

Semiahmoo: A Premier Residential Resort Community in the Pacific Northwest

SEMIAHMOO NEWS

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STAFF DIRECTORY

General Manager - Aaron Hasson - 360-371-7796 ext. 3 gm@srahoa.com

Architectural Standards Administrator - Carroll Ballard - 360-371-7796 ext.1 ascadmin@srahoa.com

Office Administrator - Lori Thorne - 360-371-7796 ext. 2 lori@srahoa.com

Administrative Assistant - Elisa Claassen - 360-371-7796 elisa@srahoa.com

Maintenance Director - Leroy Dougall - 360-371-7796 ext. 5 maintenance@srahoa.com

Board of Directors - board@srahoa.com



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

April Hashimoto



Earlier this year, the SRA Board held two planning meetings at which we agreed our priorities for the year. One goal is to improve the efficiency of the board committees, and another is to find ways to increase volunteer participation on committees. These are initiatives that are in addition to the Board's core focus on maintaining the assets of SRA through the prudent and responsible use of SRA resources, including the dues we collect from the membership.

The Board has several initiatives underway to improve the efficiency of committees so that committees can be focused on accomplishing goals in an efficient manner with less bureaucracy. This allows volunteers to spend more of their donated time on value-adding activities. The Board is reviewing the committee charter process, meeting procedures and the SRA By-laws to identify opportunities for efficiencies. Our goal is to have committees work on activities that are productive and benefit the membership, while being respectful of the time that volunteers are giving to our community.

I am pleased to report that we have had more new volunteers on committees in 2024 than ever before. A properly constituted Governance Committee was formed for the first time at SRA. This new eight-person committee assists the Board with identifying where SRA governing documents are not compliant with Washington state law. SRA committees started meeting in 2024 with new volunteers including one new member on the Finance Committee, one new member on the Maintenance Committee, two new members on the Landscape Sub-committee, two new members on the Environment Committee and two new members on the Elections Committee. In addition, we have welcomed an additional three new members to the ASC. If you are interested in helping out our community while meeting your neighbors, please contact the SRA office and talk to Lori Thorne.

Everyone who attended the last Town Hall would have been impressed by the hard work done by the SRA Safety & Security Committee on emergency preparedness and evacuation plans. There are many resources available and a lot of very useful and practical information has been posted on the SRA website.

The Board and staff have also been busy finding ways to stay within the 2024 budget and avoid a special assessment after being hit with a large unexpected increase in insurance premiums, all without compromising on the work planned for the year. Our SRA staff deserve much of the credit for finding savings as our General Manager, Aaron Hasson, was able to identify and recover \$35,000 in deposits that were owed to SRA and our Maintenance Director, Leroy Dougall, has saved over \$20,000 in 2024 and will save us over \$50,000 in 2025 by continuing to operate and maintain the SRA street sweeper. Leroy and his staff also raked out and spread mulch at SRA gates and planted the summer annuals with help from the landscape sub-committee, saving the membership the higher cost of outsourcing this work.

I know many members join me in wanting to focus on our HOA finances. Helping the SRA recover and get on a path to stronger financial footing was my motivation for running to join the Board in 2023. The cash balance at SRA of over \$1 million at the end of 2018 had depleted to \$774,420 at the end of 2022. As an aging HOA, SRA needs to be building its reserves, not depleting them. I am pleased to report that the SRA was able to end 2023 with \$850,774 in cash, increasing our cash balance for the first time in the last 5 years. This was done without compromising on quality or quantity of work planned and completed. It was achieved through eliminating unnecessary spending in the 2023 budget and our SRA staff identifying opportunities for savings by performing work themselves in-house instead of supervising or monitoring third parties who have been contracted to do work at a higher cost. (Continued on page 3.)

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

Year ending:	SRA Cash	
December 31, 2018:	\$1,033,346	
December 31, 2019:	\$959,738	
December 31, 2020:	\$964,219	
December 31, 2021:	\$887,138	
December 31, 2022:	\$774,420	
December 31, 2023:	\$850,774	Achieved by eliminating unnecessary expenditures from 2023 budget, carrying out maintenance work in-house and banking the surplus.

