

New sewer plant to aid Lake Pend Oreille water quality

By AMY CABE
Staff writer

COEUR d'ALENE - A new sewage treatment and collection system will provide some relief for Bayview-area homeowners worried about contaminants polluting Lake Pend Oreille, a consulting engineer says.

Effluent from Bayview-area drain fields and some floating homes dumps into the lake, which recharges the Rathdrum Prairie aquifer.

"It got to be so bad that we could tell when some people were washing," Barb Malnerich,

a member of the Bayview water and sewer district board, said Saturday. Residents could see suds in the lake at times, she said. "That's how close the drain fields are to the lake."

Homeowners in the district wanted the drain field far away from the lake, Malnerich said. Now, plans for the new system are complete and the \$4.2 million project will go to bid in a couple of weeks, said Larry Comer, a consulting engineer and principal owner of Welch, Comer & Associates Inc. in Coeur d'Alene.

With construction on the project beginning in February, resi-

costs, as will a \$730,000 Farmer's Home Administration loan, and Navy funds, Comer said.

"These types of projects costs a lot of money, but they recognize the environmental impact," Comer said.

Realtors are pleased the new system will soon be in place and interest in investments is increasing as news of the improved sewage system spreads, Comer said.

"I feel it's going to clean up the water in the bay, which is directly over the main arm of the aquifer," Malnerich said.

ject is worth it, she said.

"They recognized the importance of the system," Comer agreed.

Plans provided by Comer show that the treatment system will be in place at a forested area one and one-half miles north of Bayview. The system may serve up to about 880 homes.

And to protect the lake and the Rathdrum Prairie aquifer, it will sit 1,000 feet in elevation above the lake, Comer said.

Solid sewage will be pumped from each septic tank and hauled

away, while the treatment facility will be for effluent, Malnerich said.

Septic tanks newer than about 1978 will be resealed and utilized, Malnerich said. Older ones will be replaced.

A large portion of the system will be paid for with several grants, including one for \$2.4 million from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Several smaller grants, including one from the Idaho Division of Environmental Quality and an Idaho Community Development Block Grant, will also help defray

dents who lobbied for the new system will see their efforts completed by November, Comer said. Attaining the new system came after years of attempts.

District residents first tried to obtain a new system in 1982. However, they voted down sewer system plans that placed the sewage treatment system over the aquifer, Comer said.

But in 1988, district residents voted overwhelmingly to create a Local Improvement District and applied for grants to attain the new facilities, Comer said. Malnerich estimated the LID will cost about \$1,000 per home. The pro-

Engineering office opens in Bayview

BAYVIEW — Larry Comer, president of Welch, Comer and Associates, Coeur d'Alene, announced opening of its new project office here. Engineering and technical staff assigned to the Bayview office will be responsible for resident engineering and construction management services for the \$4.2 million Bayview sewer collection and treatment system project.

Construction of the sewer project is the culmination of three years planning and design by the firm, State and Federal funding agencies, and countless hours of volunteer time from enthusiastic residents of Bayview.

"The Bayview project is a major investment by the public in the protection of water quality of Lake Pend Oreille and the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer," Comer said.

Welch, Comer Engineers employ 15 people and provide civil engineering and surveying services to the public and private sector throughout North Idaho.

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BRIEFLY

Bayview bazaar slated Saturday

BAYVIEW — The B.A.B. Women's Club will present their annual bazaar starting at 10 a.m. Saturday on the lawn of the Scenic Motel at Bayview during an Independence Day and Centennial celebration.

The bazaar is held once a year to raise money for Christmas baskets. Items available include crafts, baked goods, white elephants, coffee, and sweet rolls. The event will be held in conjunction with the Bayview parade, a fireworks display, and a presentation by the Navy Band.

The B.A.B. represents women from Bayview, Athol and Belmont.