

Setting the record for Black Diamond

I would like to take this opportunity to set the record straight on issues facing the City of Black Diamond. Here are the facts:

1. A previous City Coun-

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cil approved the MPD and development agreements in 2011. These are the law and the development agreements are legally binding contracts. The restrictions imposed on the developer are more restrictive than the city code. It was estimated during the hearings that the 6,000 units will generate about 6,000 peak hour trips on all roads in and out of the city. Still a lot less than 60,000 noted in a previous article. These issues have been addressed and will continue to be addressed as development actually happens and concerns of nearby residents are heard. Noise, construction traffic and associated other issues were addressed in the development agreements. This mayor and City Council also ran on a platform to control development. The city hired one of the best municipal attorneys in the state of Washington, and she is continually updating

ordinances in favor of the city (i.e., vesting, SEPA, and concurrency), and to more closely follow state law.

2. The City Council voted to assume the exclusive right to provide water service to the 98 acres in western Black Diamond. This property was annexed in 2005. As part of the annexation, the city was identified as the water provider. In 2009, the city of Black Diamond incorporated this right into the Comprehensive Plan and the Water System Plan. These were approved by the state of Washington Department of Health and King County Coordinated Water System Plan and is a part of the Growth Management Area. Covington Water District has no infrastructure in this area and would have to upgrade their water mains that dead end adjacent to the service area in order to meet fire flow requirements and still would not meet the requirements of preliminary plat 1A. We don't know how much the developer will save but

Black Diamond would lose. Why would you not want your own city to receive the income for this service area? The City determined that it is inefficient for multiple service providers to attempt to serve the same properties with duplicate infrastructure.

3. The hearing examiner stated in his conditions of approval that "Adequate provision is made for the protection of wetlands and buffers. No adverse impacts to wetlands and buffers are anticipated. The proposal is consistent with all applicable requirements and project opponents have not provided any evidence that compliance is insufficient to protect the wetlands." Buffer averaging will not adversely affect wetlands.

4. The city follows the 2005 Storm Water Manual using the best available science which is currently used by most cities. The MPD says the development will have no net increase in phosphorus which is a much higher standard than current city code. The

2012 Storm Water Manual update is scheduled for next year.

5. Failure to adopt a government facilities impact fee: The consultant did not use numbers consistent with the City's comprehensive plan. It would have cost the city more money to correct this error and the developer would not commit to further investment in this project.

This mayor and City Council are facing the consequences of past poor management and direction. The city has seen increased revenue in the last few months due to restructuring the fee schedule. This puts the city in a better fiscal position for the future. We don't need misinformed people on the City Council whose sole intent is to obstruct city business at every opportunity.

Please vote for the incumbents: Carol Benson, Tamie Deady, Janie Edelman, Craig Goodwin and Ron Taylor.

Gary Farmer
Black Diamond

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Attention letter writers

This is the last issue The Reporter will publish letters to the editor pertaining to the November 2015 general election.

Election Day is Nov. 3, ballots are due by 8 p.m.

The Reporter will have preliminary election results in next week's paper and will continually update them online at www.maplevalleyreporter.com and www.covingtonreporter.com.

As a reminder of our letter policy: Letters can be submitted via e-mail

to dbox@soundpublishing.com or on the web at www.covingtonreporter.com or www.maplevalleyreporter.com. Click on Contact Us in the upper right corner and select the Letter to the Editor form from the drop-down menu.

Letters should be about 400 words. Letters may be edited for style, clarity and length. All letters to the editor will require confirmation.

Please provide contact information when submitting a letter to the editor in any of the forms provided above.

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You may also consider microchipping your pet. Check with your veterinarian about this service.

• If your pet does escape, check with local animal shelters and rescue groups in person to see if your pet has been picked up. Residents in the RASKC service area can also visit www.kingcounty.gov/LostPet to file a report and see pets that have been taken in as stray. Owners with stray pets can also

call 206-296-PETS (7387), and enter 311 to hear a list of stray dogs, or 312 for a listing of stray cats.

Halloween Pet Costume Contest

Pets that enjoy dressing up for Halloween could win their owners a \$100 gift card, courtesy of RASKC and Petco. Post a photo of your pet in costume on Facebook or Twitter with the hashtag #RASKC by the end of the night on Oct. 31. The pet with the most likes/favorites will win. Visit kingcounty.gov/pets for more information.



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