

Semiahmoo: A Premier Residential Resort Community in the Pacific Northwest

# SEMIAHMOO NEWS

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## STAFF DIRECTORY

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Board of Directors - [board@srahoa.com](mailto:board@srahoa.com)



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**April Hashimoto**



It is that time of year that many of us dare to hope that spring weather is around the corner and turn our thoughts to making gardening plans, getting back out on the golf course, seeing our neighbors who have returned from down south, and enjoying walks around Semiahmoo without a raincoat, among many other activities.

Our SRA maintenance crew has been busy in spring cleaning mode. In addition to the routine maintenance activities, sprinklers have been tested and repaired, parks have been re-seeded, and exterior areas at entry gates have been cleared and mulch has been laid. Leroy continues to sweep the streets monthly using the SRA streetsweeper that some time ago has more than paid back its original cost due to the savings of not outsourcing street sweeping services. Owning our own streetsweeper allows SRA to control the schedule and timing of street sweeping as well as sweep right after windstorms, instead of waiting for expensive outsourced services to be available. The Board thanks Leroy and his crew for all their hard work and the money they save the membership by doing high quality work in-house instead of using more expensive outside services.

On March 17, 2024 the Environmental Committee held a St Patrick's Day cleaning event and had a green-themed sign cleaning event where volunteers cleaned green slime from the signs along the roadways of Semiahmoo, including Semiahmoo Drive, Semiahmoo Parkway, Drayton Harbor Road, Bald Eagle Drive, Wood Duck Loop, Snowy Owl Lane, Harlequin Court, Goshawk Drive, Peregrine Drive, and Osprey Drive. A big thank you to the Environmental Committee and all the volunteers who contributed their time and sweat to making our community look so much better!

On March 23, 2024, the SRA Board of Directors hosted a Town Hall at the Semiahmoo Golf and Country Club. We had a turnout of approximately 45 members and covered a wide range of topics. The staff is compiling the action items from the Town Hall for review and approval by the Board. A second Town Hall is being planned for June with an exact date and location to be announced soon. Thank you to Aaron, Lori and Justine for spending their Saturday running the Town Hall and to Jeff and the staff at the Great Blue Heron for their hospitality and for setting up the Palmer Room to host our event.

On March 30, 2024, the SRA Special General Meeting was held to announce that the membership had voted to approve the additional unbudgeted cost of insurance of \$71,282 without any corresponding additional membership dues. This allowed the SRA to pay for the full amount of remaining insurance premium for 2024 and avoid paying financing fees. The Board is carefully managing the 2024 budget to ensure that all services that were planned for 2024 will still be delivered despite the higher insurance costs. Thank you to the Elections Committee and staff for managing the voting process and to all the members who voted and thereby ensured continuous insurance coverage over SRA assets.

As always, it has been a busy time in Semiahmoo and I extend my gratitude to all the staff, volunteers and members who work tirelessly to keep our community a great place to live.

## GENERAL MANAGER'S NOTE



Aaron Hasson

The first quarter of the year has passed and financially, the budget looks strong. There are no major concerns about spending so far and we are on target as we move into the second quarter. Preparation of the 2025 budget is in full swing and the General Manager, Maintenance Director, and the Finance Committee are working together to get figures needed to finalize it. HOA Dues statements for the second half of the year will be out in July. If you haven't already signed up for ACH / auto pay from your bank account, please contact the office directly and we can help you through that process. More information will be sent out as we get closer to the July date.

Spring is in full bloom and the Maintenance team has started the clean up process throughout the community. Mulch has been put down and flowers are being ordered and planted to make the entry gates look their very best. Leroy, Mike and Raz work very hard to keep things in motion around the community and we are very lucky to have them as part of the SRA team. As we get into the summer, we will hire some extra help for them to keep up with the workload demand. Leroy will continue to street sweep through the summer, and we will post a note on SRA weekly as to when he will be around. Please help him out by removing your cars from the street and reminding your personal landscape teams not to blow debris out into the street. All homeowners are responsible for disposal of their own yard waste.

For those who have been away for the winter, we look forward to your return for the summer season.

## MAINTENANCE CORNER

In March and April, the Maintenance team accomplished the tasks listed below.

- Swept all SRA roads.
- Cleaned gated entries, parks and traffic circles from winter debris to get them ready for spring.
- Ordered plants and prepped flower beds for spring planting, including mulching at all gates.
- Tested all irrigation backflow devices as required by the City of Blaine.
- Continued painting around the neighborhoods as needed.
- Started mowing and landscape control routine as weather permits.
- Reseeded bare spots in parks and lawns.
- Set crushed limestone and rocks in common areas as needed.

Upcoming tasks listed below.