The drafting of the 2024 budget is underway and the Board will apply a disciplined approach when reviewing the 2025 budget to ensure SRA cash is managed carefully and responsibly.

Finally, the SRA Board has written a letter to the City of Blaine and Whatcom County expressing our concerns about the Avista at Birch Bay Point proposed development (formerly called Semiahmoo Highlands). This letter is posted on the SRA website. There are a number of serious issues that will impact Semiahmoo. I encourage everyone to be aware of the developments in the surrounding area and to get involved if there are issues that concern you.

On behalf of the SRA Board, I wish everyone a fun and happy summer in Semiahmoo!

At the Semiahmoo Golf & Country Club in June, 2024.



GENERAL MANAGER'S NOTE

The first half 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 half of the year. Preparation of the 2025 budget is into its first draft for the Finance Committee to review. The General Manager, Maintenance Director, and the Finance Committee have been meeting these past few weeks to get the numbers finalized so the Board can review and vote on it in late July. After that time, the Board will hold a Town Hall meeting to discuss the budget, what it means for 2025, and answer questions from homeowners. The timing of this Town Hall will be in the first part of August and exact information will be sent out in the coming weeks.



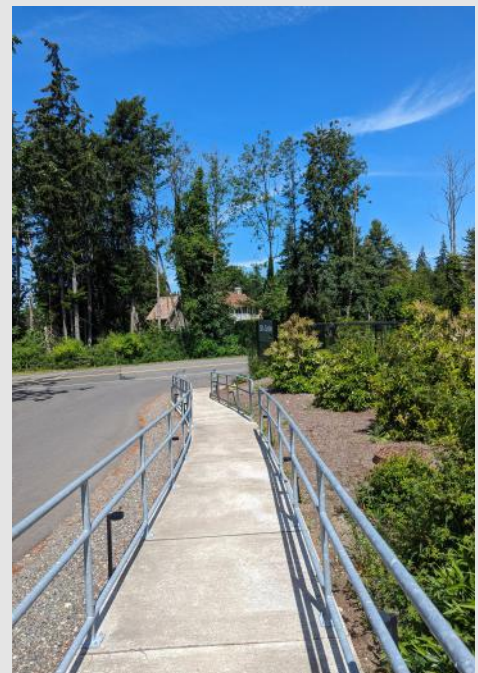
Aaron Hasson

HOA Dues statements for the second half of the year are being sent out around July 10, 2024. Payments will be due by August 8, 2024. 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. Also included on your statement will be your new gate code. Please remember to review the statement / code so you will be able to access entry into your gate.

Leroy and his team, Mike, Raz and Kieren, have been very busy finishing the planting of all the flowers at the gate entrances and are now managing the continued maintenance of these areas. We also want to thank the homeowners who helped the team with the planting.

We hope that everyone had a safe and fun 4th of July.

Please do not hesitate to contact the office if you have any questions or comments or concerns.



Dues are Due

If you have not already, you should receive your dues invoice soon. To see your full invoice and the new gate code, you must either print the attached invoice or click on View Details, and then on View Invoice. The new gate code will be in the middle of the invoice. Neighborhood gate codes will change on July 31, 2024.



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Mark your calendar to attend in person or via Zoom

July 24, 2024 Regular Meeting

August 21, 2024 Regular Meeting

September 18, 2024 Regular Meeting

October 16, 2024 Regular Meeting

Next Town Hall Meetings TBA—August, 2024



Boundary Ridge Park and scenery—June, 2024 (Pix: Elisa Claassen)

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

MEET ANDREW TENIS SEMIAHMOO INN GM

(SUBMITTED BY KATHY STAUFFER)



With a rich background in hospitality and a unique upbringing, Tennis brings a fresh perspective and dynamic leadership to this beloved destination.

A Life Shaped by Service and Heritage

Andrew Tennis grew up as an Army brat, moving frequently due to his father's 26-year military career, which culminated in the rank of Lt. Colonel. Despite this nomadic lifestyle, Colorado Springs, Colorado became a significant part of his childhood. His father's extraordinary life, born in Latvia during World War II, and later serving multiple tours in Vietnam after immigrating to the United States, instilled in Andrew a profound sense of resilience and purpose. "He guided and suggested to me to choose a career that positively impacts lives," Andrew reflects. This guidance, combined with nostalgic connection to hospitality — his father and grandfather both worked as bellmen in Duluth, MN — set the stage for his career.

