

Semiahmoo: A Premier Residential Resort Community in the Pacific Northwest

# SEMIAHMOO NEWS

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## GENERAL MANAGER'S NOTE

We are headed into the last quarter of 2024 and financially, the budget looks strong. There are no major concerns about spending so far, and we are on target as we reach towards the end of the year. The 2025 budget has been finalized and presented to the membership in a Town Hall presentation on August 17. There were good questions and discussions during the Town Hall. The Board will be voting in September to approve the 2025 budget with a 3% increase in dues, and include it in the ballot process for membership vote and ratification.



Aaron Hasson

HOA Dues for the second half of the year are currently being collected with less than 1% of the membership yet to pay. If you have not paid your dues, please be sure to contact the SRA office at 360-371-7796 to make arrangements and avoid late or interest fees being placed on your account.

The next newsletter in November, 2024 will have information on the outcome of membership votes on the budget, proposed CC&R amendments, and Board elections, as well as AGM highlights. The AGM is scheduled for Saturday, October 26 at 10:00 am at the Blaine Senior Center. We hope to see everyone there.

Leroy and his maintenance crew have worked diligently this summer to keep things buttoned up around Semiahmoo. Thanks to the team for the hard work they do to keep the community clean and looking good. We are very lucky to have them. Leroy will continue to street sweep through the rest of the summer and into the fall, and we will post a note on the 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 for Leroy to clean up when he sweeps.

We hope everyone had a great summer and enjoyed the amazing Pacific Northwest weather we all look forward to. Please do not hesitate to contact the office if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

## MAINTENANCE CORNER

### What Has Been Accomplished

- Swept all SRA roads usually during the last week of the month.
- Cleaned gated entries, flower beds, parks, and traffic circles on a rotational basis to keep everything growing and staying green.
- Continued painting and touch ups around the neighborhoods as needed.
- Installed new community signs in five communities.
- Re-seeded bare spots in parks and lawns.
- Painted fences and fence posts as time permitted.

### Upcoming Tasks By Maintenance:

- Sweep all SRA Roads.
- Finish painting all fences and fence posts, weather permitting.
- Remove, repair and paint gates for The Aerie and Drayton Hillside.
- Prepare for winter maintenance of ponds, irrigation systems, and parks.
- Clean up gates for the fall and winter season.



The SRA street sweeper being cleaned.

## DID YOU KNOW?



Budget Town Hall photo by Darcee Woods, Semiahmoo Greeters . The Town Hall was held at the Palmer Room at the Great Blue Heron on August 17, 2024. It was recorded and can be watched on the SRA YouTube channel.

## **SEPT/OCT 2024 BOARD MEETINGS**

- **WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 18—AT 3 P.M.**
- **WEDNESDAY, OCT. 16 —AT 3 P.M.**

**JOIN THE ELECTED BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN PERSON OR VIA ZOOM TO LISTEN TO THE CONCERNS OF THE SEMIAHMOO COMMUNITY.**

## **SAVE THE DATE**

**2024 SRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OCTOBER 26, 10:00 A.M.  
BLAINE SENIOR CENTER**

**Did you know that last year the membership approved a CC&R amendment requiring the Board to hold Town Hall meetings with the membership four times each year? The primary purpose of these meetings is to exchange information and allow members to ask questions and receive answers from the Board. The meetings also provide an opportunity for members to interact with the Board, neighbors, and sometimes special guests. It is a great chance to personally inquire, communicate, and convey information that you consider to be important. These meetings help us all prepare for our Annual General Meeting.**

# COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

## Meet the Chief: Roger Funk of the Blaine Police

Submitted by Elisa Claassen (Based on a visit by the Chief to the NHOA meeting on June 6)

*“Do the right thing at the right time for the right reason.”*



Rodger Funk was one of 16 applicants for the position to head the police department in the City of Blaine. A panel of Blaine citizens, business owners, elected officials, and city staff were involved in the hiring process, according to mybellinghamnow.com.

Chief Funk started at the City of Blaine on March 25, 2024 after former Chief Donnell “Tank” Tanksley took office as the Whatcom County Sheriff. Funk came to the NHOA to introduce himself and take questions.

**One of the first orders of business of concern to the SRA community is speeding on Drayton Harbor Road. The chief said he has researched the matter with directions and time of day. He is also working jointly with the Whatcom County Sheriff’s Office personnel, which shares jurisdiction of that region, for coverage.**

**Another question was if fentanyl is a big concern for Blaine. Funk said he sees it as a bigger concern still in Bellingham, but overdoses still do occur in Blaine as well. He said people can get “hot batches” that they may not anticipate.**

**Another request was for who would replace the block watch officer for the Semiahmoo community as the current one is retiring. Funk said he is seeing who would be the best fit and would really enjoy doing the role.**

“I’m having a blast,” Rodger Funk said of his new role in Blaine.

