gov/boating/) for state laws regarding boating and the new Washington State Mandatory Boating Safety Education Law that went into effect on January 1, 2008.



## CITY OF BLACK DIAMOND BOATING REGULATIONS

### ▣ Required Vessel Safety Equipment:

Personal flotation devices (life jackets) are required in every vessel for each person on board. The life jacket must be of appropriate size, in serviceable condition and readily available. Additionally, vessels 16 feet or longer must also carry a throw-able type IV flotation device. Every child 12 years of age or younger must wear a Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device while on board any vessel, except while in a cabin. Vessels shall also have a fire extinguisher and a sound producing device, such

as a horn or whistle.

### ▣ Vessel Registration:

You are required to carry the vessel registration certificate on board at all times. In Washington State, vessel registrations expire every year on June 30th. On the first of July, every boater should have the new validation sticker displayed on the vessel behind the hull numbers.

### ▣ Speed Limits And Hours Of Operation:

You may only operate your vessel above 5 m.p.h. during designated times on Lake Sawyer. Vessels may exceed the 5 m.p.h. speed limit between the hours of 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Monday through Friday and from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Sunday, and holidays. Speeds of 5 m.p.h. or less (no wake) are required when operating within the buoys. The maximum speed limit on Lake Sawyer is 36 m.p.h. providing you are outside the buoys and at least 100 feet from any other vessel.

### ▣ Direction of Travel:

The general direction of travel is counter-clockwise around the lake.

### ▣ Restricted Areas and Buoys:

Certain areas of the lake have been designated as restricted or regulated areas. A visible system of buoys has been installed to identify these areas. Please observe and obey all restrictions and speed limits. It is illegal to move or remove any marker buoy placed by law enforcement. Additionally, it is unlawful to strike or damage a buoy in any way. Marker buoys are not for boat moorage or swimming activities.

### ▣ Reckless or Negligent Operation:

It will be considered reckless to operate a vessel while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug. Boating under the influence (BUI) will be aggressively prosecuted. Negligent operation may include disregard of careful and prudent operation and speeds.

### ▣ Water Skiing Safety:

An observer is required when towing any person on water skis, inner tubes, kneeboards, or other water toys. They shall continuously observe the person being towed and immediately display a flag whenever the person is in the water. The flag must be at least a 12-inch square mounted on a 24-inch pole or longer and be either bright red or brilliant orange in color. A life jacket is to be worn by the person being towed.

### ▣ Personal Watercraft Safety:

A life jacket is required for operating personal watercraft such as jet skis and wave runners. No one may operate a personal watercraft without attaching the lanyard to his or her person, clothing or personal flotation device. It is illegal to disable or remove an engine cutoff switch. You must be at least 16 years old to operate a personal watercraft on Lake Sawyer. It cannot be operated after legal sunset or before legal sunrise. It is illegal to operate a personal watercraft in a reckless manner and execute tight 360-degree turns commonly referred to as "spinning donuts". Additionally, you must carry a fire extinguisher and sound signaling device. A personal watercraft must be registered just like an ordinary vessel.

- ▣ **Vessel Inspections:** Marine Service officers will make courtesy inspections of vessels both on the water and at the launch facility. Our primary concern is for boating safety and education. If you are a Black Diamond resident and would like to schedule a vessel inspection at your residence, please call the Police Department at (253) 631-1012. Upon successful completion, you will be provided with a safety inspection sticker which may save you time getting in the water at the boat launch.

### BEFORE YOU JUMP IN, READ THESE IMPORTANT WATER SAFETY TIPS!

- Know the hazards before you jump. Swim only in safe areas and be conscious of 'cold shock' - hypothermia from cold water can occur in minutes.
- Do not use intoxicants and swim.
- Never swim alone.
- Use a Coast Guard-approved life jacket (water wings are not life jackets!).
- Throw, Don't Go! Throw an object to assist someone in distress before jumping in.
- Never leave children alone or unsupervised near water.
- Be a "Water Watcher!" Assign an adult to supervise children around water at all times!
- Children should always wear a life jacket when in or around water.
- Learn CPR!

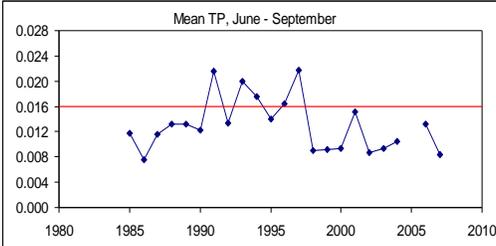
**Don't forget to visit [www.parks.wa.gov/boating](http://www.parks.wa.gov/boating) for the State Boating Rules and Regulations!**

# LAKE SAWYER WATER QUALITY IMPROVING

Despite excess phosphorous being introduced into Lake Sawyer in the early 1990's, Lake Sawyer appears to be improving. Data, collected with the help of King County and the Lake Sawyer Community Club, verifies that total phosphorus levels are trending downward (see graph).