A Journey Through the World of Hospitality

Andrew's passion for hospitality was ignited during his time at The Broadmoor, a historic property where he worked alongside people from around the globe. This exposure to diverse cultures and the influence of gracious leaders such as Stephen Bartolin, the General Manager who took time to mentor him, solidified his career choice. Over the years, Andrew has amassed experience in luxury and high-volume event properties across the United States, including notable stints at The Broadmoor, Aspen Meadows Resort, Ritz-Carlton Aspen Highlands, and several major venues in Las Vegas, Palm Springs, and Montana.

For the past four years, Andrew has been with Columbia Hospitality, marking his first venture into the family-friendly environment at Semiahmoo. His impressive resume reflect a blend of high standards and a commitment to creating memorable experiences for guests and staff alike.

Passion for Hospitality

What excites Andrew most about hospitality? "Building teams, creating special moments for guests and staff alike, and taking on difficult projects and seeing the positive results over time — these are what I love most about my work," he shares. This passion drives his vision for Semiahmoo and fuels his determination to elevate the property to new heights.

Vision and Goals for Semiahmoo

Andrew's strategic goals for The Inn at Semiahmoo are both ambitious and heartfelt. His primary objective is to increase occupancy, which will enable the necessary funding for capital improvements and repairs to the property's physical structure. Additionally, he is dedicated to team building, enhancing the workplace culture, and fostering a stronger sense of community. Despite being at the helm for just eight weeks (at the time of the interview), Andrew is already making strides in these areas.

"My goal is to make Semiahmoo better than the best days it has already seen," Andrew declares. He said he envisions a future where Semiahmoo is a cherished destination for generations to come, a place where guests create lasting memories and special moments. Achieving this vision will require time, training, funds, and a significant team effort, but Andrew is confident that with community support, Semiahmoo can achieve unparalleled success.

Looking Forward

As Andrew Tennis embarks on this new chapter at The Inn at Semiahmoo, his blend of experience, passion, and a deep-rooted commitment to service promises to usher in a new era of excellence. With his leadership, Semiahmoo is poised to not only reclaim its former glory but surpass it, becoming a beacon of hospitality and a cherished retreat for all who visit.

INTO THE WILD

BY JENNIFER PLOMBON FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

The State of Trees in Our State....

As climate change brings hotter hots, colder colds (remember the extreme cold this past winter?) drier dries and fierce rains, our iconic Pacific Northwest trees are suffering. Some examples are below:

Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*); our most iconic species, they are dying due to a combination of drought and insect pests. Tree-killing insects can sense a tree in distress before there are outward signs, and will begin to attack the weakened trees. A strong healthy tree resists attack; a weakened one cannot.

Western Red Cedar (*Thuja plicata*); we have many magnificent examples in Semiahmoo. They are dying off at low elevations, due to drought conditions, and you can see the brown tips of the branches when you walk around Semiahmoo. Since drought conditions are expected to worsen, these cedars may no longer thrive here.

Western Hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*); not as common as the above-listed trees, Western Hemlocks are found in shady undisturbed areas such as the woods down by Drayton Harbor. They too, are suffering drought-induced problems but even worse, the Hemlock Looper Moth is killing thousands of hemlocks in B.C. and is moving southwards.

Bigleaf Maple (*Acer macrophyllum*); this tree is big in every way; big leaves, big seeds, huge and interesting trunks. With its big leaves, it's easy to see the Powdery mildew (a fungus) coating the leaves in white. It's unsightly but not usually damaging to the tree. However, a large enough infestation can cause the tree to lose so many leaves it cannot produce enough food for itself; if there are climate-induced stresses as well, the trees can suffer.

Other trees showing damage from extreme heat include Noble Firs (*Abies procera*), often grown for Christmas trees, and other true firs and spruces.

It's impossible to water all our trees and kill all the insect pests, but we can all do things we already know to do to combat climate change (see millions of articles!)

