Black Diamond Traffic Improvement Advisory: Roberts Drive Closure at State Route 169

The Ten Trails Community and the City of Black Diamond are partnering to bring new, temporary traffic improvements to the corner of Roberts Drive and State Route 169. These changes will help improve the safety of the intersection while Ten Trails development manager Oakpointe Communities and Black Diamond work together to finalize plans for a future roundabout.

Project work includes stormwater control, demolition of the existing Roberts Drive turnoff from State Route 169, and paving a new access road with better sight distance for vehicles. This project is one of many transportation improvements planned as the Ten Trails community continues to grow.

When/where: Work is scheduled to begin on March 31, 2021, and construction is anticipated to last for 30 days. Construction will take place along Roberts Drive between Morgan Street and State Route 169.

Traffic changes: The intersection itself and the portion of Roberts Drive between Morgan Street and State Route 169 will be closed to both vehicles and pedestrians while work is in progress. Traffic will be free to continue along state Route 169 but will not be able to turn west onto Roberts Drive. These closures will be in effect 24 hours a day throughout the entirety of the project.

Traffic surrounding this area is likely to be more congested during construction, and drivers are encouraged to seek alternate routes. School buses will be allowed through the closure by a uniformed police officer stationed at the closure during work hours. All emergency service agencies, school districts, garbage, etc. have been notified of the closure, and service will not be disrupted. Signage will be placed around the construction area three weeks prior to the start of work to help warn drivers to plan ahead.

Detour information/driving directions: Local residents living along Roberts Drive will still have access to their homes, but not directly off of state Route 169 onto Roberts Drive. Local residents must use Morgan Street or Auburn Black Diamond Road to access their homes.

Drivers heading east on Auburn/Black Diamond Road: Heading east into Black Diamond on Auburn/Black Diamond Road, all trucks must turn left onto Lake Sawyer Road. All other vehicles are encouraged to take the Lake Sawyer detour as well. Drivers will head north on Lake Sawyer Road and, after the Lake Sawyer Grocery, turn right onto 288th St. This will take you to State Route 169.

Drivers heading west on Roberts Drive: Drivers with an intent to come off State Route 169 and onto Roberts Drive must find alternate routes if they are trying to head west to Auburn/Black Diamond Road. Drivers can follow the detour along 169, which takes them to 288th St. or can take Jones Road onto Morgan St. Trucks can only take 288th Street.

Visit the city’s website below for detailed vehicle and truck detour information. Oakpointe and the City of Black Diamond understand the challenges and inconveniences that commuters, residents, businesses, bicyclists and pedestrians will experience during the closure period, and we ask for patience and cooperation as we work to improve the safety of our roads for everyone in our city.

To stay updated on this project, visit the city’s website at www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us.
**Black Diamond Police Reports from March 1 to 7, 2021**

On 3/1/2021, Officers were dispatched to the 25400 block of Kanaskat Dr reference to a noise complaint (banking dog). Upon arrival, no banking dogs were heard and the complainant was contacted as requested. 

On 3/3/2021, an officer was dispatched to the area of SE 288th ST and 216th AVE SE regarding nails on the roadway. The officer arrived and removed a box of screw nails that had spilled in the intersection.

On 3/5/2021, officers responded to the 32700 block of 3rd Ave for a loud noise coming from a residence. Officers checked the residence and found no one was home. A broken smoke detector was found laying outside the residence which officers were able to silence. Officers later contacted the residents and confirmed they were safe.

On 3/5/2021, officers conducted a traffic stop for a registration violation at the Cenex gas station located in the 32600 block of 3rd Avenue. The driver was arrested and booked into the Enumclaw Jail, and a search warrant was later served on the vehicle. A firearm was found inside the vehicle with the suspect in this case being a convicted felon. Felony charges will be filed with the King County Prosecutor’s Office.

On 3/6/2021 officers responded to the 32500 block of 3rd Ave for a report of a loud party. Officers contacted the subjects who agreed to turn the music down so it could not be heard outside the building.

On 3/7/2021, an officer responded to the 32500 block of 3rd Ave for a report of a parking problem. Several vehicles from a nearby party were not parked properly. The officer contacted the event organizer and had the vehicles moved to legal parking spots.

On 3/7/2021 officers responded to the 32500 block of 3rd Ave for a party complaint. While officers were on scene an assault was reported. The Fire Department responded to treat injuries to the victim. The suspect was located, arrested, and booked into jail for assault.

On 3/7/2021 an officer observed a vehicle driving in the wrong lane of traffic in the 23500 block of SE 287th Street. After the vehicle collided with another vehicle head-on, the car was stopped on SE 287th Street just west of SR 169. The driver was found to be DUI, driving while a suspended driver’s license, and driving without a required interlock ignition. The vehicle was towed by Royal Towing and the suspect was booked into the Enumclaw Jail.

Black Diamond Police Reports out at the track. Neither the cold or the on and off rain showers deterred those motorsports fans looking for a deal. There was everything from old parts to new ones as well as memorabilia from the good ole days of motorsports. All in all, a great event and Pacific Raceways personnel are to be congratulated for the day of deals and bargains. If you missed this year’s Swap Meet, not to worry as plans for next year’s event are all ready in the works. For more information on this and the upcoming 2021 Racing Season then check www.pacificraceways.com for all the details. Photo by Bill Archer.
When Coal Was King

By Bill Kombol

Winter isn’t quite over yet, but it’s certainly time to say goodbye to the rain, the cold, and the dark. Saturday, March 20 is the first day of spring. This image appeared in the Jan. 8, 1986 Seattle Times above the caption, “Horses take in some winter sunshine as they graze on a frost-covered field south of Maple Valley.” Perhaps some intrepid reader will know exactly where those sun rays shown one evening on that quiet pasture, 35 years past. This vintage photo by Jim Lott was shot at dusk on December 13, 1985 and comes courtesy of JoAnne Matsumura, an Issaquah collector and historian.
ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, March 16, 2021)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, March 2, 2021)

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