Black Diamond--as well as other cities in the State of Washington with populations over 1,000 citizens--are required to address

2. Public Involvement and Participation
3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
4. Construction Site Run-Off
5. Operations and Maintenance of Post Construction Stormwater Facilities.



The red line represents the total maximum daily load limit (TMDL) set by the Washington State Department of Ecology. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency defines a TMDL as, "a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a water body can receive and still meet water quality standards, and an allocation of that amount to the pollutant's sources. Readings below this line are very encouraging."

This is great news for the City of Black Diamond, its residents and visitors who use the Lake. Monitoring will continue on the Lake as well as implementation of the City's program under the National Pollution Discharge and Elimination System Phase II permit, in which the City of Black Diamond is a permittee to the Washington State Department of Ecology. Under the permitting system,

five specific issues that impact water quality within their communities. These issues include:

1. Public Education and Outreach

continue to decrease phosphorus levels in Lake Sawyer, as well as other pollutants in all of our local waterways.

## The Facts on Phosphorous

Phosphorous, although found naturally in the environment, can cause significant adverse impacts to water quality within lake systems if allowed to enter these systems artificially. The most common impact associated with an excess amount of phosphorous is referred to as eutrophication. Eutrophication is an increase in chemical nutrients, typically compounds containing nitrogen or phosphorous in an ecosystem.



Chang W. Lee/the New York Times

Figure 1 - Severe algal bloom in Lake Tai in China. Published: October 27, 2007, New York Times

This excess promotes the growth and decay of plant life within lake ecosystems. The results are a decrease in water quality through poorer visibility, lack of oxygen for fish and other organisms that rely on the lake, and potential health concerns related to water consumption. Common sources of increased phosphorous concentrations include sewage effluent and common lawn fertilizers.

## SEEKING APPLICANTS FOR COMMISSION VACANCIES



The City of Black Diamond is currently looking for residents to volunteer for the Civil Service and Planning Commissions.

### Civil Service Commission Citizen Representative

The Commissions duties are in connection with the selection, appointment and employment of full time commissioned police officers. The Civil Service Commission meets once per month on Thursday mornings. The Commission consists of three (3) members each with a

six-year term, who shall be appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. If you would like to know more about the Civil Service Commission please contact Rachel Pitzel at (360) 886-2560.

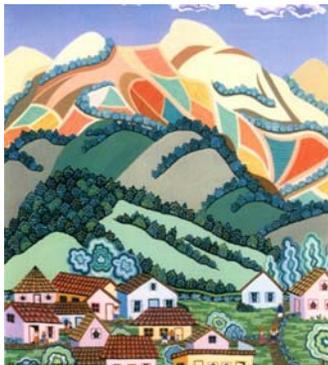
### Planning Commission

The Planning Commission consists of seven (7) members. The Commission prepares and makes recommendations to the City Council on the Comprehensive Plan and various development regulations that guide the physical development of the City. The Commission typically meets once

per month on Tuesday evenings, but may meet more frequently if needed. If you would like to know more about the Planning Commission please contact Steve Pilcher at (360) 886-2560.

Anyone interested in serving the community on these important Commissions are encouraged to submit an application to the City of Black Diamond, Attn: City Clerk, 24301 Roberts Drive, PO Box 599, Black Diamond, WA 98010 or applications may be found on the City's web site under notices at [www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us](http://www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us).

## PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE



Staff of the Community Development Department remain busy processing current development applications and preparing for greater activity in the future. Staff members are working hard with both the Planning Commission and City Council in finalizing the City's Comprehensive Plan update, new Zoning Code and new Design Standards. The goal is to have the new development regulations adopted by early October. The Planning Commission will conduct a Public Hearing concerning the Zoning Code and Map in August, watch the Web site for Public Hearing notices. Staff is also working on updating processes and procedures to ensure

development applications and building permits are reviewed and issued as quickly as possible. One major step began in mid-July, when the City Council authorized the purchase of a permit tracking software program that will allow staff to accurately manage land use data, building and development permits, and business licenses. We hope to have this program up and running in a few months.

We're open to hearing ways that we can improve to serve you better. If you have any ideas, please feel free to send them to Community Development Director Steve Pilcher at [spilcher@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us](mailto:spilcher@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us).