- Sweep all SRA roads.
- Finish painting all fences and fence posts, weather permitting.
- Remove, repair and paint gates for Aerie, Prestwick.
- Prepare for spring / Summer maintenance of ponds and park areas.
- Reinstall irrigation pipe on the west side of the Boundary Ridge entrance.
- Work on getting vehicle gross weight reduced for purchase of dump truck for daily needs and to add to our snowplow fleet.

# GETTING THINGS DONE

## **Board**

- Held a Town Hall Meeting March 23, 2024.
- Held the Special General Meeting March 30, 2024.
- Approved an application for a new member the Environmental Committee.
- Discussed, and approved revisions to Committee Charters.
- Provided feedback to ASC on proposed changes to the Standards for Home Construction.
- Held a hearing for a member and determined that there was no violation and member can proceed with project.

## **Committees**

- Environmental Committee held sign clean up and litter pick up events.
- Architectural Standards Committee held regularly scheduled meetings.
- Safety and Security Committee submitted Speed Calming letter to Blaine City Council.



# UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

May 22, 2024 Regular Meeting

June 19, 2024 Regular Meeting

July 24, 2024 Regular Meeting

August 21, 2024 Regular Meeting

# SEMIAHMOO LIVING

By Doug Woods

## **The Camaraderie We Find In Semiahmoo**

*“The spirit of friendship and community in a group. A feeling of trust, a bond created by a shared goal or experience.”*

Probably the most startling observations we noticed while taking our first walks through the neighborhoods of Semiahmoo were that everyone passing in a car waved and those walking smiled, said hello, and stopped to have a friendly chat. We were astonished by the impressive backgrounds of everyone we met and how down to earth, humble, and interested they seemed – appreciating all the community has to offer. Nobody seemed in a hurry, a big change from where we lived prior to coming to Semiahmoo. After six years none of that has changed and we often comment to each other, and friends living elsewhere, how unique this place really is.

It was easy to make new friends here. People spend time in their yards, neighbors bring soup or stew at the slightest provocation, not a holiday passes without an invitation to share dinner, a neighbor unexpectedly showing up at the front door with a bottle of wine on a warm summer evening. When a partner is lost or ill, the caring concern from acquaintances we may not even know well, is amazing. We’ve never experienced this, to this degree, anywhere we’ve lived during our 44 years together.

People here are friendly, active, caring, and engaged. There’s a wide variety of pursuits in which to be involved, whether it’s pickleball, golf, skiing, hiking, fishing, crabbing, birdwatching, volunteering, or enjoying art and artists. There’s a wide variety of things to enjoy, and always someone in proximity that has the same interests, making it easy to find a friend with whom to share the adventure.

I believe this environment is rare, due in large part to the close connection to nature our community provides, and importantly, protects. As I write this, I’m sitting on my patio enjoying a beautiful sunset and listening to the sweet voices of countless songbirds reminding me of what’s important, free of traffic noise, and taking in the fresh, clean air off the Puget Sound.

I appreciate daily, what a wonderful vision David Syre, the original developer, had when he created Semiahmoo. A vision that has been promulgated over the years through good governance by vigilant volunteers that have stepped up and selflessly given their time and energy to keep the community on a solid path.

Getting back to the original theme of this note; much comradery, pleasure, and pride, can be found in working with others in the community, be it on a committee, a charity, a neighborhood HOA, or the SRA Board, to help navigate the community through interesting, yet surmountable challenges, and in the end, to add color to the character and personality of Semiahmoo. To that end, I add my sincere thanks to all that have helped make Semiahmoo one of the most inspiring places on earth to live.

# INTO THE WILD

## **What Can We Do In Semiahmoo to Reduce Our Carbon Footprint and Enhance Our Environment?**

### By the Environmental Committee

One option is to address the harmful effects of light pollution, which is the alteration of naturally occurring outdoor light. Excessive artificial light causes habitat disruptions of birds, insects and other wildlife. Migratory patterns of birds, who navigate by moonlight and the stars, are being altered. This has led to the demise of millions of birds that are cherished by our residents.

Many studies have revealed the negative effect light pollution has on human health, including increased risks for sleep disorders, depression, obesity and heart disease. (Reference: American Medical Association) Light pollution can include the following:

- “Glare” is excessive brightness causing visual discomfort.
- “Sky Glow” is the massive orange light reflections from high density areas such as cities.
- “Light Trespass” is light projecting where it is not intended nor required to go.
- “Clutter” is bright and excessive grouping of different types of light sources.

Dark Sky.com states: *“From a practical standpoint switching off unnecessary lights is the most economical and effective method to reduce light pollution in a given area.”*

There are specific rules in place for our community regarding light intensity and light trespassing. Briefly, the **ASC Standard for Construction 2.21**, which can be found on the SRA website, has the following guidelines.

