



A Closer Look at Bayview Water & Sewer's Rental Policy

editorial by Sheryl Puckett

In talking to a long time Bayview resident about ER's, I realized there's still confusion when it comes to what an ER is and what it means to have one or not have one.

In the early 1990's if you owned a lot with no dwelling on them you were told, "If you to ever intend to build and have water or sewer services, you must purchase an ER." Simple put, securing an ER gives you the ability to build a single family house. If you didn't purchase an ER back then, then today, that same lot would be unbuildable unless you wanted a dwelling with no water and sewer services. I can cite an example of an owner with a house on one lot and four extra lots. Unfortunately, the owner in the 90's only purchased one ER, making the other four lots today not as monetarily valuable.

Bayview Water & Sewer faces many pressing issues when it comes to the rate inequities. This article will focus on one topic which is the use of a separate living space within a single family home having a second kitchen and bathroom for rental purposes. Or to put in simpler terms: some people have big houses with extra rooms and kitchens and have found a way to rent out those extra rooms. This is against the BWSD current policy and would be a violation.

To address this situation, it is essential to consider the pros and cons of allowing a policy change:

Advantages: 1.) allowing homeowners to rent out separate living spaces promotes economic growth by providing an additional source of income for homeowners. 2.) Allowing such rentals may also contribute to increased housing options for individuals and families in need. We are, after all, in a rental shortage crisis.

Disadvantages: 1.) concerns for neighborhood overcrowding. 2.) increased demand for parking. 3) the lack of awareness of additional users may strain BWSD water & sewer demands

It is also worthy to note that Bayview Water & Sewer is not following their own policies that former board member, Colleen Dahlsheid, worked so hard to put in place. If they're not going to enforce this, why

CONT. not just make it legal could be an argument in itself.

Should BWSD change their policies to make it okay for homeowners to rent out those extra rooms? Despite the fact that the current policy does not allow for converting a separate living space in your home with individual sleeping, bath and kitchen facilities for the purpose of renting, I believe, this is an editorial after all, that the current policy needs further discussion at a BWSD board meeting leading to an outcome of changing said policy and allowing for this rental situation.

However, there are caveats. Homeowners must occupy the home while renting out a portion of their home.

Converted separate standing garages and sheds are **not** included as it is a different topic for another article. Remember clandestinely turning your garage/tool shed into a guest house with either water and sewer that does not have an assigned ER, in this case .7 ER, is a BIG No-No. This comes back to the beginning of the editorial about what it means to have an ER. Many of us had to pay for our ER's. Should some be allowed to circumvent this by creating a brand new living facility? And should they be allowed to use BWSD services without paying? I can still hear Colleen saying, "If you use our water or sewer services, you need to pay."

Board member, Ted Bare, once said, "Bayview Water & Sewer is the closest governing agency we have in Bayview." This statement has a lot of truth to it, however, you'll need to wait for another article on the topic of the "Sewer Moratorium" to fully understand why.

It's my hope to raise awareness among residents about the importance of attending the BWSD public meetings and actively participating in the decision" making process.

• The opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and may not represent the views of the Bayview Community Council and Bayview Water & Sewer District.

September Council Meeting

September 26, 7 p.m., Bayview Community Council public meeting with local historian, **Linda Hackbarth**, presenting a slide show on Bayview's history. Don't miss this rewarding event. Linda's recently published a new book called "**Bayview: A Little Town With A Big Story.**"

YOU'RE INVITED

Coffee and cookies available too. Mark your calendar

Meet New Center Manager

by Pam Tonhofer

My husband Dennis has been vacationing in Bayview with his family since he was a young boy. When he first brought me to Bayview 31 years ago I thought it was the best kept secret, so quaint with an incredible LAKE!



Twenty three years ago we bought a nice trailer (our cabin) in the Vista Bay West community. After 30 years we both retired from Spokane Transit Authority and purchased a lovely house on Hudson Bay Road. That was three years ago. The house belonged to Ray and Sally Newcomb. We were fortunate

enough to develop an adjacent lot creating more outdoor space.

After joining the Bayview Chamber of Commerce, it was brought to our attention how few people actually live year round in Bayview to raise funds and help keep this community alive to provide summer and winter activities, such as the fireworks and Bayview Daze.

There are so many hard working dedicated volunteers in this town that wear so many hats and produce incredible activities for us to enjoy who need others to join in.

It was my time to get involved. I was approached to fill the position of **Bayview Community Center Manager** to replace Tammy Bell who saw a need and created an amazing business for herself. I will do my best to fill the gap. Thank you for your support,

One Way Fir Ave Access



August 17, two County Commissioners deliberated on opening Fir Avenue to one way traffic going North. Commissioner Bill Brooks

was not present. The Commissioner's voted to approve the one way egress, which thereby approves the subdivision. There's fourteen days to submit an appeal.

AT&T Users, Good News

AT&T has announced their new plans for the existing Bayview Cell Tower. They are set to go live within 90-120 days, providing Bayview with **AT&T** and **FirstNet** coverage.

An AT&T representative mentioned, "This timeline assumes everything progresses as planned, though unforeseen events can occasionally lead to delays." This is good news for all AT&T users and visitors. You heard it first here in the Shore Lines.

Council's Address: P. O. Box 112, Bayview, ID 83803
Council website: <https://bayviewcommunitycouncil.org/>

From Wood To Wonder

By Sheryl Puckett



In Athol a unique business is thriving with its dedication to handcrafted items that bring beauty and practicality into homes. Meet Caroline Dobner and Frank Steele, the dynamic duo behind "**Crafted At Home**," a venture that's as local as it is

passionate.

Caroline and Frank have a deep connection with the area. Caroline was born and raised in Coeur d'Alene while Frank's family has called Bayview home for over 30 years. Their frequent visits and a shared love for the outdoors solidified their dream of eventually settling down in the area they both cherished.

The seed for "Crafted At Home" was planted from their passion for handcrafted creations. Inspired by the love for American-made products and a desire for more diverse options, the couple embarked on their journey of crafting. It all began with solid wood furniture, lovingly crafted for friends and family. Today, their focus has evolved, centering on practical yet beautifully designed items that enhance homes.

What sets Crafted At Home apart is their meticulous choice of materials. The duo sources a blend of domestic and exotic hardwoods, including Hard White Maple, Black Walnut, Mahogany, Cherry, Padauk, Wenge, Purpleheart, Sapele, and Ambrosia Maple. Each piece comes to life with the touch of Frank's skilled hands in their well-equipped workshop, which houses a CNC machine, laser engraver, and an array of woodworking tools.

While Frank's craftsmanship brings their creations to life, Caroline handles the logistical side of the business. From orders and supplies to design queries, Caroline ensures everything runs smoothly. Together, they form a formidable team, creating, managing, and spreading their devotion for finely crafted items.

While Crafted At Home doesn't have a physical store presence, it has found a virtual home through their website and social media platforms. Residents of Farragut Village can even arrange pickups. Craft fairs and other community events provide opportunities for the couple to share their creations directly with the community they love.

Crafted At Home officially came to life as a business around 2 years ago. "Many years in the making but we wanted to make sure that we had quality products ready to share," says Caroline. According to their website, "We're focusing on items that can be shipped easily, including cutting boards, rustic picture frames, coasters, and charcuterie boards."

Contact information for Crafted At Home, website: <https://craftedathome.com/> and email: CraftedAtHome208@gmail.com