

SHORE LINES

Bayview Community Council News
SEPTEMBER 2019

Events, Issues
& People

Re-Entry Facility

by Deborah Rose

Many of you may not be aware of the Idaho Department of Corrections plan to build a prisoner release facility in Kootenai County. This facility is planned to house inmates in a pre-parole status, those who have not yet served out their full sentence, and serve those on probation.

In the words of the Corrections Director, the inmate population to be housed in this facility are those individuals who have given the prison staff, their communities and probation the most trouble. The primary plan is to get inmates from multiple counties employed in our community prior to getting "their minds right". Releasing such individuals into our community is troubling.

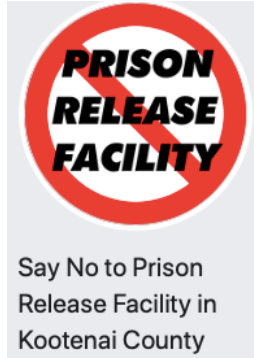
In North Idaho 500 probation violations have taken place in the 12 preceding months. This facility will be used as a day reporting center for high risk probationers. This objective is especially concerning since these probation violations are largely new crimes not technical violations.

The four cities which currently host the re-entry facilities are among the ten most crime ridden cities in Idaho. Idaho's Senate Bill 1357 named the Justice Reinvestment Act, passed in 2013, has had no effect on lowering time incarcerated and recidivism.

Disappointingly, recidivism has actually increased since the Bill was enacted statistically pointing out prisoner re-entry facilities have proven to be abject failures, and money wasted. Statistics are grim. Recidivism rates climb up to a shocking 83% within nine years of release from prison.

Based on data gathered from national sources, this proposed facility will import significant amounts of crime into our county.

If you have Facebook please go to: Say No to Prison Release Facility in Kootenai County for updated information. Sign the petition at: <http://chnng.it/4hThQcFHRN>



Care, Share, Ride

by Rosemary Brennan

Recently I found myself needing a ride to have a medical procedure performed because I was instructed not to drive myself home.

I was lucky to have Ralph all those times I needed a helping hand after a surgery. I'm probably not the only person in Bayview who struggles to find an occasional ride to or from a treatment but may not have a way to get there.

I'm reaching out to others in our community who may want to volunteer to give and/or receive rides occasionally for medical reasons. This could be a valuable resource for residents. If you are interested please call 208-683-3963.

Kootenai Electric

Kootenai Electric is hosting an appreciation event for its members with a free BBQ lunch, ice cream, gifts, and fun activities September 7, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Bluegrass Park, 6071 N. Courcelles Parkway in CDA. What a great utility company we have.

SNAFU via DEQ

It appears as though the funding mechanism in the Bayview Water & Sewer Facility Plan has been invalidated by the simple fact that the lease on our existing water tank and pumps expires in 2027 thereby disqualifying us from Federal funding. DEQ is now requiring us to obtain a 99 year lease or ownership from the Federal government. Other options for funding are being pursued.

ALL AMERICAN PICNIC
PEND ORIELLE POTLUCK
(Hot Dogs provided by the Council & grilled to perfection)
BYOB & bring a dish to share.
See you there for horseshoes, food, friends & fun!
Sunrise Day Use Picnic Area
Farragut State Park
Tuesday - September 17th
Starts at 5:00p.m.
Sponsored by your Bayview Community Council.
Please note! You will need a park pass or you can carpool.

**Next Bayview Community
Council Meeting, September 24,
Tuesday, 7 p.m.**

Between Habitat Loss and a Hard Place

By the Grumpy Old Man

The original people of this area lived an abundant life in harmony with nature for untold centuries. The point between Scenic and Idlewilde Bays was their winter refuge. The Pend Oreille drainage flowed deep, cold and clear. Seasonal floods left broad wetlands and meadows where wildlife feasted and in turn provided for the people. Journals from the first European explorers record massive trees growing so close together the packs on mules had to be stacked atop each other to squeeze between them.

Fast forward a mere 210 years, shoreline development, numerous dams, mining and logging, an exploding population and tourism growth have all taken a toll. Yet the majesty of Lake Pend Oreille still takes our breathe away. But beneath its surface and along its shoreline, species who have called this lake home since before the great ice age floods struggle to survive. Some are seen as pests or nuisances, dinner or a spectacle, most go unnoticed, all do their best to cope with an unprecedented human population.

It used to be the only time you heard the high lonesome call of Canadian geese was early spring or late autumn as flocks followed migrations call. Perhaps spotted resting on the sand spit near the Farragut boat launch, they were always wary and easily spooked.

In those years the ducks ruled Bayview. Brazenly making traffic stop and go around them with their penchants to roost in the middle of the street. Wild mallards were drawn to town by the release of domestic flocks left by well meaning but sadly delusional owners, as the tame flightless fowl soon died off. We were left with scores of wild ducks in the streets exercising their territorial imperative throughout town. You'll still see them, but after an unfortunate hit and run event, people quit feeding them and they now spend their time raiding bird feeders, hustling the docks or dropping by boats for handouts.

It was the ducks, like living decoys, who first lured a single large and somewhat belligerent Canadian goose to stake claim at the boat launch. He was followed by pioneering couples. One pair nests in a large flower pot on my friend's second story float home balcony, which they gladly sacrifice for several weeks each spring to enjoy nature closeup.

Geese are grazers, like cattle and they love our irrigated lawns which are suitable stand-ins for the meadows now flooded by the dam at the other end of the lake. And since the shoreline is similarly flooded, walled off and now fenced, they find our mostly unused docks perfect places to rest and unfortunately poop. This is something I have experienced and they are prodigious poopers. (Cont.)

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Would I trade the regular sight and sound of these magnificent creatures flying and feeding around town for the inconvenience of cleaning my dock? Never in five million years, because that is how long they have been in the Americas. A few people may be having problems with our geese. Yes, they can be inconvenient. The first people are gone. There are plenty of humane ways of discouraging geese. Maybe there is some way we can all learn to live with our wild cousins when they come to town.

To Recall or Not To Recall?

by Sheryl Puckett

The recall is a matter of fact whether you feel it fosters divisiveness or it's a necessary evil. This article seeks to provide the facts concerning the recall.

Local Bayview resident, Bill Somers, led the recall effort. It's his signature on the Kootenai County Election Office petition. Mr. Somers collected the 134 mandatory names required to place the recall on the ballot. The signatures were then verified by the County to be accurate of those living within the BWSO boundaries.

Sharon Meyer and Robyn Edwards are the two BWSO directors up for recall.

After verifying the signatures, the County was required to notify both, informing them of the recall, giving them 5 business days to resign. Neither chose to resign.

What is a Recall? According to everyone's favorite source, Google, "A recall election is a procedure by which, in certain polities, voters can remove an elected official from office through a direct vote before that official's term has ended."

In order to recall an elected official it is a bit more complicated than acquiring the majority vote. A successful recall requires:

- Majority must favor recall PLUS
- The number of votes cast must be equal or exceed the votes cast at the election when the officer was voted in.

Therefore it will require a minimum of 96 votes to remove Sharon Meyers. It will take 86 votes to remove Robyn Edwards.

If recalled, the officer will be recalled at the time the election results are made public, effective immediately and a vacancy is then open .

Update: At the BWSO Special Meeting, August 28, a motion was carried forth to contact the district's attorney to find out if water & sewer utilities are exempt from a recall. Both Meyer and Edwards abstained from voting.

Director terms are 6 years. Whatever the recall outcome, hopefully we can move forward, leave our difference behind us, and repair our water system.