## ORDINANCES ADOPTED

At the July 17, 2008, Council Meeting the following Ordinances were adopted:

- Ordinance No. 08-865, Amending the 2008 Budget
- Ordinance No. 08-865, Adding a new Chapter 19.30 to the Black Diamond Municipal Code regarding Tree Preservation.

Anyone wishing to be added to the Council Agenda Distribution list please contact us at (360) 886-2560 or by email:

[bstreepy@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us](mailto:bstreepy@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us)

**Copies of these ordinances are available for review at City Hall, 24301 Roberts Drive, or by contacting Brenda L. Streepy, City Clerk, at (360) 886-2560.**

## COUNCIL ESTABLISHES TREE PRESERVATION STANDARDS

Black Diamond enjoys significant natural beauty. Much of that beauty is due to the many trees that remain throughout our City. Large evergreen tree stands, small deciduous groves and even mature individual trees are an integral part of the rural or "green" character that Black Diamond citizens value and have worked hard to preserve. Trees are more than just great scenery, though. Because of their aesthetic value, trees have been found to raise property values. Trees also stabilize soil, control water pollution, conserve energy, reduce storm water runoff, improve air quality and provide habitat to wildlife.



In recognition of the importance of our trees, on July 17, 2008, the City Council adopted new regulations for tree preservation. The regulations will reduce the number of trees lost during construction, discourage the indiscriminate removal of trees, and require the planting of replacement trees for those that may be lost to development. The regulations only apply to "significant trees" (greater than 6 inches in diameter as measured 4.5 feet above the ground) and

do not apply to any trees located within 10 feet of the perimeter of a single-family house and its driveway. The regulations also allow a property owner to remove six trees within a three-year period and exempt certain trees.

There is a lot more to the new regulations than can be discussed in this article. Please contact the Community Development Department before removing trees to understand better how the tree preservation regulations may affect your project.

CITY MEETINGS

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS  
25510 LAWSON STREET

- AUGUST 7TH—7:00 P.M.
- AUGUST 21ST—7:00 P.M.

COUNCIL STUDY SESSIONS:

- AUGUST 7TH—6:00 P.M.
- AUGUST 14TH—7:00 P.M.
- AUGUST 28TH—7:00 P.M.

PLANNING COMMISSION  
25510 LAWSON STREET

- AUGUST 12TH—7:00 P.M.

PLANNING COMMISSION STUDY SESSIONS

- AUGUST 26TH—7:00 P.M.

MONTHLY MEETINGS  
CITY COUNCIL: 1ST & 3RD THURSDAYS AT—7:00 P.M.  
PLANNING COMMISSION:  
FIRST TUESDAY AFTER THE FIRST COUNCIL MEETING—AT 7:00 P.M.

## CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE @ WWW.CI.BLACKDIAMOND.WA.US

EVENT CALENDAR	CITY OF BLACK DIAMOND
<p>AUGUST 3 XTerra Black Diamond Triathlon</p> <p>AUGUST 5 Police Night Out</p> <p>AUGUST 28 Resource Night @ Black Diamond Elem.</p> <p>AUGUST 30 JDRF Bike Ride/Cure for Diabetes</p> <p>AUG. 30-SEPT. 1 Black Diamond Labor Days</p>	<p>CITY HALL (360) 886-2560 P.O. Box 599/24301 Roberts Drive (253) 631-0351</p> <p>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (360) 886-2560 P.O. Box 599/24301 Roberts Drive (253) 631-0351</p> <p>POLICE DEPARTMENT (253) 631-1012 P.O. Box 309/25510 Lawson Street</p> <p>MUNICIPAL COURT (360) 886-7784 P.O. Box 599/25510 Lawson Street</p> <p>FIRE DEPT. DISTRICT #44 (253) 735-0284</p> <p>PUBLIC WORKS AFTER HOURS (EMERGENCY PAGER) (253) 333-5555</p>
COMMUNITY CONTACTS	
<p>Black Diamond Library (360) 886-1105 Hours of Operation: Mon.-Thurs. 10:00 a.m.— 9:00 p.m. Fridays 10:00 a.m.— 6:00 p.m. Saturdays 10:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m.</p> <p>Community/Senior Center (360) 886-1011 Hours of Operation: Monday –Friday 8:00 a.m.— 4:30 p.m.</p> <p>Post Office (360) 886-9429 Hours of Operation: Monday—Friday 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.</p> <p>Historical Society (360) 886-2142 Hours of Operation: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursdays Noon to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays</p>	<p>If you would like to be added to the City's E-Alert Program, e-mail Rachel Pitzel at <a href="mailto:rpitzel@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us">rpitzel@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us</a> - please include "E-Alert Addition" on the subject line.</p>