- Exterior lighting used to accent architectural or landscape features must be shielded and directed to only illuminate said features and should minimize spill into the night sky.
- Lighting fixtures shall not generate excessive light levels, cause glare, or shine on neighboring properties or the sky.
- The maximum illumination of any vertical surface or angular roof surface in dark surroundings shall not exceed three (3) foot-candles (32.28 lumens or 2 watts). The maximum illumination of any horizontal or vertical surface or angular roof surface in light surroundings shall not exceed five (5) foot-candles (53.8 lumens or 4 watts).
- Flags may be illuminated from below if lighting is focused primarily on the individual flag(s) to limit light trespass and spill into the night sky.
- Except as otherwise provided, all exterior lighting shall be indirect. “Indirect” shall mean having its light source shielded and not visible from adjacent sites, common areas or streets.
- Although indirect lighting is preferred, limited direct lighting may be acceptable for decoration and accent.
- Light bulbs used in exterior light fixtures must be in the “Warm White” color temperature range.

Let’s also eliminate the use of unnecessary lighting during the daytime and turn off lights in unoccupied rooms. These common-sense actions are promoted by all energy providers throughout the country. Our natural nighttime environment should be something we should conserve and enjoy. Star gazing is becoming a lost art. We should strive to reveal the beauty of the Semiahmoo night sky!

# DID YOU KNOW...?

## Happy Spring!!!

It certainly does not take much to have full foliated trees in a matter of days and it is majestic to see that vivid green announcing a new season. In case you are considering landscaping changes in the front or backyard of your residence, we encourage you to follow the link below which gives you guidelines for your project.

[Landscaping Standards.](#)

There have been important changes and updates for owners of vacant lots, please refer to [Lot Maintenance Guidelines.](#)

Last winter was not kind to some of our evergreens and perennials, some of us lost a number of beautiful azaleas, rhododendrons, lilacs and some trees. If you are thinking about pruning or replacing them, please check [Tree Management Guidelines](#) to be informed.

Do not hesitate to contact the ASC if you need further assistance regarding your project.



## LEMON RICOTTA PANCAKES



Lemon Ricotta Pancakes are fluffy, tender pancakes that are elevated to a whole new level. The ricotta adds protein and a lightness that is absolutely divine while the lemon gives a bit of a tangy taste that you are going to love!

Prep Time: 5 min | Cook Time: 10 minutes | Yield: 12 pancakes

### **Ingredients**

1 1/2 cups flour  
2 Tablespoons sugar  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1 Tablespoon baking powder  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1 cup milk  
2 large eggs  
1/2 cup ricotta  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
Juice of one lemon and zest

### **Preparation**

1. In a medium sized bowl whisk the flour, sugar, baking soda, powder and salt.
2. In another medium sized bowl add the milk, eggs, ricotta, vanilla, lemon juice and zest.
3. Combine the wet ingredients with the dry ingredients.
4. Preheat a skillet over medium heat. Spray with cooking spray and drop about 1/4 cup of the batter onto the warm skillet. Once it forms bubbles then flip to the other side and cook until golden brown.

### **Ingredients**

1/2 cup sugar  
1 Tablespoon cornstarch  
1/2 cup water  
1 Tablespoon lemon juice  
2 cups fresh blueberries

## BLUEBERRY SYRUP

Prep Time: 5 min | Cook Time: 10 minutes | Yield: 8 servings

### **Preparation**

1. In a medium saucepan add sugar, cornstarch, water and lemon juice and whisk. Bring to a boil over medium high heat and add the blueberries
2. Simmer from 4-5 minutes until the blueberries burst and it starts to thicken. Remove from heat and serve.

\*\*Frozen blueberries will work too.

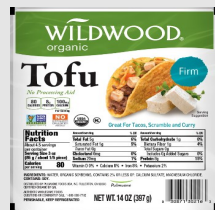


## Kentucky Fried Tofu (aka KFT) by Jennifer Plombon

I know; you don't like tofu. It's mushy, it's soft and it doesn't fry up crispy ... but what if it did? What if it was as tasty as a piece of KFC? Read on ...

### **Prepare your tofu.**

After research and tinkering, I've developed a way to make tofu chewy, firm, not mushy, and capable of frying up crisp. The key is getting the water out. Freezing changes the molecular structure of tofu, making it more porous and releasing the water within. More porous and drier tofu will absorb some oil as it's fried and it will get crispy. You need 1 package (either 12, 14 or 16 oz.) of FIRM or EXTRA FIRM tofu. Not Silken tofu, and not the kind in a box; it should be in a plastic container with a bit of water or in a plastic envelope-type package; here are some good ones.



