

Change Is Brewing

by Sheryl Puckett (An Opinion Piece)

With the current building frenzy it seems that developers are having their way in North Idaho. That may not be the case in regard to a subdivision plan being proposed to the Bayview Water & Sewer board.

In 2007 Viking Construction proposed a 25 home subdivision across from the Bayview post office, south of Perimeter Road. The economic collapse of 2008 led to its demise. Fast forward 2021, rumors began to spread about the development once again starting.

Last spring, the 8 acre property was up for sale and subsequently purchased by Gary Schmidt, realtor for Coldwell Banker Schneidmiller Realty. Since then Mr. Schmidt has been a regular figure at Bayview Water & Sewer meetings. **His new subdivision plan is called Lakestone.**

This project has not started the Kootenai County permit process and until they submit their plans, changes can occur, but it was stated at the January 20 BWSD meeting this is the original 2007 plan with few changes.

During the January 20 BWSD meeting, BWSD engineer said, "There are some complexities due to the nature of the district having some infrastructure that is potentially undersized for that application (referring to Lakestone). Currently there are 4" trunk lines that are functioning, however the minimum size is 8". Our goal is to touch base with DEQ and see what they will allow and not allow and what sort of requirements are associated with this."

Board President Colleen Dahlseid stated, "I really can't continue to proceed with this until you sign a Reimbursement agreement and give us \$5,000 because we continue to spend engineering dollars and legal fee dollars and our time on this. This is something that is our policy."

From my viewpoint, Lakestone frustration was on display as they seek to push their agenda against the inertia set up by DEQ's process which is established to ensure everything is done right. It seems DEQ works at their own pace regardless that a developer has an arbitrary timeline.

While it could be said that Mr. Schmidt bought this property with 25 ER's in good faith and BWSD should honor this and service him. However, Bob Kuchenski, system operator, pointed out, "Many years ago that project could have come in but now DEQ changed our rules. We go by what the rules say."

To clarify, this is about 25 new homes packed into 8 acres near Bayview Creek in a tract home design that will forever change the character of our town and if DEQ requires an 8" main line to the lift station (half mile distance) it's an estimated cost of 6 to 8 hundred thousand dollars. Who is going to pay for this? As the saying goes, "Development should pay for itself." Stay tuned; undoubtable there will be more to come.

Community Council At Work

By Judi White

Nick Snyder, Director of Idaho Parks & Waterways, thought it was a great idea the Bayview Community Council had. We called requesting an **AED sign (Automated External Defibrillator)** at the public boat launch which will alert boat users where to locate one in Bayview if the need arises.

Mr. Synder had already researched the best location to place the sign. He said he would make the sign, place the sign and cover all the costs. And he was very appreciative for the idea and felt if we saved one life, it would well be worth it.

They are currently working on keeping the boat launches free of snow in about twenty locations, but hope in two months time they will be able to switch gears and get the sign up.

This is not the first time Park & Waterways has helped the Council. Several years ago, we inquired about a public bench at the Bayview boat launch. The Council purchased the bench but it was Park & Waterways, under Nick Snyder direction, who came out to psychically place it there for us.

Mark Your Calendar for **Bloomsday**

The 7.46 mile walk is May 1, a Sunday. You can register now.

Jasper Emporium has closed its doors. We wish Shonda Jasper the best wherever she ventures.

*Please join the Athol Elementary PTU
for our 1st Annual Spring Craft Fair*



*Saturday
March 12, 2022
9am to 5pm
Athol Community Center
30355 N. 3rd Street, Athol ID*



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Contact Shore Lines' editor, Sheryl Puckett, to add your name to the mailing list, send ideas, concerns, etc for future articles
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