Funk, as the first order of introduction, said he learned his work ethic at the age of 12 when he was fishing with family in Alaska’s Bering Sea, which required long hours, and he would stop working only to eat when his aunt would push a plate of food up to deck from the hold. He later spent a year in Germany at 16 to broaden his understanding of people and cultures.

Funk has a long history with Whatcom County. He met his wife in the first grade in the Bellingham School District. His foray into law enforcement started with a brief stint of several months on staff at the Skagit County Jail before he moved to the Whatcom County Sheriff’s Office for the next 28 years, he moved up the ranks into different roles and assignments from patrol into management.

One long-time assignment was as a motorcycle cop. Another was the on-site officer for Baker Lake in the eastern side of the county and worked alongside forestry personnel. Before his transition between departments he was the chief criminal deputy under prior Sheriff Elfo, and was the point of contact for media and public inquiries and oversaw professional standards. He also served as the Assistant Commander on the Law Enforcement

Mutual Aid Response Team (LEMART), investigating critical incidents, which he equated it to “puzzle solving.”

Now in Blaine, Funk said he is hands on. He is both proud of his officers but also faces the need to add to the team, as some of them are retiring. His biggest challenge is maintaining sufficient staffing. It is harder to recruit to the Blaine department as it has less opportunities for specialized assignments, mobility, and growth. The greatest strength of draw for Blaine though, he said, is “Community.”

Funk said he sees Blaine as a place of great support. He would like to “have an army of advocates for law enforcement.” He emphasized the significance of community members thanking their officers. “It feels great to be appreciated.” He also was hesitant to publish too many incidents where the public may do something foolish in the media. “That moment doesn’t define that person. We need to show people dignity.”

He also would like to have more officers have opportunities to use bicycles as part of their patrol efforts as long as they can still get to their calls quickly as well.

# INTO & OUT OF THE BATTERY

By Jennifer Plombon & Steve Haines for the  
Environmental Committee

## **Using Solar Power in the SRA....Yes, You Can!**



Photo by Jennifer Plombon. Solar power batteries in his Semi-ahmoo home.

We installed solar panels on our roof in October, 2019. We're fortunate that we have a lot of roof area that's unshaded by trees and faces south and east. When the panels were installed, we also had storage batteries installed; these batteries collect excess electricity from the solar panels and store them in large batteries, usually installed in your garage, and the batteries stay charged until they are used for home power. They act like a generator when the power goes out, but don't require fuel, starting them up, or venting to keep you safe from dangerous fumes. They are connected to a separate circuit breaker panel, and the consumer decides what should be powered. Depending on the number of batteries you have, you can count on sufficient stored and collected power to keep your refrigerator and freezer operating, to power an electrical outlet in every room, to power your internet gateway, necessary medical devices and other lower power consumption devices that you need.

The beauty of having solar-charged batteries available is that even if the power is out, if there is any solar gain at all via sunlight even in partly cloudy or overcast weather, the panels continue to collect energy and store it in the batteries even as you're using them. On a very sunny day, with only a few things in your home using the stored battery power, you may collect **into** the battery faster than you send **out**. In a disaster situation, where driving to obtain gas or propane may be impossible, this offers an alternative (or adjunct; we also have a propane-powered generator that we had before the solar installation) solution to prolonged power outages.

This article is not meant to discuss the economics of your particular situation, but in our case, in the summer our monthly electric bill goes to zero. It's meant to tell you about a side benefit of solar power that really is a HUGE benefit in a power outage. The batteries are easier, cleaner and quieter than a generator.

You can contact a solar installation company for a free estimate of your own costs and benefits, and there are some governmental incentives for home installations such as the 30% federal solar tax credit, available to any taxpayer in the country when they purchase solar panels or battery storage. Western Solar and Ecotech Solar are installers located in Bellingham. There are solar panel installation scams out there, so as with all significant construction and remodeling projects it is important to choose your solar contractor carefully. You may need to strengthen or replace your roof, since the panels cannot be installed on a non-reinforced shake roof. In many cases, if your roof needs replacing, the ideal time to add solar panels is immediately after, since the roofers and solar installers can coordinate efforts and timing.