Remove block of tofu from package and set on its side. With a long sharp knife, slice the block horizontally into 3 slabs. Set each slab on a piece of parchment paper or waxed paper and slide into a ziplock bag large enough to hold each slab flat and separate from the others. Squeeze out the air and lay the bag in your freezer. Freeze for at least 3 days or as long as you wish; it keeps frozen indefinitely. The morning of the day you plan to cook it, remove bag from freezer and set on a cookie sheet (metal conducts the cold away) to thaw. It will take several hours. Once it is completely thawed (there should be no frozen middle), remove the slabs from the bag and set each in your kitchen sink. Pressing very firmly on each slab with your hand, moving your hand all around the slab, press out as much water as possible. Amazing how much comes out! Press and turn the slabs until you've gotten as much water out as possible. Set slabs on a plate until ready to cook.

### **KFC Seasoning**

- 2 tsp dried thyme
- 2 tsp dried basil or marjoram
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- 1 tsp celery salt
- 1 tsp ground black pepper
- 1 Tb dry mustard
- 4 Tb sweet smoked paprika
- 1 Tb garlic powder
- 1 Tb ground ginger
- 1 Tb ground white pepper
- 2 tsp salt or MSG (Ac'cent®)

### **Prepare your seasoning.**

Years ago I found a recipe claiming to be the seasoning mix used by KFC. Since I haven't tasted real KFC since I was a kid, I can't verify that; but it is very spicy and delicious; decide for yourself if it's accurate.

Combine in a bowl with a whisk. Keeps indefinitely. Shake or stir well before using.

You can make either KFC-style sandwiches or nuggets. For sandwiches, keep the slabs as is; they'll fit perfectly in a bun or hero-type roll. For nuggets, cut the slabs into 1" or 2" squares. Combine 3 Tb of seasoning with 2 Tb of cornstarch or white rice flour in a large ziplock bag for 12 or 14 oz. of tofu; use 4 Tb of seasoning and 2 1/2 Tb of cornstarch or white rice flour for 16 oz. of tofu. Shake well to combine. Add 1 slab or 5-6 nuggets to the bag of seasonings and shake gently to coat the pieces. Continue with all pieces and set aside until all are seasoned.

Fill a large frying pan or wok with sufficient unflavored, high-heat-stable oil (I recommend peanut oil) to reach halfway up the pieces of tofu. Fry over medium heat, turning once, until browned and crispy, frying in batches if needed to fit the pan. Enjoy as a sandwich with lettuce, mayo, pickles, onion slices, etc., or as nuggets with the dips of your choice.

# UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

## BIRCH BAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Visit the Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce to read about the many events they have planned throughout the summer. Link is below.

<https://birchbaychamber.com/events/>

Each year brings many visitors to the Kite Festival, Sand Sculpture Competition, Car Shows and more!

## CITY OF BLAINE

You don't need to travel far to be entertained all summer long! Here is a link to the City of Blaine's event page.

<https://www.blainechamber.com/annual-events/>

If you have never been to Blaine's Old Fashioned 4th of July Celebration, you need to know that Blaine is the place to be on Independence Day!



## MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH AT THE SEMIAHMOO RESORT



**Brunch by the Sea Sunday, May 12 at 10 am to 1 pm.**

Semiahmoo is the ultimate destination to celebrate the mother's in your life—or yourself. Join us for an unforgettable Mother's Day celebration with our Brunch by the Sea - a family friendly brunch buffet set underneath our tent alongside Semiahmoo Bay featuring brunch favorites including a variety of quiches, salads, buttermilk pancake bat, challah French toast, frittatas, mimosa flights, and more!

Seating is limited so make your reservation now!

Adults | \$55

Children 3 - 12 | \$15

Children 2 and under | Free

## SEMAIHMUO SIPS: WINE TASTING



Join us outside the Semiahmoo Wine Cellar for Semiahmoo Sips! Our wine steward will pour samples of four different wines from our rotating menu paired with small bites. Feel free to walk the grounds and mingle, and then come back to grab your favorite bottle! As an added bonus, Semiahmoo Sips attendees receive 15% off their cellar bottle of choice. Cheers!

**Dates**

Every Friday & Saturday from 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

**Pricing**

\$25 per person

## TRIVIA WITH JACK

Put your knowledge to the test and enjoy your favorite drink and fun competition in the Palmer Room.

**Dates**

Every Friday & Saturday from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

**Pricing**

\$5 Buy in.



## WINO

### (WINE IS NOT OSTENTATIOUS)



Wednesday, May 15, 5:30 to 7:00 pm.

If you enjoy a good Grenache, this is the tasting for you!

The Great Blue Heron will be pairing up 6 wines and taking them head to head!

**Dates**

Wednesday, May 15, 5:30 to 7:00 pm.

**Pricing**

\$30 Members \$40 Non-Members

## COMEDY NIGHT WITH JOHN CAPONERA!

Come join us at the Great Blue Heron Grill for a Comedy night with John Caponera on Friday, May 31 from 7 pm to 9 pm.

**Dates**

Friday, May 31, 7:00 to 9:00 pm.

**Pricing**

\$25 Members \$30 Non-Members