Tree news to make you smile: imagine my delight when I discovered a Giant Redwood (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) growing in a yard in Semiahmoo! Yes, THE Giant Redwood of California fame. I stood for many long minutes doubting my own eyes before I dared approach and study it. It's still just a youngster but stunningly beautiful and I have no idea how it got here. **Challenge: Your job is to find it and marvel at it.** *Hints: it looks similar to this and is on a street named after a raptor. Good luck!*





BLUE CHEESE & APPLE BRUSCHETTA

A nice easy snack for entertaining or for yourself on the deck. Recipe from the Great Blue Heron Grill at Semiahmoo Golf Club.

Prep Time: 5 min | Cook Time: 5-7 minutes | Yield: 1 toast

Ingredients

1 baguette
3-4 TB olive oil
6-8 oz blue cheese crumbles (Whatcom Bleu from local Twin Sister's Creamery is great)
1 large Honeycrisp apple, thinly sliced
2 TB honey
1/4 cup chopped toasted walnuts
1 small bundle of fresh herbs (parsley, chives, basil)

Preparation

1. Slice the baguette into about 3/4 inch thick slices, then brush both sides with olive oil.
2. Lightly grill on both side (or toast in the oven at 350 deg F.).
3. Once the bread is toasted, top each piece with a couple of slices of apple, then a small spoonful of the crumbled cheese.



UPCOMING EVENTS: SEMIAHMOO

BEACH BBQ



Join us outside the Resort in the patio for a return of summer fun with music and food.

Dates

Fridays, Aug. 1, 29 from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Pricing

\$35 adults/\$15 child 12 & under

SEAFOOD BROIL

Back out to the beautiful patio for seafood and more delicious seafood.

Dates

July 19, Aug.16, Sept. 6 from 5:30 –8:30 p.m.

Pricing

The cost is \$40 adults/\$15 child 12 & under



MUSIC ON THE LAWN



Live music on the lawn at the Resort. Time for date nights or families to gather, enjoy the sun, and the sounds.

Dates

Thursdays during the summer at 5-7 p.m.

Pricing

Free

SUNSET AND BIOLUMINESCENCE TOURS

Come and experience magic in the water. Kayak rental available on the beach from www.dragonflykayaktours.com. Contact the Semiahmoo Resort Concierge for more details. Sunset Tours also available.

Dates

Saturday & Sunday 10 a.m.– 6 p.m.

Pricing

Contact concierge Free



SEMIAHMOO 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

Group size up to 35.

Pricing

\$25 per person

TRIVIA

Put your knowledge to the test and enjoy your favorite drink and fun competition in the Palmer Room. Upcoming July 10 and July 24.

Dates

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

Pricing

\$5 Buy in



GUIDED BIRD TOUR



Join Phil from the Resort staff every Saturday at 2 p.m. for a guided bird tour of shore-birds and more. Groups up to 30 meet in the Resort lobby. All ages welcome. Binoculars available for guests on a first-come, first-served basis.

Dates

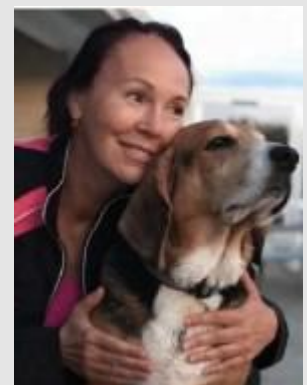
Every Saturday at 2 p.m.

Pricing

Free

ART AT THE BLUE HERON

Meet the Artist: Galina Lintz—Her work goes on display for July on the 3rd. For more information, see galinalintzpaintings.com. “I am a self-taught oil painter living in Oahu, Hawaii. I enjoy painting in a realistic style so that my canvases evoke emotions that allow my soul to travel. I focus my attention to detail and vibrant use of light and color to capture nature’s awe-inspiring beauty. My passion for the natural world is evident in every dreamlike work of art I create...”