# CHOCOLATE-PISTACHIO BISCOTTI



**Lisa James**

*Submitted by Lisa James of St. Andrews Green*

*Chocolate biscotti — full of pistachios and chocolate chips — are paired with pistachio ice cream. Softer than traditional biscotti, these are baked for a shorter time.*

Prep Time: 15 min | Cook Time: 25 + 5 minutes



## **Ingredients**

6 TB unsalted butter, softened, plus more for baking sheet  
2 cups all-purpose flour, plus more for baking sheet  
1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder  
1 t baking soda  
2 large eggs  
1 cup shelled pistachio nuts  
1/2 cup chocolate chips  
Pistachio ice cream

## **Preparation**

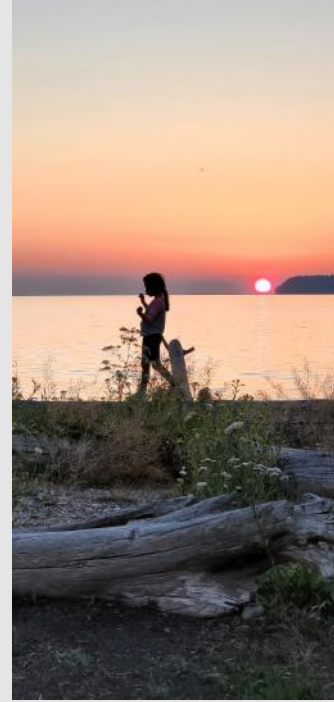
1. Heat oven to 350 degrees F. Butter and flour a baking sheet; set aside.
2. In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, cocoa powder, baking soda, and salt.
3. In the bowl, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy.
4. Add eggs; beat until well combined, scraping down sides of the bowl, if necessary.
5. Add flour mixture, and stir to form a stiff dough. Stir in pistachios and chocolate chips.
6. Transfer dough to a prepared baking sheet; form into a slightly flattened “log,” about 12 by 4 inches. Bake until slightly firm, about 25 minutes.
7. Cool about 5 minutes. Reduce oven to 300 degrees.
8. On a cutting board, using a sharp serrated knife, cut biscotti diagonally into 1-inch-thick slices.
9. Arrange biscotti, cut sides down, on baking sheet, and bake until crisp but still slightly soft in the center, about 8 minutes.
10. Serve with pistachio ice cream.

# SEMIAHMOO SNAPSHOTS



**Photos of children playing at sunset at the Semiahmoo Spit beach this summer by Darcee Woods, Semiahmoo Resident.**

For consideration of using some of your visual community memories in the newsletter, submit to [elisa@srahoa.com](mailto:elisa@srahoa.com) or to a member of the Communications Committee. Tell us where you were when you took them.



**Town Hall photos taken by Darcee Woods, Semiahmoo Resident and member of the Semiahmoo Greeters. The Budget Town Hall was Saturday, August 17 at the golf course's Palmer Room at the Great Blue Heron Restaurant.**



## UPCOMING EVENTS: SEMIAHMOO



Swimming pool at the Golf Course

***Goodbye to Summer***—The Semiahmoo Golf Course’s pool will close for the summer for the season on Monday, September 2, 2024. The Golf Course’s practice facilities and Great Blue Heron will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, September 9 and 10 for the yearly aerification of the course.

### NATURALIST WALK

Meet in the Resort lobby at 9:50 a.m. Join in this 0.8 mile walk around the Semiahmoo Spit. We will begin at the Resort and walk the mostly-paved trail looking for wildlife to view. We will keep our eyes peeled for shore birds, Bald eagles, and Harbor seals. We will take in the views of Mount Baker and Drayton Harbor. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes for walking and bring a pair of binoculars if you have them. Suitable for all ages.



#### **Dates**

September 7 at 10 a.m. Start time

#### **Pricing**

FREE

#### **Vendors Include:**

- Sage & Cedar Silver
- Lelu & Co.
- Lyons Pottery
- Fern & Fog Apothecary
- Absideon Apparel
- K&K Creations
- Mary Gold Tales
- Dragon Lane Fiber Studios
- Robin’s Dahlias and Sea Glass Art
- DeeDee Gollin Essential Skin Care
- Flora Aura
- That One Really Old Guy
- Designs by David
- Don and Janet Jewelry
- Beach Cat Brewing
- Wildwood Spirits
- Mix Masala Indian Street Food Truck
- Packer’s Kitchen + Bar

### FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL

***Stop by the Semiahmoo Resort on Sunday, September 29 from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. The waterfront lawn transforms into a lively marketplace showcasing the talents of local artists, farmers, brewers, and distillers. At the***



Debra Vance

***Packers Pop-Up, meet the new Resort Executive Chef, Debra Vance, and sample her culinary creations.***





## 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! Group size up to 35.

### **Dates**

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

### **Pricing**

\$25 per person

Great Blue Heron is hosting Artist Annie Plueger starting Wednesday, September 4.



