



A Chat with BWSD Chair, Jeanna Hofmeister *by Sheryl Puckett*

1. Can you tell readers a little about your background?

I was born in Spokane, WA. My husband and I moved to Bayview in 2003. My family has deep roots in N. Idaho, including Bayview, since the 1920s. My great grandparents, Jess and Annie Puckett were the caretakers of the Blackwell Ranch (now the location of Farragut's Eagle boat launch), and raised a large family. My great aunt Helen and her husband, Mike Sirkoff, owned the Bayview Mercantile, which was located across the street from today's Merc.

My grandparents, Laten and Bobbie Puckett, both worked at the Farragut Naval Training Station as well as opening a gas station and diner on the SW corner of old Hwy. 95 and Hwy. 54, which later burned down. They lived in a home on Salee Creek Rd. with their four children, including my mom, Elanor, who was born in 1931 one house past the Peck ranch. My second cousin, Ray Puckett, is the last of the original Puckett bloodline still living in Bayview.

In the late 40s, my Puckett grandparents, along with my mom and dad, purchased a full section of land at Samuels where they farmed and ranched. Most of that land is still owned by my cousins today.

My paternal grandparents, Ed and Ireta Smith lived in Athol with their children, where Grandpa and the boys constructed a log cabin. Once completed, it was disassembled, the logs marked, and then relocated to the NE corner of Hwy. 95 and Bunco Rd. becoming their tavern, the iconic Little Brown Jug. I have lots of fond memories of running around the tavern with my Smith cousins, with a playpen next to the Wurlitzer jukebox for the littlest ones. How times have changed!

My career was a diverse journey. My first real job was at the police department in Moscow, while I was attending the University of Idaho majoring in Communications. I went on to become an Emmy award-winning television writer and producer, serving on the affiliate marketing advisory boards for both NBC and ABC networks. I later served as the Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer for Visit Spokane, the tourism marketing agency for the Spokane Region.

After 15 years of making the 120 mile daily round trip commute from Bayview, I rescued my sanity and began an eight-year stint as a full time freelance writer for national and regional magazines and



websites, officially retiring in 2023.

2. When did you start serving on the board and when did you become Chairman of the Board?

I applied to serve on the board in the Spring of 2024, officially joining in May of 2024. I was nominated and accepted the role of Board Chair in September of 2025.

3. What led you to serve on the Bayview Water & Sewer board?

I very much value our quality of life in Bayview, so I wanted to find a positive way to serve our community. I also highly value our delicious water! I want to ensure we have an abundant supply of it. I will also say, Dan Tindall and Ted Bare twisted my arm a bit, metaphorically speaking.

4. What has been the most rewarding part of serving on the board?

There have been so many rewards, from seeing the completion of the Water Improvement Project (WIP) to strengthening our relationship with the State Park. That collaboration was key to the successful completion of Phase 2, rehabilitation of the water tank.

It's rewarding to build stronger relationships with my neighbors, our rate payers and regional partners, including emergency service providers and planners.

Finally, service on the board has been a great learning opportunity, allowing me to know Bayview beyond what's on the surface. History, geology, hydrology, and geography, all play a role in creating one of the most unique communities in Idaho. I feel extremely lucky to live here.

5. What would you like residents to better understand about the work you do?

The BWSD board serves to ensure our water and sewer systems are operated and maintained with accountability to all customers. We operate with complete transparency. Decisions, as well as the discussions that lead to them, are made openly at board meetings, public workshops, and formal public meetings.

Oversight and management of this critical community resource requires board members to make prudent decisions that are sometimes unpopular. Additionally, we consistently work to ensure the district is managed in a way that considers longevity, resilience, and future demands on our system. Water and Sewer Districts operate under strict State and Federal

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environmental regulations which are constantly changing. Compliance is not optional and can be costly.

6. What misconceptions do people often have about the water and sewer district?

To be honest, I think people take the district for granted. When folks don't take the time to get involved, they don't have a sense of the amount of work involved in system management, regulation compliance, and oversight of employees, contractors, and the board.

We work as a team, resulting in projects and initiatives moving forward successfully. We all take our roles seriously, with the utmost commitment to our community.

7. Are there any major projects or upgrades underway or planned?

Renewing our Wastewater Reuse Permit, beginning the process of upgrading and replacing water meters (many are 40-60 years old), and improving accountability are all on the list. As always, any planned infrastructure improvements can be quickly upended by an expensive repair bill, as was just evidenced by a pump failure at our Tri-Plex site.

Speaker Event: "Who Do You Think You Are?"

The Bayview Community Council invites you to a **free speaker event** June 16, 6 p.m. at the Bayview Community Center. Pam Barnhouse will present the Basics of Genealogy, how to begin researching and compiling your family story. All are invited to attend.

Scholarship Awardees

The Bayview Community Council Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2026 scholarships. This year, five outstanding students applied, making the selection process especially difficult.



After careful consideration, the committee awarded two \$1,000 scholarships. One to **Keira Barnhart** and another to **Emerson Schwartz** to support their continued education.

Keira plans to pursue a degree in Forestry, while Emerson will study Medical Sciences. We congratulate both recipients and wish them continued success.



Currently, the Council is reaching out to community members to help grow our scholarship fund. Educational opportunities can change a local student's life. If you would like to contribute to this worthwhile effort, we would be grateful for your support.

The Scholarship Committee members are Marlys Blagden, Ski Wilkuski, John and Carey Charyk and Sheryl Puckett.

How to Incorporate More Exercise into Your Daily Life

by Constance Kaltenbach



Despite growing awareness around health and wellness, physical activity levels remain low while obesity rates continue to rise. We are surrounded by an obesogenic environment: inexpensive, high-calorie processed foods are everywhere, portion sizes have increased, and many people snack throughout the day. At the same time, modern lifestyles have become increasingly sedentary, and many of us simply don't move enough anymore.

As we recently celebrated National Physical Fitness and Sports Month, I'd like to encourage everyone to "sneak in" more movement throughout the day. Small moments of activity add up quickly and can make a meaningful difference over time. Here in North Idaho, we are fortunate to have beautiful opportunities for outdoor recreation, from hiking and biking to kayaking and walking local trails.

Here are a few easy ways to incorporate more movement into your daily routine:

Take a short walk before work, after dinner, or during lunch. Turn meetings or phone calls into "walks and talks." Stand while working when possible, and set reminders to get up and stretch or walk every hour. Choose parking spots farther away, take the stairs, or bike short errands. The beautiful Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes offer a perfect excuse for family bike rides and weekend adventures.

Use small pockets of time for movement — do squats or pushups on the kitchen counter while waiting for water to boil, walk while waiting for an appointment or at the airport gate, or dance to your favorite music while cleaning the house.

Explore local fitness opportunities like community workout classes or a nearby gym. Gardening, housework, playing with your kids, walking the dog, or trying something new like pickleball or frisbee all count as physical activity.

The key is simple: keep moving and make it enjoyable



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