UPCOMING EVENTS: BIRCH BAY AND BLAINE

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/>

Sand Sculpture Competition – Saturday, August 3 at Birch Bay Beach Park – Registration at 8 a.m. and judging at approximately 2 p.m. Categories for small children, kids 13 and under, duos and trios, small groups of nine or less, and larger groups of 10 or more. <https://birchbaywa.org/birch-bay-sand-sculpture-competition/>

Rollback Weekend Car Show – Sunday, August 4 at Birch Bay Beach Park from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Registration is \$20 per car in advance or \$25 the day of the event. Space is limited. <https://birchbaywa.org/birch-bay-rollback-weekend/>
National Night Out – Tuesday, August 6 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the BP Heron Center at 7290 Birch Bay Drive in Birch Bay State Park.

CITY OF BLAINE

Blaine Harbor Music Festival – Sunday, July 7, 2024 through Saturday, July 13 – Six exciting days of rehearsals, combos, improv, composition, and other great classes for teens with an internationally recognized faculty culminating in a jazz concert featuring student big bands, combos and vocal groups – and visiting jazz artists. Sponsored by the Pacific Arts Association.

Saturday Market by the Sea – Saturdays weekly from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the G Street Plaza – free.

The Wave En Blanc Evening – Friday, July 26, 2024 – 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. – Blaine Arts Council and area artists for fun and festive fundraising events by the marina with drinks, fabulous food, music and merriment. Funds raised will go to funding an art gallery in Blaine. Dress code is white from head to toe. \$40 in advance or \$50 day of event. Location at Blaine Boating Center. <https://www.blaineartscouncil.org/>

The Blaine Arts Council presents a Juried Art Festival – Sunday, July 28, 2024 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Engage with local artists at this festive event in the Blaine Marine Park. Food trucks and music onsite. Free. <https://www.blaineartscouncil.org/>

Drayton Harbor Maritime Festival - Saturday and Sunday, August 3 and 4 between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. Street Fair and Maritime Celebration. A two-day weekend event packed with kids' games, crafts, scavenger hunt, the Prestigious George Raft Race, pirate costume judging contest, arts, crafts and food vendors, vintage steam boats and more. Free shuttle between Birch Bay's Sand Sculpture event and Drayton Harbor Maritime Festival. Departure times from the Water Treatment/Birch Bay Beach Park.



UPCOMING EVENTS: BELLINGHAM

Kayak the Cove Tour – Starting Friday, June 14 on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday through September 15 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. or 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Guided sea kayaking in Larrabee State Park meeting in Wildcat Cove. Basic paddling instructions before heading out in kayaks to see shoreline, harbor seals, bald eagles, and other local sea mammals. Fee. <https://moondancekayak.com/>

Downtown Sounds— Celebrating 20 years of Downtown Sounds in 2024 at 1300 Bay Street in the closed-off street. Wednesdays, July 10 –August 7. from 5:30 to 9 p.m. with openings bands at 6-7 p.m. and headline bands at 7:30—9 p.m. General entry is free. Food trucks available. For 21-plus crowd, beer, wine, and cider garden.



Elizabeth Park Concert Series – Thursday nights from 6-8 p.m. Park is at 2205 Elizabeth Street west of Meridian Street. Free. Sponsor is City of Bellingham Parks & Recreation.

- **July 4:** Mary Ellen Lykins and the CC Adams Band – Tasty Rock & Cookin’ Blues
- **July 11:** Flattery – Sweet Celtic Melodies with Driving Rhythms
- **July 18:** Dana Lyons – Americana, Singer-Songwriter
- **July 25:** Sweet Goodbyes – Folk/Pop
- **August 1:** Brie Mueller Band – Top 40-Pop, Blues, Country, Rock
- **August 8:** Millie and The Mentshn – Klezmer and World Music
- **August 15:** Unknowns – Jazz, Blues & Sultry Vocals
- **August 22:** bandZandt – The East County’s favorite dance band

Sucia Island Day Aventures – Every week on Thursdays and Saturdays until September 28 through Island Opportunity Charters. Meet at 10 a.m. at 2505 N. Harbor Loop (Gate 7) at Squalicum Harbor. Admission is \$135 for adults.

See Bellingham.org for additional information and community events at breweries, the waterfront, Allied Arts, Mount Baker Theatre, night clubs, Whatcom Museum, Firehouse Arts & Events, Cordata Gallery, City of Bellingham Parks concerts,