Plueger is a nature and wildlife photographer living in Blaine, Washington. Her passion behind the lens began with photographing her family who played the high action sports of rugby and hockey. Once the athletes left the house, her eye shifted to nature and wildlife photography. Plueger prints images on canvas and metal and also has fine art prints available. Contact her at [ppluegerannie@gmail.com](mailto:ppluegerannie@gmail.com) for more information.



## TRIVIA WITH JACK

Do you know the answers when watching Jeopardy? Try your hand on your head knowledge with Jack on Tuesdays at the Great Blue Heron.

### **Dates**

Tuesdays, September 11 & 25 at 6 p.m.

### **Pricing**

\$5 Buy in, winner takes all

## BBQ WITH LIVE MUSIC

Head to the Resort's front lawn for some good eats while listening to great tunes.

### **Dates**

Friday, September 20 at 5:30-8:30 p.m.

### **Pricing**

Tickets online

## QUEEN BEES

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH  
12 - 1:30 PM

Ladies - Join us for a light lunch and our monthly speaker series with a discussion on local philanthropy from city manager, Mike Harmon!

\$30 MEMBERS | \$40 NON-MEMBERS  
\*includes tax and service charge

REGISTER ON OPEN TABLE OR CALL 360-371-5745  
TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT!

*October events are still being planned by the Semiahmoo Resort and Golf Club. Please check with Kristen Gomes, lead concierge at the Resort, or see the respective websites for more details.*

# 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/>

**Birch Bay Trick-or-Treat on the Berm** – Saturday, October 26, from 3 to 5 p.m. at with Trick-or-Treat stops along the Berm Pathway – Halloween activities for the whole family at the Birch Bay Vogt Community Library property at 7948 Birch Bay Drive.

**Ring of Fire & Hope** – Tuesday, December 31 at 7 p.m. along the shores of Birch Bay State Park to Birch Bay Village. Find a spot and light your flare and it will look like a string of Christmas lights around Birch Bay.

## CITY OF BLAINE

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

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

**Harbor Harvest Festival 2024** – Saturday, October 12, from 12 noon to 6 p.m. A street fair with 50 craft vendors, 10 food vendors, three live bands, a children’s giving garden, five children’s activities booths, and a beer garden. This is the second year.

**Holiday Harbor Lights** – Saturday, November 30. Beloved tree lighting ceremony has 30 vendors, horse-drawn carriage rides, mini-train rides, middle school and high school bands and choir performances, coffee and warm pastries, and an indoor beer garden at the Blaine Senior Center.



# UPCOMING EVENTS: WHATCOM COUNTY

**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/>

**History Sunset Cruise** – Every week on Tuesday until September 10 from 5:45 to 8 p.m. Join local legend and historian Brian Griffin, San Juan Cruises, and the Whatcom Museum for learning local history, lore, and trivia while cruising around the waters of Bellingham Bay with a selection of Northwest beers, wines, and snacks. Passengers can also bring their own dinner and non-alcoholic beverages too. Ticket prices start at \$40 for members (\$50 general) and children five and under sail for free. (Tickets must be purchased at least six hours before the cruise.) <https://www.whatcommuseum.org/explore/history-sunset-cruise/>

**Bellingham Greek Festival 2024** – Greek food, fun and culture at the St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church at 510 E. Sunset Drive in Bellingham. Free admission and parking. Music and dancing. Church tours. Starts September 5 and ends September 8. Hours are 11 a.m. until 8 p.m.



Greek Festival—Bellingham

**Bellingham Dockside Market** – The first Saturday of every month until October 5 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. The hub for local fishermen is found by following signs at Squalicum Harbor to Gate 5. Get there early for the best selection of fresh seafood. Dinner is found from dock to table. Admission is free. <https://www.bellingham.org/eventdetail/23700/bellingham-dockside-market>

**Bellingham Farmers Market (Saturday)** – Every Saturday until December 21, 2024 at the Depot Market Square at 1100 Railroad Avenue from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. A wide variety of fresh produce, crafts and food. Free. <https://www.bellingham.org/eventdetail/24186/bellingham-farmers-market-saturday-market>

**Floating Lantern Pet Memorial** — Participants arrive at 6 p.m. to float memorial lanterns on Lake Whatcom’s Bloedel Donovan at dusk in honor of the special companions they have loved and lost. Reserve a lantern in advance and personalize a paper insert with the pet’s name, images or other remembrances. At the end of the evening, all lanterns are collected.

**Sucia Island Day Adventures** – 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.

*This is a portion of what is available to see and do in our community. See Lynden Chamber of Commerce, Ferndale Chamber of Commerce, 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, and Fairhaven.*